



Petition for a Basic Income Guarantee to the Nova Scotia House of Assembly

We, the undersigned residents of the Province of Nova Scotia, ask that the Nova Scotia House of Assembly immediately form an all-party committee to study and make recommendations on how to implement a basic income guarantee (BIG) in the province of Nova Scotia that reflects the principles laid out by Basic Income Nova Scotia, Coalition Canada Basic Income-revenu de base, and the Basic Income Canada Network.

Many people are struggling financially in Nova Scotia and throughout Canada due to a perfect storm of interrelated difficulties^{1,2}: inflation, climate catastrophes, a shortage of affordable housing and an increase in homelessness, rising food insecurity and food bank use, increasing work precarity, labour disruptions as we transition to a greener economy, and artificial intelligence and technology replacing jobs. Wealth disparities are at an unprecedented level, the middle class is shrinking, and poverty and homelessness is rising. Financial insecurity leads to toxic stress which negatively impacts people's mental and physical health and shortens their life spans. This increases demands on our already burdened health care system and other support services³.

A Basic Income Guarantee (BIG) would help. It would ensure that everyone has an income sufficient to meet their basic needs and live with dignity, regardless of work status⁴. Evidence shows that a BIG would improve Nova Scotian's health, reduce crime, improve local economies, and restore trust in government^{5,6,7,8}. It would provide Nova Scotians with autonomy and choice, while having little effect on workforce participation⁹. The cost of a BIG would be offset by reallocation of current in-system spending¹⁰, return on investment from a healthier population, increased economic activity, and, potentially, redistribution of income through tax reform¹¹.

¹Food Banks Canada (2023). [Hunger Count](#).

²Dwyer, R., Palepu, A., Williams, C., Daly-Grafstein, D., & Jiaying, Zhao (2023). Unconditional cash transfers reduce homelessness. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 120 (36), e2222103120 <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2222103120>

³Raphael, D., Bryant, T., Mikkonen, J. and Raphael, A. (2020). Social Determinants of Health: The Canadian Facts. Oshawa: Ontario Tech University Faculty of Health Sciences and Toronto: York University School of Health Policy and Management. Available at <http://www.thecanadianfacts.org/>

⁴Coalition Canada Basic Income-revenu de base. [The Basic Income We Want](#).

⁵McDowell & Ferdosi (2021) The Impacts of the Ontario Basic Income Pilot: A Comparative Analysis of the Findings from the Hamilton Region. *Basic Income Studies*, vol. 16, no. 2, 2021, pp. 209-256. <https://doi.org/10.1515/bis-2020-0034>

⁶Calnitsky, D., & Gonalons-Pons, P. (2021). The impact of an experimental guaranteed income on crime and violence. *Social Problems*, 68(3), 778-798.

⁷CANCEA, (2019). [Report](#): Economic Contribution of the Canada Child Benefit: A Basic Income for Canadian Families with Children.

⁸MacKinsey & Co. (2022). Final Report, [Finland Pilot](#).

⁹Stanford, J., [Income Security and Workers' Power: Work, Wages, and Basic Income after COVID](#) (2022)

¹⁰[Parliamentary Budget Officer's report](#) (2021)

¹¹BICN. [Policy Options](#) Report.

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Name	Address	Signature

Please note: The name and address of the persons who sign this petition may be made available to the public if the petition is in proper form to be presented in the NS House of Assembly.