

grandmothers
Advocacy Network



Mouvement de soutien des
grands-mères

Advocating for Grandmothers, Vulnerable Children and Youth in Africa

June 9, 2018

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6
E-mail: Justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Re: United Nations High Level Meeting on Tuberculosis

Dear Prime Minister:

On behalf of the Grandmothers Advocacy Network (GRAN)*, we are writing to request your participation at the September 26, 2018 United Nations High Level Meeting on Tuberculosis (TB) in New York. Together with the World Health Organization (WHO), the UN is calling together world leaders to discuss how to address the global TB epidemic, and we strongly believe that you, as our Prime Minister, should attend.

TB kills 1.7 million people worldwide every year. We welcome the decision by Global Affairs Canada to extend its TB Reach initiative with a further commitment of \$85 million until 2021. And because here in Canada TB continues to be a threat to Indigenous Canadians, especially Inuit people, we applaud the recent joint announcement by Minister Jane Philpott and Natan Obed, President of the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, to invest \$27 million in a TB Elimination Action Framework across Nunangat, with a goal of decreasing by 25% the number of active TB cases by 2025.

However, there is much more to be done. While the Global Fund contributes significantly to TB diagnosis, treatment and development, it has only 50% of the funds it needs. We strongly urge you to step up Canada's Global Fund contribution in the 2019 replenishment to help address this shortfall. We also encourage the Canadian government to invest in the Life Prize, an international initiative to support research on

simpler, shorter, less toxic and more affordable TB therapies for resource-limited locations.

Prime Minister, we call on you to take part in the upcoming United Nations meeting on TB and demonstrate Canada's commitment to UN efforts to eradicate TB.

Sincerely,



Heather Fraser and Hilary Elliott
Co-Chairs, Leadership Team, GRAN

Cc: The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor
The Honourable Jane Philpott

*GRAN is a network of volunteers across Canada advocating for the human rights of grandmothers and vulnerable children and youth in sub-Saharan Africa.

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