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April 8, 2020

Hon. Shane Simpson
Minister of Social Development and Poverty
Reduction & MLA for Vancouver-Hastings
Room 247 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Darren Enwistle
President and CEO, Telus
Executive Office
510 W. Georgia St., 23rd Floor
Vancouver, BC V6B 0M3

E: SDPR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

E: corporate.secretary@telus.com

Dear Minister Simpson & Mr. Enwistle;

Re: COVID-19 and *Internet for Good*

These are very uncertain times and British Columbians are doing their very best to stop the spread of COVID-19 by following the recommendations and orders of the Minister of Health and Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry.

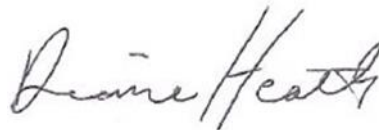
When people living with disabilities employ physical distancing, they often exacerbate the social isolation they already experience. With many social and health programs moving services online, people with disabilities need reliable and affordable Internet services to ensure they can continue to receive needed services and to apply for those they may now require due to the pandemic.

We are writing to ask you to consider amending the eligibility requirement for the *Internet for Good* program to include persons receiving disability income assistance who have no dependent children living with them. Doing so will ensure greater access to services needed by this already marginalized population. We appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Michael Crawford, MSW, RSW
President, BCASW



Dianne Heath, MSW, RSW
Executive Director, BCASW