Dear [Add the name of your federal Member of Parliament],

I am a member of [NAME] Presbyterian Church in [PLACE]. In June 2022, there was a report at The Presbyterian Church in Canada’s annual General Assembly regarding intergenerational trauma and other harms caused by Residential Schools and colonization. I am writing as a member of The Presbyterian Church in Canada because I am deeply concerned about these harms, in which I know the church participated.

I acknowledge that the church’s relationship with Indigenous peoples in Canada has been marked by colonization and by the church’s operation of Residential Schools. In 1994, The Presbyterian Church in Canada confessed its role in causing harm to Indigenous children and their families and communities through its operation of Residential Schools. The church also rejected the Doctrine of Discovery in 2019. We acknowledge as a church that an important part of walking toward reconciliation is responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action ourselves, and we have been working on doing so. We also acknowledge that advocating that all Calls to Action are met is an important Action for the church to take, and so that is why I am writing to you today lifting up Call to Action 21.

Call to Action 21 calls for the government to provide sustainable funding for existing and new Indigenous healing centres to address the harms of Residential Schools and colonization. The need for such centres—and the sustained funding it will take to keep them open—is clear, given the intergenerational harm caused by the schools, which continues to impact families and communities today. I urge you to support sustained funding for such healing centres, either directly or indirectly, through Indigenous-led non-profit organizations that support healing.

Answering Call to Action 21 would be a crucial step for the government to move towards acknowledging the systemic anti-Indigenous racism that exists in Canada and working to address the ongoing harms that continue to impact Indigenous people and communities. Thank you for your consideration, and rest assured of my prayers for the important work you do.

Sincerely,

[Your name]