



CONNECTING THE DOTS

The connection between poverty and Basic Income

What is a Basic Income?

A **basic income** ensures that everyone can meet basic needs and live with dignity regardless of their work status. It is:

- unconditional income from government sent directly to individuals, providing financial security;
- freedom to decide how best spend your own time and money;
- a foundation for health, well-being, and a better life.





A collaboration between Eastern Zone Community Health Boards and Mental Health and Addictions Health Promotion team.

Busting Basic Income Myths

It's money you "didn't earn"

All people have the right to have their basic needs met and to live a dignified life.

It will make people lazy

Basic income improves peoples' mental and physical health. Healthier people are more able to seek employment, retain jobs, and seek education that will expand their future employment opportunities.

It will hurt the economy and there will be staffing shortages

- Basic Income stimulates the economy. To a large extent, a basic income would be spent locally. Because people have more money to spend, the demand for goods and services in a community will increase. Thus, a businesses, and increasing available jobs.
- Basic income helps families make employment decisions that are right for them.

CERB was intended to keep people home during a global

It was a short-term emergency measure. BI is intended to ensure an equitable economy and standard of living.

guarantees for seniors and families with children already via Old Age Security Pension (Guaranteed Income Supplement) & the Canada Child Tax Benefit.

It's never been done before

Why should we care about **Basic Income?**

It's the same as CERB

- A BI leads to positive job growth and lower school dropout rates. 42% of jobs are at risk of automation over the next 20 years.
- Short-term, part-time jobs are on the rise. A BI would complement a good minimum wage.
- empowering important traditionally unpaid roles, especially for women.

A BI guarantees income for non-working parents and caregivers, thus



Cost

of Poverty

The human cost is devastating - poorer mental and physical health, fewer early childhood and post-secondary education

The financial cost of poverty in Nova Scotia is \$2 billion per year

opportunities, and increased social isolation and stress.

Basic Income

gives options

choices. They can choose not to take that low-paying part-time job with no benefits, providing employers with an incentive to improve work conditions, increase pay, and reverse precarious work trends. That being said, studies show (de Wispelaere & Forget, 2022) that engagement

Basic income gives people power to make healthier



in school or returning to school. • Check out Coalition Canada basic income revenu de base website.

What Can You Do?

- Check out Basic Income Canada Network website. Check out Basic Income NS's <u>website</u>.
- Read and if you agree, sign the Basic Income NOW Atlantic Canada consensus document.



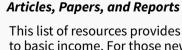
Basic Income has worked in other areas...



Ontario 🕅

to test a growing view at home and abroad that basic income could provide a new approach to reducing poverty in a sustainable way.

Click here to learn more.



This list of resources provides an excellent introduction

Réseau canadien pour le revenu garanti

Basic Income Canada Network

to basic income. For those new to the concept, these readings will help you and for long-time supporters, this is a great list to revisit when you want to refresh your

knowledge. Click here to learn more.

Community Poverty Rates by Census Area Christine Saulnier & Charles Plante. (2021) The Cost of Poverty in the Atlantic Provinces = in our zone

