Dear Mr./Ms. [Family name of your MNA]:

Early childhood development is an issue that matters a great deal to me, as a Quebecer and as a human being. We as a society simply cannot ignore the growing number of cases of child abuse that continue to make media headlines. The experts on the Special Commission on the Rights of the Child and Youth Protection have themselves stressed the urgency of taking action to protect young children and improve their living conditions. We all have an important role to play in building caring communities that look out for, and look after, our babies, toddlers and preschoolers and their families. **I am writing to you today because you have the power to make a real difference.**

There are more than 534,000 children aged five and under living in Quebec right now. They are our greatest resource and our most cherished treasure. Our future is contingent on their being given a happy and healthy upbringing. We can no longer turn a blind eye to the unstable and unfavourable environment too many of them are growing up in. Pretending we are unaware of the neglect they are exposed to is not an option.

As a provincial government representative, you are undoubtedly sensitive to their plight. But you know as well as I do that it takes tangible, sustained and concerted action if we are to effect actual change in this regard. Together, we — me, you and your fellow elected officials, along with the entire population of the province — have the capacity and the responsibility to do something about this situation NOW. We need to put preventive measures into place that have a direct impact on the lives of the youngest members of our society.

This starts with better financial assistance for young families and help in strengthening parents’ skill sets, as they are a child’s first line of defence. Reaching out to vulnerable parents, from pregnancy through these critically formative years, is the key to meeting their specific needs. This can be accomplished through a family policy that puts young children first. As an MNA, you are in a position to advocate for such a policy and back early childhood development efforts in a compelling and decisive way.

I urge you to join this province-wide movement and outpouring of support for our children, and I thank you for making them a true social priority.

Yours sincerely,

[Letter writer’s full name]