

SAMPLE LETTER*

Date

Mr. John Smith
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Smith:

I am writing concerning the inclusion of a federal poverty reduction strategy in the Budget 2009. One in ten Canadians lives in poverty. A comprehensive strategy, built into the federal budget, could significantly reduce this number and change the lives of many poor Canadians. Your party has stopped short of announcing an official poverty reduction strategy, and I hope that you will do all in your power to bring about positive change in this area.

I have volunteered at a local food bank for six years, and while it is rewarding to be a part of this work, it saddens me to see more and more people in our community in need of this type of assistance just to live day-to-day. I believe that, through the implementation of a federal comprehensive poverty reduction strategy, many of our clients could be lifted out of poverty.

Your party has committed to many actions to address poverty in Canada, including reforming employment insurance, offering affordable housing and childcare, and seeking justice for aboriginal peoples. Your party has also called for Parliamentary hearings to address a federal poverty reduction strategy. Please now be a voice in your party to adopt an **official comprehensive poverty reduction strategy**, which would include:

- A long-term vision with measurable targets and timelines.
- A plan of action and a budget that coordinates initiatives within and across governments.
- Accountability structures.
- A set of agreed-upon poverty indicators to plan and monitor progress.

Thank you for your commitment in the past to justice and combating poverty. Will you now commit to working towards a federal poverty reduction strategy to be announced by your party? What specific actions will you take towards this goal?

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Jane Doe
321 Justice St.
City, Province A1B 2C3