

Guaranteed Livable Income for a Fair and Just Recovery

What do we mean by a guaranteed livable income?

A guaranteed livable income is a predictable cash payment provided unconditionally to all individuals who need it to meet their basic needs with respect to the necessities of life. It builds on our current social safety net to afford all Canadians a life with dignity, security and human rights affirmed in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. It is sometimes referred to as a unconditional basic income or a minimum income floor.

What can a guaranteed livable income provide?

Benefits to Individuals	Benefits to the local community	Benefits to society
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The ability to make long term plans & better financial decisions ✓ Increased opportunities to pursue education & better employment ✓ Better work-life balance ✓ More family care giving time ✓ A chance to participate in community life & volunteerism (recognition of the value of unpaid work) ✓ Improved physical and mental health ✓ Increased resilience to the impact of unanticipated events such as climate crisis and changing employment patterns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Innovation and entrepreneurship due to increased ability of individuals to take risks ✓ Local economic benefits from the consumption of necessary goods & services ✓ Reduced costs to municipalities dealing with the impacts of poverty ✓ Stabilization of the economy in the face of labour disruptions due to climate change, automation and future pandemics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Lower administration costs by replacing piecemeal approaches & duplicate services ✓ Savings in health care, criminal justice & special education due to increased well-being ✓ Decreased domestic violence ✓ Increased social inclusion and cohesion ✓ A more stable economy reducing environmental impacts ✓ A commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (no poverty, zero hunger, good health, decent work & gender equality)

<p>Is a Guaranteed Livable Income affordable?</p> <p>The cost of a guaranteed livable income depends on its design. There are many parameters impacting the cost and therefore many avenues for covering the costs. There are direct savings resulting from lifting people out of poverty by eliminating duplicate and costly piecemeal programs. There are indirect cost savings by lessening the need for medical interventions, criminal justice and special education. The increased spending driven by a income guarantee contributes to business revenues, increased jobs and increased taxes resulting from that economic activity.</p> <p>Governments have the ability to introduce tax reforms that help redistribute wealth and reduce income inequality. A guaranteed livable income is an investment in people that pays for itself over time while improving the quality of life for many Canadians.</p> <p>Resource: https://www.cancea.ca/index.php/2021/02/05/potential-economic-impacts-and-reach-of-basic-income-programs/</p>	<p>Will people stop working?</p> <p>Reviews of basic income programs in Canada have found little evidence that people stopped working. Those who did temporarily left the workforce to look for better employment, to engage in care work, to start a business or to invest in further education. There is no evidence that people dropped out of the workforce permanently. People like the sense of purpose that work gives them, as well as the opportunity to improve their situation.</p> <p>https://labourstudies.socsci.mcmaster.ca/documents/southern-ontarios-basic-income-experience.pdf</p> <p>https://www.bbc.com/worklife/article/20200624-canadas-forgotten-universal-basic-income-experiment</p>
---	---

Endorsements for a Basic Income

The call for a Basic Income has been endorsed by numerous associations and organizations including public health agencies, social workers, medical associations, food banks, physicians, mental health workers, faith groups, business associations and senators. Twenty three Ontario municipalities have passed resolutions supporting Basic Income.

<https://basicincomecanada.org/endorsements/>