



**Hon. Kerry-Lynne D. Findlay, P.C., Q.C., M.P.**  
*South Surrey—White Rock*

The Hon. Carla Qualtrough  
Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A6

November 18, 2020

Dear Minister Qualtrough,

I am writing to advocate for the wellbeing of the tens of thousands of Canadians living with multiple sclerosis (MS).

MS is a progressive disease. It is episodic and unpredictable. Its symptoms make working with MS a challenge – even during normal times. According to MS Society of Canada, more than 60% of those living with the disease end up unemployed. That is why the organization is calling for changes to the current EI sickness benefit.

I have also learned that the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively affected the fundraising efforts of many important MS charities here in Canada. These funds are needed to support Canadians living with MS, and to fund critical research. To encourage Canadians to donate to important charities, the Conservative Party of Canada proposed that the Charitable Donation Tax Credit be temporarily increased. This policy has not been implemented.

Now is the time for us to look out for those suffering from MS. That is why I ask you to consider the proposal to increase the Charitable Donation Tax Credit, and encourage you to review the requests made by my constituents:

1. extend the Employment Insurance sickness benefit period from 15 to 26 weeks, and
2. provide direct funding for Canadian charities, like the MS Society of Canada, that research this disease and provide critical support to those living with it.

I hope you will consider these proposals. I look forward to hearing from you. Let's help the tens of thousands of Canadians living with MS, and all Canadian charities.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kerry-Lynne D. Findlay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Honourable Kerry-Lynne D. Findlay, P.C., Q.C.  
Member of Parliament for South Surrey—White Rock

CC: Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Finance and Deputy Prime Minister  
Hon. Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health