**Sections in red require you to add in local information.**

CLUB LETTERHEAD

DATE

FOR A LOCAL MEMBER WHO IS NOT A CABINET MINISTER[Name of Member], M.P

FOR A LOCAL MEMBER WHO IS A CABINET MINISTER, The Honourable [name], M.P

Name of Federal

City, Province

Postal Code

**Object: Ending Youth Homelessness**

Dear [Mr./Mrs./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_] / FOR A LOCAL MEMBER WHO IS A CABINET MINISTER: Dear Minister \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

I am writing on behalf of the [CFUW/UWC\_\_\_\_\_], an affiliate of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) that works to improve the status of women and to promote human rights, public education, social justice and peace in Canada and abroad.

In the context of the new National Housing Strategy and Poverty Reduction Strategy, we are calling on you to ensure the adoption of a targeted strategy to end youth homelessness.

Currently, there is no targeted strategy or funding stream to specifically tackle youth homelessness in Canada. Yet, homeless youth represents about 20% of the country’s homeless population with more than 6000 Canadian youths experiencing homelessness on any given night.[[1]](#footnote-1) It is an ongoing issue that disproportionately affects Indigenous youth, LGBTQ+ youth and racialized youth.

The distinct causes of homelessness in youth and the different experiences of young people related to homelessness require unique solutions that work for youth and ensure them a safe and stable home. Back in 1999, the government allocated 20 million annually specifically to address youth homelessness, but the specific funding stopped in 2003.

Youth homelessness can have severe long-term impact on young Canadians such as disengagement from school, mental health problems and addictions, increased risk of exploitation, greater involvement with the police and difficulty exiting the streets[[2]](#footnote-2). There is the need to think not only about how we get youth out of homelessness, but how we prevent them from entering homelessness in the first place. An increased focus should be put on developing and aligning policies that respond to the specific need of diverse youth and prevent youth homelessness in sectors such as education, child welfare, health care, addiction services and the criminal justice system.

We ask that you ensure your party is committed to protecting the human rights and well-being of all Canadian youth. We also call on you to contact the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development and make **three important requests** :

1. To develop a strategy focused on homeless youth in coordination with all levels of government (Federal, Provincial/Territorial, Municipal, and Indigenous) in order to address the root causes of youth homelessness.
2. To provide specific and sufficient funding to combat youth homelessness targeting youth aging out of government care, Indigenous youth, youth with mental health and addiction issues, youth with physical health issues, and LGBTQ+ youth.
3. To provide funding to communities and organizations that have researched and developed strategies to prevent youth homelessness and/or to support vulnerable youth, and that are in need of funds to implement these strategies.

Please ensure Canada’s most vulnerable youth are given the resources and protection necessary grow to their full potential!

Yours sincerely,

[NAME OF CLUB PRESIDENT]

President – [Name of Club]

1. United Way. “Report on Youth Homelessness 2018”, 2018, URL http://homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/Report\_on\_homeless\_youth\_WEB%202.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Gaetz, Stephen; O’Grady, Bill; Buccieri, Kristy; Karabanow, Jeff; & Marsolais, Allyson (Eds.), *Youth Homelessness in Canada: Implications for Policy and Practice*. Toronto: Canadian Homelessness Research Network Press. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)