Dear: [add editable title here]

My name is [name] and I live in [city, province]. I am reaching out because I support the Canadian Breast Cancer Network’s (CBCN’s) call to improve demographic collection across the country. I support their call to action because [enter reasons here].

CBCN is Canada’s leading, patient-directed, national health charity committed to ensuring the best quality of care for all Canadians affected by breast cancer through the promotion of information, education and advocacy activities.

In 2024, CBCN launched an awareness campaign to share the findings of their [TNBC report](https://cbcn.ca/en/tnbc-project). This report highlighted the need for improved pan-Canadian demographic data collection.

Our nation is on the cusp of a [health information](https://www.cihi.ca/en/taking-the-pulse-measuring-shared-priorities-for-canadian-health-care-2024/canadians-and-health-care-providers-want-connected-electronic-health-information) revolution – it’s just a matter of when and how. Canadians [like me, who have been diagnosed] with breast cancer recognize the power [our/their] health data has to enhance [our/their] treatment and care, as well as its ability to help others, and [they/we] [want to be part](https://rethinkbreastcancer.com/take-action/makemecount) of this revolution. Unfortunately, Canada’s current system doesn’t collect the appropriate demographic health data at a standardized, national level to meaningfully inform policy decisions. Subsequently, this makes it harder to track trends or to understand where healthcare gaps exist.

Canadians saw how valuable health data was during the COVID-19 pandemic when public health officials were able to identify gaps in protection and act quickly. This showed our nation that only Canadian data can unlock the full potential of our healthcare system. Canada needs leaders who will implement pan-Canadian standards on race based and Indigenous identity data collection, and the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC)’s [pan-Canadian Cancer Data Strategy](https://s22457.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Pan-Canadian-Cancer-Data-Strategy_En_Final.pdf).

I am joining CBCN’s call asking for every province and territory to develop a publicly available demographic health data collection framework by 2028, and at a minimum, we are asking each province and territory to develop a framework that aligns with CIHI’s pan-Canadian standards on race based and Indigenous identity.

If your ministry collects health data on race, ethnicity, and Indigenous identity, it will greatly improve our understanding of breast cancer in Canada. In turn, this will allow your government to develop strong policies which address health concerns of those with the greatest need.

I, along with CBCN, look forward to hearing from you on how you will be the catalyst who realizes the potential of Canadian health data for Canadian healthcare decisions by publicly sharing your plans on developing a demographic health data collection framework that aligns with CIHI’s pan-Canadian standards on race based and Indigenous identity.

Sincerely,

[your name]