

WHY BASIC INCOME?



Women's Advisory Committee
September 8, 2021

HALIFAX

A scenic view of a coastal area. In the foreground, a green boat is docked at a wooden pier. To the right, a red building with a white door and a blue roof is visible. Behind the building, there are stacks of colorful items, possibly fishing gear. The background is a dense forest of tall evergreen trees on a hillside. The sky is clear and blue.

AGENDA:

- **The case for basic income**
- **Halifax resolution**
- **Results & Next steps**
- **Questions**

THE CASE FOR BASIC INCOME



“The problem is not that there are problems. The problem is expecting otherwise and thinking that having problems is a problem.”

— Theodore Rubin

Basic Income for Municipalities



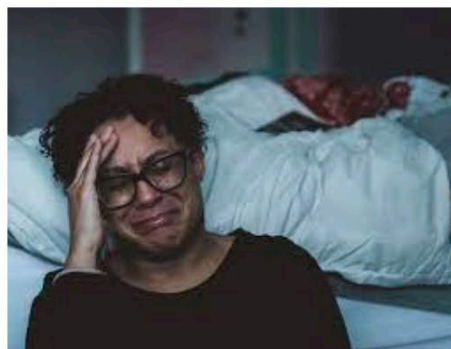
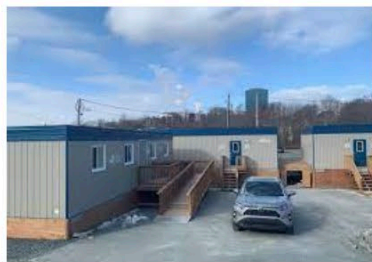
The Case for Basic Income and Municipalities


Prepared by **Bruce Knox**, with input from municipal politicians and staff across Canada.(1)

Municipalities are taking extraordinary measures to support their residents and address poverty and inequality.(i) **Poverty has a downstream effect on municipalities** and places additional pressures on the delivery of necessary public services (e.g. maintaining essential infrastructure, clean water and waste diversion) and social programs (e.g. housing and income supports), which may vary across jurisdictions.(ii) Municipalities are frequently responsible for funding many public services and social programs, and must rely on their **limited revenue streams** to do so. This includes taxation (e.g. property taxes), service fees and government funding (e.g. grants).(iii)

A basic income is an unconditional cash transfer from governments to individuals to enable everyone to meet their basic needs, participate in society and live with dignity – regardless of work status. A federally-funded, income targeted basic income could help alleviate pressures on municipalities to address poverty, manage services and support people to invest in their local economy and community.

Because poverty impacts our communities and costs are downloaded onto municipalities





Let's pause here
and talk

- Municipalities are struggling to keep up with the downloaded responsibility of providing essential public and social supports
- Basic income can alleviate pressures on municipalities to address poverty
- Basic income builds communities

[Case for Basic Income for Municipalities](#)



THE HALIFAX RESOLUTION



MOTION AT COUNCIL

HALIFAX

P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No.

Request for Regional council Consideration

Request from the

X **Agenda Item**
(Submitted to Municipal
Clerk's Office by Noon at
least 5 working days prior
to the meeting)

Added Item
(Submitted to Municipal
Clerk's Office by Noon at
least one working day prior
to meeting)

Date of Meeting: June 28, 2022

Subject: Support for Basic Income

Motion for Regional Council to Consider:

Halifax Regional Municipality calls on the Government of Canada to implement a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income, ensuring everyone has sufficient income to meet their needs, which would go a long way towards eradicating poverty and homelessness, alleviating the pressure on municipalities to use their limited resources to fill gaps in our failing social safety net.

Reason:

The growing social crisis and impacts of poverty have downstream effects on municipalities, putting an unsustainable pressure on their limited resources to deliver necessary public services and social programs. The struggle to keep up with downloaded responsibilities. Basic income addresses the root cause of the crisis. As income and housing, it can alleviate pressures on municipalities such as shelter, housing, food security and

HALIFAX



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July 13, 2022

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

On behalf of Halifax Regional Municipality and my colleagues on Halifax Regional Council, I write in support of and urge the Government of Canada to consider implementation of a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income for all Canadians in need.

At the June 28, 2022 Halifax Regional Council meeting, the following motion was put and passed:

THAT Halifax Regional Council request a letter from the Mayor to the Prime Minister, Ministers and Premier of Nova Scotia, calling on the Government of Canada to implement a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income ensuring everyone has sufficient income to meet their needs, which would go a long way towards eradicating poverty and homelessness, alleviating the pressure on municipalities to use their limited resources to fill gaps in our failing social safety net.

...been debated across Canada for many years and non-political groups

LOCAL AND NATIONAL MEDIA

POLITICS

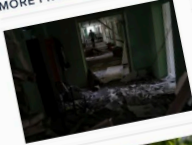
Halifax council votes to push for federal universal basic income

By [Rebecca Lau](#) · Global News
Posted June 26, 2022 2:23 pm · Updated June 28, 2022 1:38 pm

The case for universal basic income in post-pandemic Canada
In 1974, Canada conducted a landmark basic income experiment in a rural town in Manitoba.



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THE LATEST ON BASIC INCOME TODAY



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September 7, 2022
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Halifax council votes to push for federal universal basic income

June 30, 2022



 Gerald Huff **FUND for HUMANITY**

Sign our Petition for a Nationwide adoption of Universal Basic Income

[Learn More](#)



An aerial photograph of a city, likely New York City, featuring a large green park area in the center. The park is highlighted with a semi-transparent green overlay. The city skyline is visible in the background, with a large body of water (the Hudson River) and a bridge (the George Washington Bridge) in the distance. The sun is low in the sky, creating a warm, golden glow over the scene. The text "RESULTS, NEXT STEPS" is overlaid on the left side of the image.

RESULTS, NEXT STEPS

Municipal Basic Income Actions

SIGN CONSENSUS STATEMENT

Basic Income NOW, Atlantic Canada

Basic Income NOW, Atlantic Canada is a coalition of Atlantic Canadian organizations and individual advocates working in solidarity to call for the implementation of a basic income. We have reached consensus regarding the approach to a basic income program that we believe would greatly benefit the lives and well-being of Atlantic Canadians, as well as the social, economic, and cultural prosperity of the region. We present this consensus statement as a shared vision that allows us to strive together for a basic income guarantee as a poverty elimination strategy which is vital to future-proofing Atlantic Canada.

We believe that all people have the right to have their basic needs met and to live a dignified life. We know, however, that this is not the reality for millions of people in Canada. No one should be forced to live without access to safe housing, nutritious food, health care supports, or decent childcare. While an integrated, coordinated approach is needed to address these issues, without a guaranteed, regular, sufficient income, many if not all of these needs are out of reach. We believe a basic income guarantee will provide new possibilities for the well-being of everyone and help people to flourish.

What is the basic income guarantee (BIG) we want?

We join [Coalition Canada Basic Income-revenu de base](#), [Basic Income Canada Network](#), and [Basic Income Canada Youth Network](#) in advocating for a progressive BIG defined as **a regular payment, made to people who need it, and distributed with minimal bureaucracy**. A BIG is an essential component of a just society but must not replace the social supports and services that currently exist, and which, in many cases, should be strengthened.

The following principles should guide the implementation of a BIG:

- ✓ Universally accessible. Everyone who needs it gets it.
- ✓ Unconditional. Subject only to income and residency requirements. Migrant workers and refugee claimants are eligible.
- ✓ An essential component of a broad social safety net of universal supports and

CURRENT ACTIONS

January 2022: City of Victoria [resolution](#)

April 2022: Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities (AVICC) ([resolution #37](#))

June 2022: The Halifax Regional Municipality [resolution](#)

Resolution coming forward in St. John's and Lunenburg this September? CBRM and others later in the Fall.

Opinion piece in the Herald this fall.

Continue to support municipalities and provincial associations to discuss, debate and support the resolution.



Definition

A direct payment from government to ensure that everyone has a sufficient income to meet their basic needs, participate in society and live with dignity, regardless of work status.



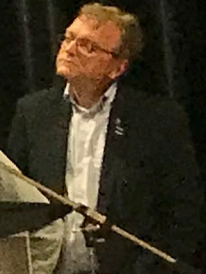
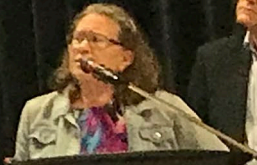
Basic Income Nova Scotia
(BIG-NS)

from

Basic Income NOW,
Atlantic Canada



Coalition Canada
basic income
revenu de base



OUR ASKS AT ATLANTIC MAYORS



1. Pass resolutions supporting Basic Income
2. Support PEI project – lobby Federal government
3. Sign the Basic Income NOW Atlantic Canada Consensus statement - Groups & individuals can sign

Nov. 9: Come to the Atlantic Provinces Summit

Encourage Others to Attend



Virtual meeting on November 9, 2022 from 9:00 – 12:30

Attendees: Elected politicians and advocates

Presentation on basic income

Wayne Easter: PEI project

Panel: working across jurisdictions and party lines

QUESTIONS?



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Also:

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instagram.com/wayemasonhfx

youtube.com/wayemason

