



DON DAVIES, M.P.

VANCOUVER KINGSWAY



April 9, 2020

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

Re: Vancouver seniors targeted in CERB application scheme

I am writing to you today to draw your attention to a Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) application scheme that has targeted at least 77 seniors in the Columbus Tower Seniors Residence on Joyce Street in Vancouver. Residents in another seniors housing complex, Grandview Towers on E 3rd Street in Vancouver, have also been approached.

A woman identifying herself as Joanne, and another individual working with her, have allegedly been contacting seniors and offering to sign them up for a government benefit in exchange for a 10 percent fee. Most of the targeted seniors have been unaware that the promised benefit was the CERB, or that they likely did not qualify to receive it.

As you know, seniors who have ceased working due to the COVID-19 pandemic can potentially qualify for the CERB, but that was not the case with most of the targeted seniors. As a result, these seniors will likely have to pay the benefit back to the federal government, in addition to the hundreds of dollars in illegitimate fees they were convinced to pay.

This immoral and unethical scheme is likely illegal and I understand the Vancouver Police Department is looking into the matter. However, to my knowledge, there is no explicit federal prohibition against charging fees to individuals in exchange for assistance with CERB applications or access to the benefit. I therefore wish to request that the federal government enact such a prohibition as soon as possible.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your urgent response to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Don Davies, MP

Vancouver Kingsway