**DRAFT MP Phone Script for Members who have NOT 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 an issue regarding income eligibility criteria for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB).

[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 letters sent by the Canada Revenue Agency late last year advising some of the most vulnerable in our community that they now may or may not have been eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) payments they received when this health crisis first struck.

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 to use our gross pre-tax income when determining CERB eligibility.**

[pause]

People who applied for the CERB believed they were eligible based on the information available at the time of their application.

[add additional information 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].