



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau  
Premier Dwight Ball  
Premier Caroline Cochrane  
Premier Doug Ford  
Premier Blaine Higgs

Premier John Horgan  
Premier Jason Kenney  
Premier Dennis King  
Premier François Legault  
Premier Stephen McNeil

Premier Scott Moe  
Premier Brian Pallister  
Premier Joe Savikataaq  
Premier Sandy Silver

April 14, 2020

Dear Prime Minister, Premiers and Mayors,

### **Human Rights Oversight of COVID-19 Responses**

In these unprecedented times of a grave national and global public health emergency and the associated spiralling economic crisis, we recognize the staggering challenges faced by your governments and appreciate the tremendous efforts that have been made, first and foremost to treat and prevent spread of the COVID-19 virus and also to provide relief and assistance to people and communities across the country who are feeling the health-related and economic impacts.

At a time such as this, human rights principles and frameworks provide essential guidance regarding the measures governments must pursue and the limitations they must respect. In particular, human rights provide the framework for ensuring that individuals and communities who are marginalized and most at-risk, are not left behind.

To that end, 157 organizations and 144 individual experts from across the country have endorsed the attached statement calling on your governments to bring human rights to the heart of your COVID-19 responses by strengthening and instituting human rights oversight of those responses.

You will note that the call is broadly supported: by human rights, Indigenous, environmental, disability rights, women's human rights and gender equality, religious, labour, civil liberties, refugee and immigration, prisoner rights, international development, anti-poverty, anti-racism, children's rights, sex worker and many other organizations; as well as law professors, other academics, religious leaders, former politicians and other prominent individual Canadians.

We would appreciate meeting with any of you or your officials to discuss this proposal further.

Sincerely,

Alex Neve  
Secretary General  
Amnesty International Canada  
(English branch)

France-Isabelle Langlois  
Directrice générale  
Amnistie internationale Canada francophone

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cc. Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister (Chair, Cabinet Committee on COVID-19)  
Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, President of the Treasury Board (Vice-Chair, Cabinet Committee on COVID-19)  
Honourable David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General  
Leaders of the federal opposition parties  
Provincial and Territorial Premiers  
Mayors