

## **Moving Immediately Toward Implementation of a Basic Income Guarantee For All**

**WHEREAS** access to life's basic necessities is essential to the enjoyment of human rights, yet (excluding indigenous adults and children living on reserves) 4.8 million Canadians, therein 1 in 5 Canadian children, live in poverty blocking their access to human rights, and

**Whereas** inadequate income contributes to ill health, illiteracy, criminal activity, and withdrawal from community participation, all of which cause undue human suffering, undermine Canada's social fabric, and create considerable downstream costs,

**Whereas** welfare programs are stigmatizing, complex, severely underfunded, and counter-productive, leading the CMA, CPHA, Mayors, Municipal Councils, and various other local, provincial and national organizations to call for Basic Income, and

**Whereas** precarious employment and technological changes which replace human labour with computers and robots threaten job security for people in all income groups, increasing income insecurity and inequality, engendering social unease and sapping economic vitality, and

**Whereas** existing Child Tax Benefits programs have demonstrated the feasibility of income support in the nature of a basic income by reducing poverty and increasing security and wellbeing, and

**Whereas** a basic income guarantee ensures everyone sufficient income to meet essential needs and to live in dignity, regardless of work status, thereby securing access to the enjoyment of basic human rights,

**Therefore BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the federal government collaborate with the provinces to design a basic income guarantee program to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Confederation and to implement the program prior to the 2019 election.

Kingston and the Islands Federal Liberal Association  
in collaboration with the Kingston Basic Income Group

**What is a Basic Income Guarantee (BIG)?** Also called “guaranteed annual income” the Basic Income Guarantee is a means to abolish poverty, alleviate income insecurity, and in the longer run reduce income inequality. It is an unconditional transfer provided by the government to ensure that no one’s income falls below the level necessary to meet his/her basic needs thereby ensuring access to the enjoyment of basic human rights. It is not tied to participation in the workforce.

### **Benefits of a Basic Income Guarantee**

Eradicating or alleviating poverty and income insecurity by providing an adequate level of income which is accessed easily and simply.

Enhancing equality of opportunity

Improving income security for women, visible minorities, indigenous persons and persons with disabilities who encounter pay and other forms of discrimination in the labour force

Improving health outcomes and educational outcomes and lifespan disparity, especially for children

Reducing anti-social behavior, including criminal activity, and improving self-esteem

Providing financial protection for workers in precarious jobs or workers whose jobs are affected by automation

Releasing time and energy for citizens to become actively involved in government and local community activities

Recognition of common responsibility for the well-being of all.

Creation of greater flexibility in a global economy, allowing people to carry out important but unpaid work, such as raising families, caring for the elderly and persons with disabilities, volunteering, advocacy, engaging in artistic and cultural endeavors and taking entrepreneurial risks; or to provide leverage for employees to negotiate better working conditions (Young and Mulvale (November 2009) Centre for Policy Alternatives [www.policyalternatives.ca](http://www.policyalternatives.ca))

**Data re poverty in Canada** <http://www.cwp-csp.ca/poverty/just-the-facts/>  
[https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National%20Office/2013/06/Poverty\\_or\\_Prosperty\\_Indigenous\\_Children.pdf](https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National%20Office/2013/06/Poverty_or_Prosperty_Indigenous_Children.pdf); <http://senatorarteggleton.ca/issues/poverty/povertyfactsheet.aspx>

**Poverty as a Determinant of Ill Health:** “The evidence is now overwhelming that poverty (whether conceptualized at the country level or at the individual level) is strongly correlated with poorer health outcomes, on average.” Subrananian, S.V.; Belli, Paolo; Kawachi, I. (May 2002). *The Macroeconomic Determinants of Health. Annual Review of Public Health*, vol: 23: 287-302; .” The World Health Organisation [bit.ly/1PQ9dHR](http://bit.ly/1PQ9dHR) Michael Marmot. *The Influence of Income On Health: Views Of An Epidemiologist Health Affairs*, 21, no.2 (2002):31-46; [http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/13/health/disparity-in-life-spans-of-the-rich-and-the-poor-is-growing.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/13/health/disparity-in-life-spans-of-the-rich-and-the-poor-is-growing.html?_r=0)

**The Links between Poverty and Crime:** [Curling and McMurtry report, Roots of Violence, Executive summary](http://bit.ly/1nA8P3m)

<http://bit.ly/1nA8P3m>

[Geraldine Terry, “Poverty reduction and violence against women: exploring links, assessing impact” \(2004\) 14:4 Development in Practice 469](#)

[Jody Raphael, “Battering Through the Lens of Class” \(2003\) 11:2 Journal of Gender, Social Policy & the Law” 367](#)

[Dee Cook, “Women on Welfare: In Crime or Injustice?” in Pat Carlen & Anne Worrall \(eds.\) Gender, Crime and Justice \(Milton Keynes: Open University Press Press, 1987\) \(a bit dated now\).](#)

**Precarious Work and Social Outcomes:** [http://www.justlabour.yorku.ca/volume22/pdfs/04\\_lewchuk\\_lafleche\\_press.pdf](http://www.justlabour.yorku.ca/volume22/pdfs/04_lewchuk_lafleche_press.pdf);  
[http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_FOJ\\_Executive\\_Summary\\_Jobs.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_FOJ_Executive_Summary_Jobs.pdf)  
[http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_FOJ\\_Executive\\_Summary\\_Jobs.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_FOJ_Executive_Summary_Jobs.pdf)

**Addressing concerns that BIG costs too much; will reduce the incentive to work; will increase use of drugs and alcohol:** Poverty costs Canadians between \$72 billion and \$84 billion a year, the Public Health Agency of Canada estimates that for every \$1 spent eradicating childhood poverty, between \$3 and \$7 are saved in spending on health care, the criminal justice system and social assistance. <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/cphorsphc-respcacsp/2008/fr-rc/cphorsphc-respcacsp09-eng.php>. See further with respect to cost and the other issues: Derek Hum and Wayne Simpson. 2005. “The Cost of Eliminating Poverty in Canada: Basic Income With an Income Test Twist,” in K. Widerquist, M. Lewis, and S. Pressman (eds.), *The Ethics and Economics of the Basic Income Guarantee* (Aldershot, UK: Ashgate), 282-92, Wayne Simpson and Harvey Stevens. 2015. *The Impact of Converting Federal Non-Refundable Tax Credits into Refundable Credits*, School of Public Policy Research Papers, Volume 8, Issue 30; “The time for a Guaranteed Annual Income might finally have come”, NORALOU ROOS AND EVELYN FORGET, [The Globe and Mail](#), Tuesday, Aug. 04, 2015; Forget, The Town with No Poverty <http://public.econ.duke.edu/~erw/197/forget-cea%20%282%29.pdf> Ontario Public Health Association/ALPHA, October 2015. “Basic Income Guarantee Backgrounder.” [bit.ly/1Q7JhBS](http://bit.ly/1Q7JhBS) ext=.pdf .  
<http://martinprosperity.org/content/how-do-families-who-receive-the-cctb-and-ncb-spend-the-money/>  
<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2014/05/19546774/cash-transfers-temptation-goods-review-global-evidence>