## Dear (insert Member of Parliament's name):

I am a concerned constituent residing in the community at [Your Postal Code]. I am writing to request your support for <u>Bill C-277</u>, an essential piece of legislation aimed at establishing a national strategy on brain injuries. This campaign is crucial to enhance brain injury awareness, prevention, treatment, and the rehabilitation and recovery of individuals living with brain injuries.

As outlined by the World Health Organization, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) is projected to surpass numerous diseases as a leading cause of death and disability by 2020 (Hyder et al, 2007). In Canada, the annual incidence of acquired brain injury (ABI) is alarmingly high, surpassing that of spinal cord injuries, breast cancer, and HIV/AIDS combined. Despite the staggering statistics, the true scope is likely underestimated due to unreported cases stemming from concussions, intimate partner violence, violence among the homeless, incarceration, combat injuries, and survivors of opioid/stimulant poisoning.

More than 165,000 new cases of traumatic brain injury occur annually in Canada, with an estimated national prevalence exceeding 1.5 million cases (Brain Injury Canada, n.d.). Many individuals, including constituents, face challenges navigating a fragmented system that hinders access to necessary services and support.

I urge you to support **MP Alistair MacGregor (Cowichan-Malahat-Langford)** in his tireless efforts to establish a national strategy on brain injuries. Additionally, I call upon the Minister of Health to engage with representatives from provincial governments, Indigenous groups, and relevant stakeholders, including individuals and families with lived experience.

This letter aligns with the <u>125 Days to Say Yes campaign</u>, responding to the Call for Action arising from the 2020 BC Heads Together Think Tank and the <u>BC Consensus on Brain Injury</u>, <u>Mental Health</u>, <u>and Addictions</u> initiative. Participants declared the responsibility of all levels of government to address the Canada-wide brain injury crisis. Support for these initiatives comes from various organizations, including the <u>CGB Centre for Traumatic Life Losses</u>, <u>Cowichan Brain Injury Society</u>, <u>BC Brain Injury Association</u>, <u>Brain Injury Canada</u>, community stakeholders, and individuals with lived experience.

As the Government of Canada, it is imperative to take immediate action to address the nationwide plea for preventive measures, improved surveillance data, increased awareness, education, training, research, and the establishment of national guidelines on the prevention, diagnosis, and management of brain injuries in all communities. This includes recommended standards of care reflecting the best methodological, medical, and psychosocial practices.

Now is the time to foster collaboration and provide financial support to national, provincial, and local brain injury associations and service providers. This will enable the development and delivery of enhanced and integrated mental health resources for individuals living with brain injuries and their families.

Thank you for dedicating your time to consider my concerns. I eagerly anticipate receiving a response from you regarding this crucial matter.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Contact Information INCLUDING your postal code]