

Dear Mayor Guthrie and Members of Council,

On behalf of the Guelph & Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination (Poverty Task Force), I want to express full support for the following motion:

That City Council directs the Mayor to write a letter to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, MP Longfield, the Premier of Ontario, and MPP Schreiner, calling on these orders of government to work collaboratively towards implementing a National Guaranteed Livable Basic Income to eradicate poverty and homelessness, and ensure everyone in Canada has sufficient income to meet their basic needs.

It is the position of the Poverty Task Force that poverty is an urgent human rights and social justice issue for local, provincial, and federal governments. A Basic Income Guarantee is required as part of a coherent strategy to effectively eliminate poverty.

As you know, far too many Guelph residents are struggling to access basic necessities of life, such a food, housing and healthcare. Inadequate income supports, low-wage work, and increasing financial pressures are keeping people in poverty and making it harder and hard for individuals and families to make ends meet. The pandemic has only exacerbated these issues, making it even more evident that urgent and comprehensive action is required.

The collaborative approach outlined in this motion, which includes calling on both the federal and provincial governments to work together, is an important aspect of achieving meaningful change. It recognizes shared responsibility and the critical role upper levels of government can and must play in addressing pressing issues of poverty and homelessness.

A National Basic Income Guarantee has the potential to not only transform the lives of people living with poverty, but also countless residents who currently live on the brink of poverty. By providing a stable and dignified income floor for all residents, we can foster a more inclusive, just, and compassionate society with positive impacts for individual, economic and community wellbeing.

Sincerely,



Dominica McPherson
Poverty Task Force Director