**DRAFT MP Phone Script for Members who HAVE received a letter from the CRA regarding CERB eligibility**

Hello,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I am a constituent of MP \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

I would like to speak with them about a letter I received from the Canada Revenue Agency advising me I may or may not have been eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit payments I received.

[wait for response/call transfer to MP]

I am calling today because I need your help with an urgent matter.

As a self-employed performer in Canada’s film and television industry, I am very concerned about the letter I received late last year from the Canada Revenue Agency advising me I may or may not have been eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit payments I received.

The arts sector was among one of the hardest hit industries by COVID-19, and our film and television industry has still not fully recovered.

[pause]

The government was clear when the CERB was introduced: those who needed help should apply without fear of repercussion.

The pandemic is not over, and many Canadians are still struggling, including many of us who applied for the CERB in a time of desperate need.

When the CERB was rolled out last spring, the government said eligibility would be based an individual having employment and/or self-employment income of at least $5,000 in 2019 or in the 12 months prior to the date of their application.

To retroactively change income eligibility rules now is unjust.

**As my MP, I am asking you to show your support by calling on the Government of Canada to adhere to its original income eligibility requirements, which allowed self-employed Canadians like myself to use our gross pre-tax income when determining our CERB eligibility.**

[pause]

I believed I was eligible based on the information available at the time of my application.

[add personal information about your situation if appropriate]

**Can I count on your support in this matter?**

[wait for response]

Thank you for taking my call and committing to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I look forward to following up with you [specify date/time if appropriate].