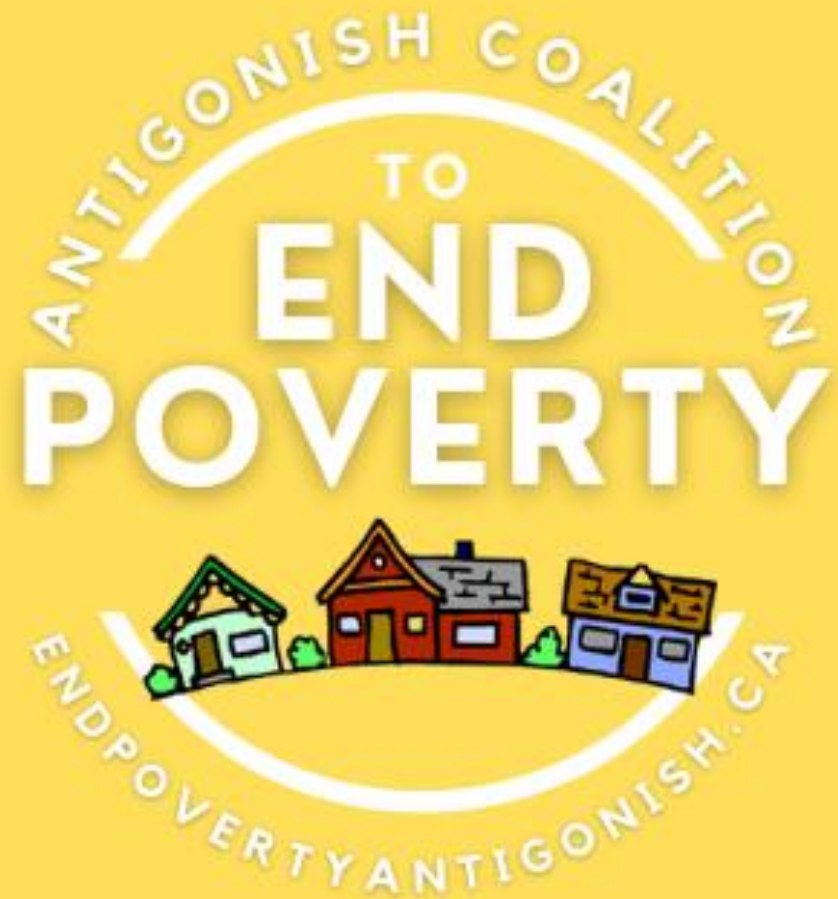


Guaranteed Livable Basic Income Presentation

Antigonish Coalition to End
Poverty (ACEP)

May 16, 2023



Antigonish Coalition to End Poverty

Established in 2010, the Antigonish Poverty Reduction Coalition (APRC) brings together organizations, groups and individual community members committed to eliminating poverty in Antigonish Town and County.

Our mission is to reduce and eliminate poverty by working with communities to address the root causes through advocacy, education, and organizing for collective action. The name was recently changed to the Antigonish Coalition to End Poverty to better reflect this mission.

We have a vision of healthy and inclusive communities where everyone is able to participate fully and has access to opportunities and support to live with dignity and choice, free from inequality and poverty.

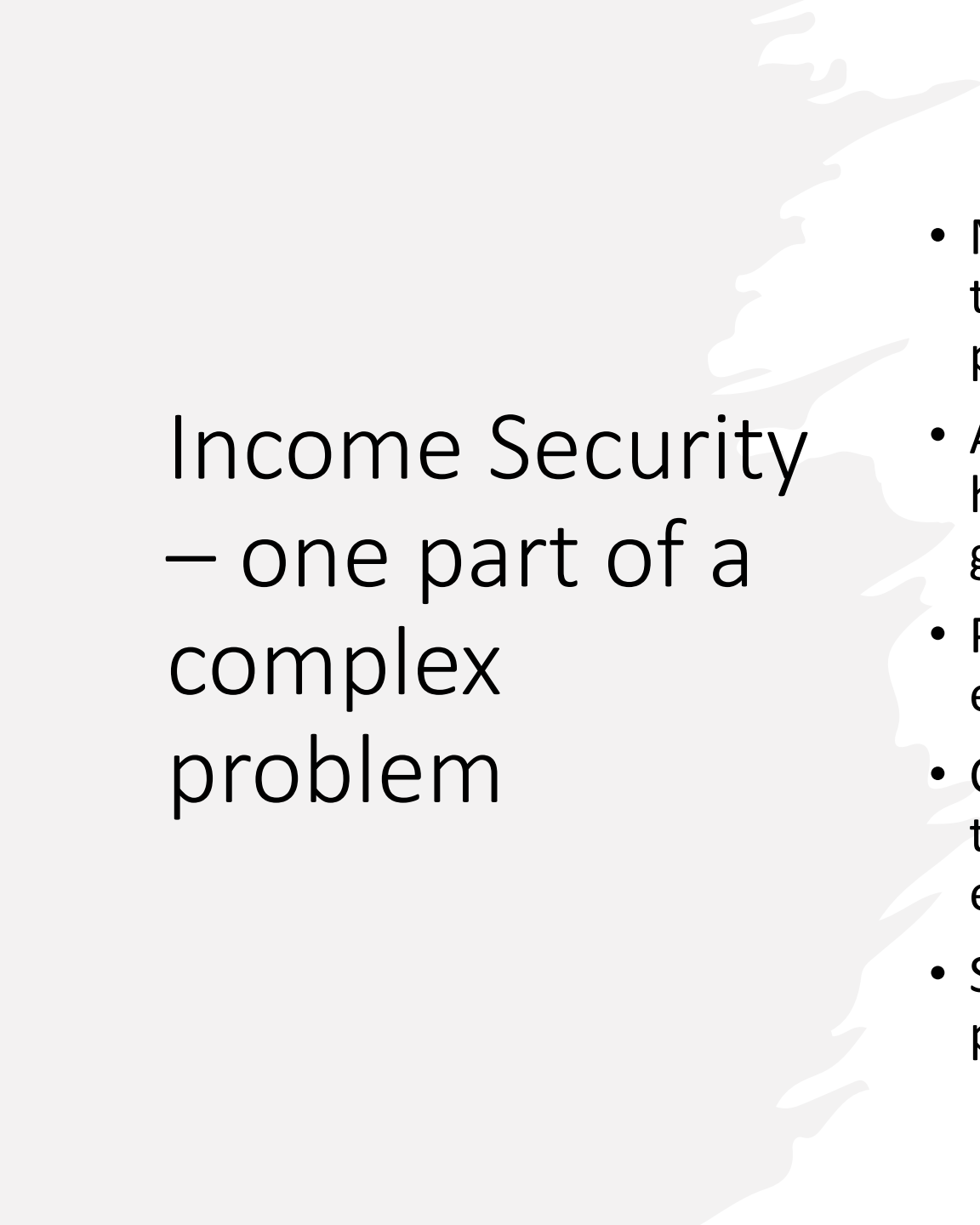
What we've done

- In 2011-2012 we developed an action plan with more than 60 items for addressing local poverty
- Many initiatives were born or strengthened by that work, including the Antigonish Food Security Association, Antigonish Affordable Housing Association, Antigonish Emergency Fuel Fund, and Antigonish Community Transit Society
- The municipalities of the Town and County have shown support and leadership for all of these initiatives
- We also applaud initiatives like the new rooming house bylaw and property tax relief for low-income residents

Poverty and Food Insecurity in Antigonish

- 31,370 children live in poverty in Nova Scotia, which amounts to 18.4% or close to 1 in 6 children. This is the first time child poverty dropped below 24% since 2000, almost entirely due to federal pandemic relief. (2023 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty, CCPA)
- 1 in 4 households in Nova Scotia is food insecure.
- In 2021, 1071 individuals visited the Antigonish Community Food Bank 5972 times.
- At the Antigonish Community Fridge and Pantry, which opened in August 2022, volunteers can't keep up with demand.
- Front line service providers at community organizations are desperately trying to keep people housed, fed, and with the lights on but the number of people living in deep poverty continues to climb and they are unable to continue to fill the gaps.





Income Security – one part of a complex problem


- More and more municipalities are realizing that there are gaps in the social safety net and many people are falling through.
- Along with safe, affordable housing, reliable health care, and other social supports, a major gap is income security.
- People need a livable, reliable income that will ensure they can meet basic needs.
- Current programs, like employment assistance or the Canada Workers Benefit, are not serving everyone.
- Social assistance rates in NS are shockingly and persistently inadequate.

Need for a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income

- A Guaranteed Livable Basic Income is an income security option that would provide a regular, livable income to those who otherwise would fall below the poverty line and are not being served by other programs.
- It is different than a livable wage – which is a wage that is paid by employers calculated to allow employees to be able to live on their salaries.
- It is similar to the combined Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement that low-income seniors can access, except it would be available to working-aged adults.

Basic Income – not a new idea

- BI has been around for a long time in Canada, dating back to the pilot project in Dauphin, MB in the 1970s.
- Some argue that Canada currently has many forms of basic income in place, including the Canada Child Benefit for households with children and OAS/GIS for low-income seniors.
- A short-lived pilot project in Ontario in the early 2000s had a remarkable impact for those participating, including health improvements, ability to access higher education, and reduced isolation.



Growing support for a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income

- In April 2020, 50 Senators wrote a letter to the Prime Minister and Finance Minister asking to extend the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) into a guaranteed livable basic income program, led by Senator Kim Pate.
- PEI has all-party support for a province-wide basic income program and has sent a letter of support to the Prime Minister.
- Last month, the Senate passed Bill S-233, An act to develop a national framework for a guaranteed livable basic income. It has been sent to the Senate Finance Committee for further study.
- The companion bill, Bill C-233, has been tabled in the House of Commons, but MP Leah Gazan.

PEI is calling for a province-wide basic income program


- All party support
- Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI support
- First Nations Chiefs' support:
<https://www.saltwire.com/nova-scotia/news/first-nation-chief-on-pei-backs-basic-guaranteed-income-for-mikmaq-people-396189/>



Basic Income NOW Atlantic Canada



- A coalition of Atlantic Canadian organizations and individual advocates working in solidarity to call for the implementation of a basic income.
- [Consensus statement](#)
 - A shared vision—we speak with one voice
 - Identifies the basic income we advocate for and why
 - Currently signed by 41 organizations and 320 individuals



Basic Income NOW
Atlantic Canada
Consensus
Statement –
Local Signatories

- A Roof Over Your Head
 - Antigonish Coalition to End Poverty
 - Antigonish Community Transit Society
 - Antigonish Women's Resource Centre & Sexual Assault Services Association
 - Coady Institute
 - Martha Justice Ministry, Sisters of St. Martha, Antigonish
 - Social Justice Committee, St James United Church
 - Along with several NS Community Health Boards, faith groups, and food security groups
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Municipal Basic Income Actions

Past

- 2015: Kingston resolution passed, followed by 40 other Ontario Municipalities
- 2018: Halifax included 2 action items (1.5, 3.4) for a BIG in its [Poverty Solutions report](#)

2022-23

- January 2022: City of Victoria [resolution](#)
- April 2022: Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities (AVICC) ([resolution #37](#))
- June 2022: Halifax Regional Municipality [resolution](#)
- September 2022: Moncton [resolution](#) (#12)
- October 2022: St. John's and Fredericton
- January: St. John, NB
- Recently, Wolfville, Pictou County, and County of Annapolis have passed resolutions. Others that have considered but not passed a resolution (yet) are Lunenburg County and Town of Yarmouth.

Poverty impacts our communities and costs of poverty are downloaded onto municipalities.



What you can do...

- Learn more...Read and sign the Basic Income Atlantic Canada Consensus Statement and links to resources: <https://www.big-ns.org/read-and-sign-the-consensus-statement>
- Pass a resolution in support of a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income program in Canada
- Reach out to other municipalities that have passed resolutions

Resolution

- That Antigonish 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 that everyone has sufficient income to meet their needs, which would contribute to the eradication of poverty and homelessness, relieving pressure on municipalities to use limited resources to fill in the gaps of a failing social safety net.

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Thank you for your attention.
We welcome any questions.