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
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