

\*Dear \_\_\_\_\_ (My local MP <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Members/en>),

**\*Dear Ms./Mr. Last name or To The Honourable First name Last name**

I am writing this to you as a \_\_\_\_\_ (your occupation, concerned citizen), but more importantly, as a parent of children who are fortunate enough to experience and grow from the benefits of attending summer camp year after year. I have been made aware that with the absolute lack of all revenues for the summer and no way to recoup any of that income, many camps are being challenged to being able to remain open going forward. I am hoping, with all of my being, that the government is able to find some way to provide assistance and funding to the many camps in the province and throughout the country. The ability for these camps to be able to keep their websites up and running, their administrators working in the background, their directors planning for the next summer is critical at this time. This summer is a disaster for many kids; no other way to put it. But let's make sure they have hope that their favorite place in the world can be there for them next summer. For some kids, it is what gets them through the school year?

*2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph – share your or your child's personal experience (for example)*

I have \_\_\_\_ children, who are now ages \_\_\_\_\_. The oldest was \_\_\_\_\_ when he attended Camp Kawartha in Lakefield for the first time. I cried the entire way down the camp road after we dropped him off, wondering what disaster I had just set him up for. He was a quieter, quirky kid - liked the outdoors, but not really self-assured yet. The kid I picked up 1 quick week later was changed for life. The first thing out of his mouth was "I am coming back next year for the 2 week pre leadership program!!" All of my children grew more every summer as people than they did the other 10 months of the year. Camp gave them a place to be themselves, to explore who they were, to meet kids of other ethnicities and faiths, to give them visions of independence from their parents, and to teach them how hard we sometimes have to work to get through a day on a pouring rainy portage in the middle of Algonquin - this builds character, resilience, and a joy for life like nothing else does. My kids have grown into mature, caring adults, finding their way in this complicated world, but I believe they are doing this with success that I helped them find but that camp helped them really develop.

The importance of summer camp cannot be overlooked or forgotten during this difficult pandemic time. There are so many needs and wants of so many organizations, groups, businesses as we all try to survive in this time. I just wanted my voice to be heard that we owe it to the kids of the future to continue to provide them with a place to grow and thrive in the summer months, away from school and their families, and a chance to develop into the best people they can be under the guidance of amazing people at these summer camps.

I am hoping that I can count on you as a strong voice in parliament to put forth your vote that funding towards summer camps is a high priority and that your belief in its importance is strong. I want to make sure more kids continue to have this chance as we move forward through this pandemic and towards a new normal.

Thank you for your time - stay safe and well!

Sincerely,  
Name