



CITIZENS *for* PUBLIC JUSTICE

May 25, 2012

The Honourable Alison Redford
Premier of Alberta
Room 307, Legislature Building
10800-97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B7

Dear Premier Redford,

On behalf of Citizens for Public Justice, a national organization of members inspired by faith to act for justice in Canadian public policy, I congratulate you on your recent electoral victory.

We particularly commend you for your party's decision to initiate development of a Social Policy Framework to guide the development of Alberta's public services. In particular, we note your party's election commitment to establish a bold provincial poverty reduction strategy to eliminate children's poverty in 5 years and to reduce poverty amongst other age groups over 10 years. Nearly 400,000 Albertans – 25 per cent of whom are children – live in poverty, exacting significant social and economic (estimated to be as high as \$9.5 billion per year) costs. In committing to a poverty reduction strategy, you've wisely identified this injustice as something we simply cannot afford to ignore.

In the past various provinces, including Alberta, have taken leadership roles on issues of national importance. Given Alberta's bountiful economic, natural, and social resources, we believe that you have an opportunity to play a leading role in eliminating poverty.

Citizens for Public Justice is a lead partner of the *Dignity for All campaign for a poverty-free Canada* (www.dignityforall.ca). Be assured that we will support your efforts towards a poverty-free Alberta. At the same time we will continue to call on the federal government to embrace greater leadership against poverty by

The CJL Foundation
operating as CPJ.

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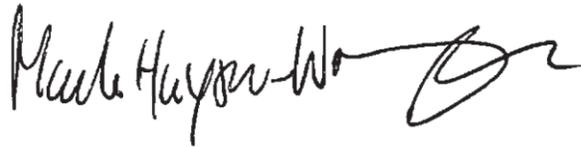
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supporting provincial efforts with requisite coordination and funding.

Thank you again for taking a bold stand against poverty. As an Albertan myself, I certainly look forward to your continued leadership on this pressing issue.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark Huyser-Wierenga" followed by a stylized flourish.

Mark Huyser-Wierenga
Chair

Cc Hon. Dave Hancock, Minister of Human Services