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The Honourable Chrystia Freeland
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
Department of Finance Canada
90 Elgin Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G5

February 21, 2024

Support for JDRF Canada's 2024 Budget Ask

Dear Minister,

As a member of the All-Party Juvenile Diabetes Caucus, I am writing to you in your capacity as the Minister of Finance to voice my support for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's (JDRF) 2024 budget proposal.

I strongly support JDRF's call for the government to invest \$50 million over 5 years, through Budget 2024 (which would be matched by \$25 million from JDRF and partners), in new and existing type 1 diabetes (T1D) research - from discovery to clinical trials - aimed at developing treatments that can be commercialized.

This crucial investment will enable the next stage of the most promising T1D research projects and platforms and help to deliver life-saving therapies to Canadians living with T1D. The investment will also create well-paid jobs in Canada's life sciences sector (including in the emerging stem cell technology space), drive creation and commercialization of Canadian intellectual property, and maintain Canada's proud historic role in leading global diabetes research.

People living with T1D must monitor their blood sugar throughout the day and take multiple daily insulin injections to stay alive. The average Canadian enjoys 84 healthy years of life. If a person develops T1D at age 10, on average they will lose 22 healthy



years (estimate of time lost to ill-health, disability, or early death from living with T1D).

In the last 50 years of progress, 25 years have been added to the lifespan of a person receiving the latest care. However, Global T1D Index data from last year indicates that cases of T1D in Canada are also climbing by 4.3% every year. This is faster than general population growth of 1.0% per year.

With the requested Budget 2024 investment, the Government of Canada, JDRF Canada, and partners could collaborate to dramatically redefine the standard for the best and latest care.

As the largest non-profit organization in the world exclusively focused on T1D, JDRF has funded, in whole or in part, every major scientific breakthrough in T1D research: <https://www.jdrf.ca/research/research-success/>. With a proven track record of success, JDRF's strategy has helped translate research into therapies, thereby improving the lives of people living with or at risk of T1D. The government can be assured that an investment in JDRF is one that will deliver results for Canadians – especially for those living with T1D.

I urge the Government of Canada to act on JDRF Canada's ask by allocating the \$50 million in much-needed T1D research funds in Budget 2024. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to reading your response.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth May, O.C.
Member of Parliament
Saanich-Gulf Islands
Leader of the Green Party of Canada

