



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Daniel Blaikie

Member of Parliament
Elmwood–Transcona

Honourable Deb Schulte
Minister of Seniors
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

May 15th, 2020

Dear Minister Schulte,

I understand that, following his question in the House on Wednesday, you approached my colleague MP Scott Duvall to ask why people living with disabilities who have not seen a reduction in income would need financial support from the federal government during the pandemic.

I am pleased to share those reasons with you, as I have already with some of your cabinet colleagues. On May 13, these reasons were summarized well in newspapers across the country: “Many are facing higher costs for food and services, due to imposed restrictions, they are paying more in dispensing fees to get the same medication, they are paying a premium for deliveries.”

You may recognize those words. They are yours. You spoke them in defence of your government’s recent announcement to provide financial assistance to seniors. They apply equally to people living with disabilities, but your government has so far failed to mount an equal, or in fact any, response and this in spite of the commitment made unanimously by Parliament on Wednesday, April 29.

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You know the reasons why people living with disabilities need this help and have shown you are able to communicate them publicly. I hope we can count on you from here on in to be an advocate for them at the cabinet table.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Blaikie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a period at the end.

Daniel Blaikie, M.P.
Elmwood–Transcona

cc: Scott Duval, M.P. (Hamilton Mountain)
The Hon. Caral Qualtrough, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability
Inclusion