

# A Case for Municipalities to Support a Basic Income Guarantee (BIG)

## Presentation to Diversity Kings

Presented by:

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&

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November 1, 2023





## Who We Are: KCCFC

A group dedicated to lead and collaborate on work in our communities to strengthen our food system.

**Vision:** Kings County will have a sustainable local food system, where everyone will have access to enough nutritious, safe, ecological and culturally appropriate food.



**BIG-NS**

## Who We Are: BIG-NS

We are Nova Scotians.

Together we advocate for a livable basic income guarantee through outreach, education and informed conversation.

# Why present to Diversity Kings?

**Your Vision:** We envision the Municipality of the County of Kings as a recognized leader in establishing and implementing policies, programs, and practices to eliminate racism, discrimination, and exclusion.

**Your Mission:** To determine where and how racism, discrimination and exclusion are manifest in the Municipality of the County of Kings. To recommend policies, programs and practices designed to eliminate racism, discrimination and exclusion, to monitor the effects of recommendations and to report on changes.

# What is a Basic Income Guarantee (BIG)?

A basic income guarantee 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.

BIG is:

- universally accessible
- unconditional, subject to income & residency requirements
- distributed with minimal bureaucracy and intrusiveness
- a liveable amount, responsive to changing circumstances

# Why Should Municipalities Care about BIG?

Mayor Mike Savage of HRM clearly stated at the [2022 Atlantic Canada Basic Income Summit](#):

**“The feds have the money, the province has the jurisdiction, and the city has the problems.”**

# Why Should Municipalities Care about BIG?

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

Municipalities represent an important voice in social policy discussions at all levels: they are often on the front lines, working to ensure that residents and communities lead happy, healthy, sustainable, and productive lives.

### Low Income (LIM-AT)

In 2021, approximately **3,230** people (15%) in Kings Subd. A were living in low income.

#### Compared to NS



- Children 0-17 years ... 17%
- Children 0-5 years ... 17%
- Seniors 65 and over ... 21%

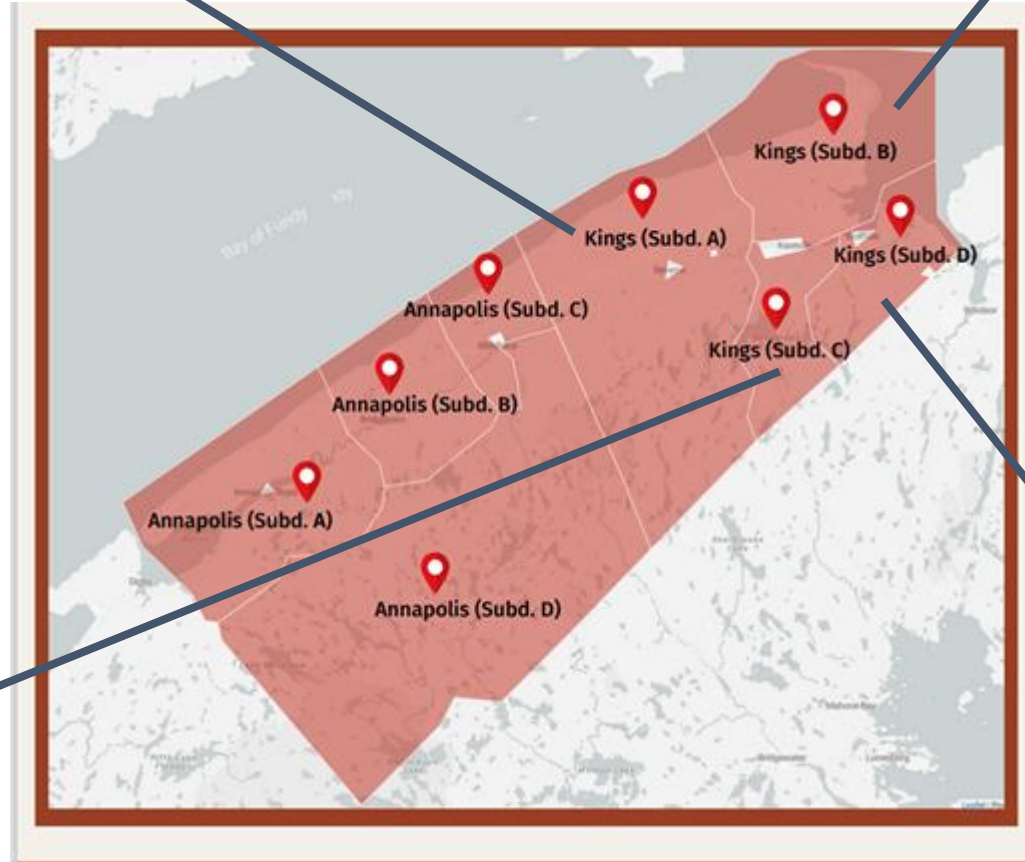
### Low Income (LIM-AT)

In 2021, approximately **2,050** people (17%) in Kings Subd. B were living in low income.

#### Compared to NS



- Children 0-17 years ... 22%
- Children 0-5 years ... 28%
- Seniors 65 and over ... 22%



### Low Income (LIM-AT)

In 2021, approximately **1,325** people (16%) in Kings Subd. C were living in low income.

#### Compared to NS



- Children 0-17 years ... 17%
- Children 0-5 years ... 19%
- Seniors 65 and over ... 25%

### Low Income (LIM-AT)

In 2021, approximately **755** people (14%) in Kings Subd. D were living in low income.

#### Compared to NS



- Children 0-17 years ... 13%
- Children 0-5 years ... 16%
- Seniors 65 and over ... 21%

source: Stats Can 2021 Census of Population data





### POVERTY REPORT CARD

## F Nova Scotia

- Experience of Poverty **D**
- Poverty Measures **F**
- Material Deprivation **F**
- Legislative Progress **F**

### Context:

The high unemployment rate and stagnant minimum wage in Nova Scotia have contributed to the rise of poverty in the province. This has left a significant portion of the population struggling to meet their basic needs. A steep rise in housing costs over the past few years has exacerbated the issue. As such, 68% of food bank clients in the province live in rental housing. This rate is worst among the Atlantic provinces and points towards a larger issue with the cost of living and its impact on food insecurity. Rural residents face additional challenges because their geographic isolation makes it difficult to access services and opportunities.

[View Report Card](#)

### Digging deeper into the data

- [Context](#)
- [Contributing Factors](#)
- [Political & Policy Landscape](#)
- [Looking Ahead](#)
- [Policy Recommendations](#)



**When food bank visits show only the tip of the iceberg.**

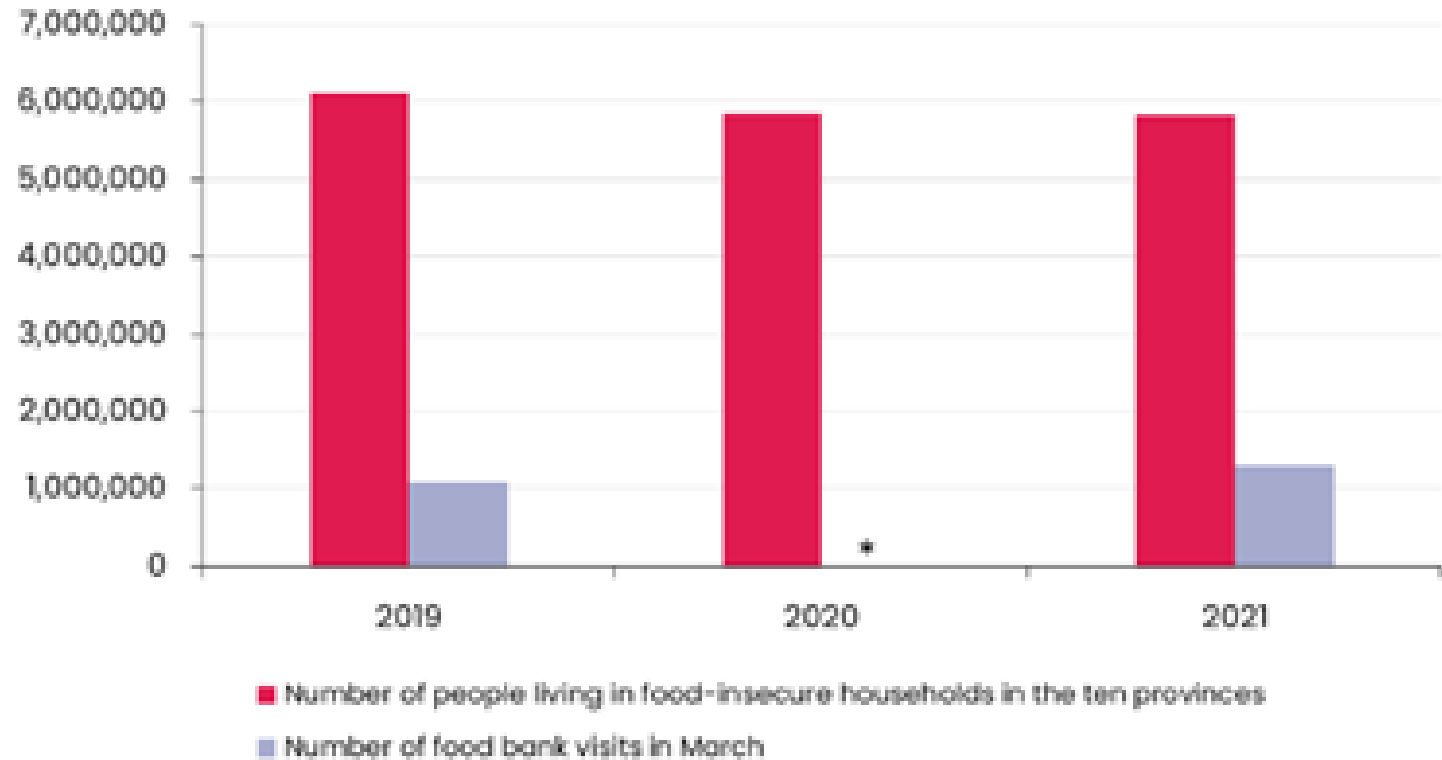
**32 498**

**visits to NS Food Banks in 2021**

**(130 food banks reporting)**

**↑ 26.8% from pre-COVID**

**Food Insecurity vs Food Bank Use in Canada**



**Data source:** Statistics on food insecurity estimated from the Canadian Income Survey (CIS) 2018-2020, collected in 2019-2021. Statistics on food bank usage represent the number of visits made to food banks in March of 2019 and 2021 reported by Food Banks Canada in its 2019 and 2021 HungerCount report. \*There was no count of food bank visits in March of 2020 due to pandemic-related disruptions.

# Why Should Municipalities Care about BIG?

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

Municipalities represent an important voice in social policy discussions at all levels: they are often on the front lines, working to ensure that *residents and communities lead happy, healthy, sustainable, and productive lives.*

# We need a BIG for the Preariat

## The Preariat are:

- Artists, including Musicians
- Farmers & Fishers & Forestry workers
- Tourist workers
- Independent contractors
- Interns
- Temp agency workers
- ‘Platform workers’
- ‘On-call’ including call center workers
- PT wanting FT
- Municipal Councilors even...

## What is precarious work?

“Working arrangements that are risky, temporary, part-time, insecure, uncertain, often provide low or unreliable wages, and typically lack benefits, rights, or other legal protections “(Cubrich et al., 2022)

# We need a BIG for the Precariat

## Who are they?

- Women
- Disabled
- Previously incarcerated
- Ethnic minorities
- Migrants
- Refugees
- Retirees
- Largest number are young people

## How large is the Precariat?

- National and International studies say **24 - 25%** of the workforce.
- Approx. 25% of Annapolis Valley-Hants workers report having **more than 1 job** (N.S. Quality of Life Survey, Mar. 2020)

# We need a BIG for the Preariat

Precarious Work: Understanding the Changing Nature of Work in Canada (June 2019)

Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills, and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities

‘Recommendation 4. ...that Employment and Skills Development Canada study forms of income support, such as Guaranteed Annual Income or other transfer programs that are not tied to employment’

# What can we expect from a BIG?

BIG *communities* experience:

- decreased crime
- decreased strain on health care system
- increased school attendance
- decrease in high school drop out rate

BIG *recipients* experience:

- improved mental & physical health
- better access to medication, nutritious food & transportation
- decreased poverty rates
- reduced homelessness
- improved financial security, including ability to shop locally and decrease personal debt.

# Don't we already have a BIG?

Some argue that Canada has targeted, basic income programs:

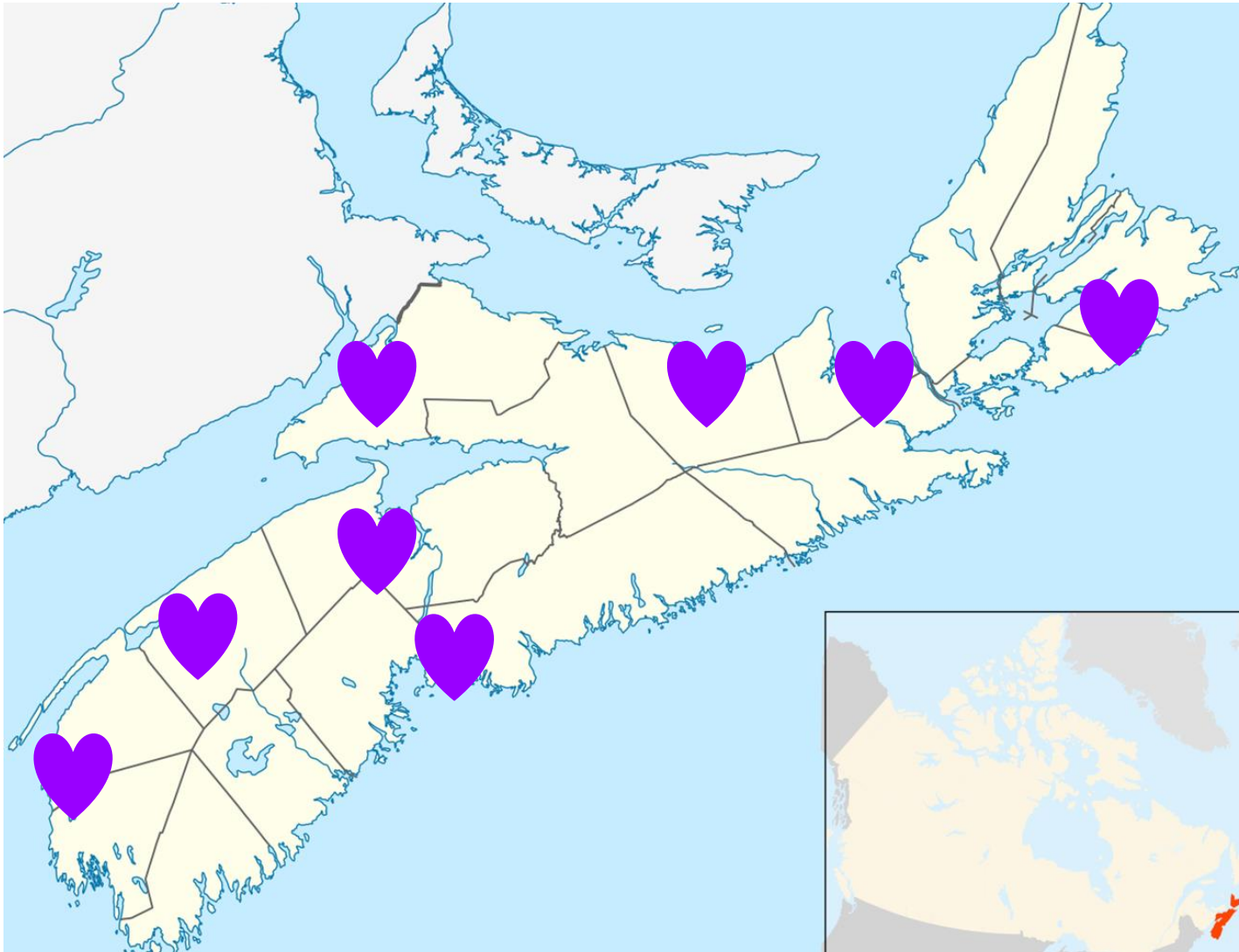
- Canada Child Benefit for families
- OAS/GIS for low-income seniors
- Canada Workers Benefit
- Canada Disability Benefit

Isn't it time for a BIG for all?

Isn't it time that it is a liveable amount?



# N.S. Municipalities that Have Passed Resolutions Supporting BIG



The Atlantic Mayors' Congress passed a motion in support of BIG in summer 2023.

As of Oct. 2023 the Municipal Representatives of *more than half the population of Nova Scotia* support BIG

# LEGISinfo

Search by number (e.g. C-5, S-214), sponsor, title or keyword



Overview Bills Legislation at a glance Help

## C-223

**44th Parliament, 1st session**  
November 22, 2021, to present

### An Act to develop a national framework for a guaranteed livable basic income

**Short title:** National Framework for a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income Act

**Bill type**  
Private Member's Bill

**Sponsor**  
[Leah Gazan \(Winnipeg Centre\)](#)

**Text of the bill**

#### Summary

**Current status**  
Outside the Order of Precedence ⓘ

**Latest activity**  
Introduction and first reading on December 16, 2021 (House of Commons)

#### Progress

#### Details

#### About

#### House of Commons

**1** **First reading**  
Completed on December 16, 2021

**2** **Second reading**  
Not reached

**3** **Consideration in committee**

#### Senate

**1** **First reading**  
Not reached

**2** **Second reading**  
Not reached

**3** **Third reading**

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# Our Asks to Your Respective Councils

1. That the Mayor write letters to the Prime Minister and Premier asking for federal and provincial/territorial governments to work together to create a national liveable basic income guarantee.
1. That the Mayor write a letter to the Premier and all MLAs, with copies to the Prime Minister and NS MPs, requesting that the province establish an all-party committee of the legislature to research and design implementation of a liveable basic income guarantee for all Nova Scotians.

Mainstreet NS with



## Mainstreet NS with Jeff Douglas



How universal basic income could help reduce poverty



Play Segment

11:52



Share Segment

A recent report from Food Banks Canada says Nova Scotia is failing people who are living in poverty. Some say universal basic income could help fix that. CBC's Rose Murphy joins guest host Carolyn Ray to tell us more.

Aired: Oct. 27, 2023

More from Mainstreet NS



The most important question we can usefully answer in rich countries is not how to make them grow richer, but how to improve the quality of life of the average citizen. It may be one of the greatest challenges of our time.....

Bannerjee & Duflo, 2019

Noble Prize winning Economists





Thank you for your time and consideration.

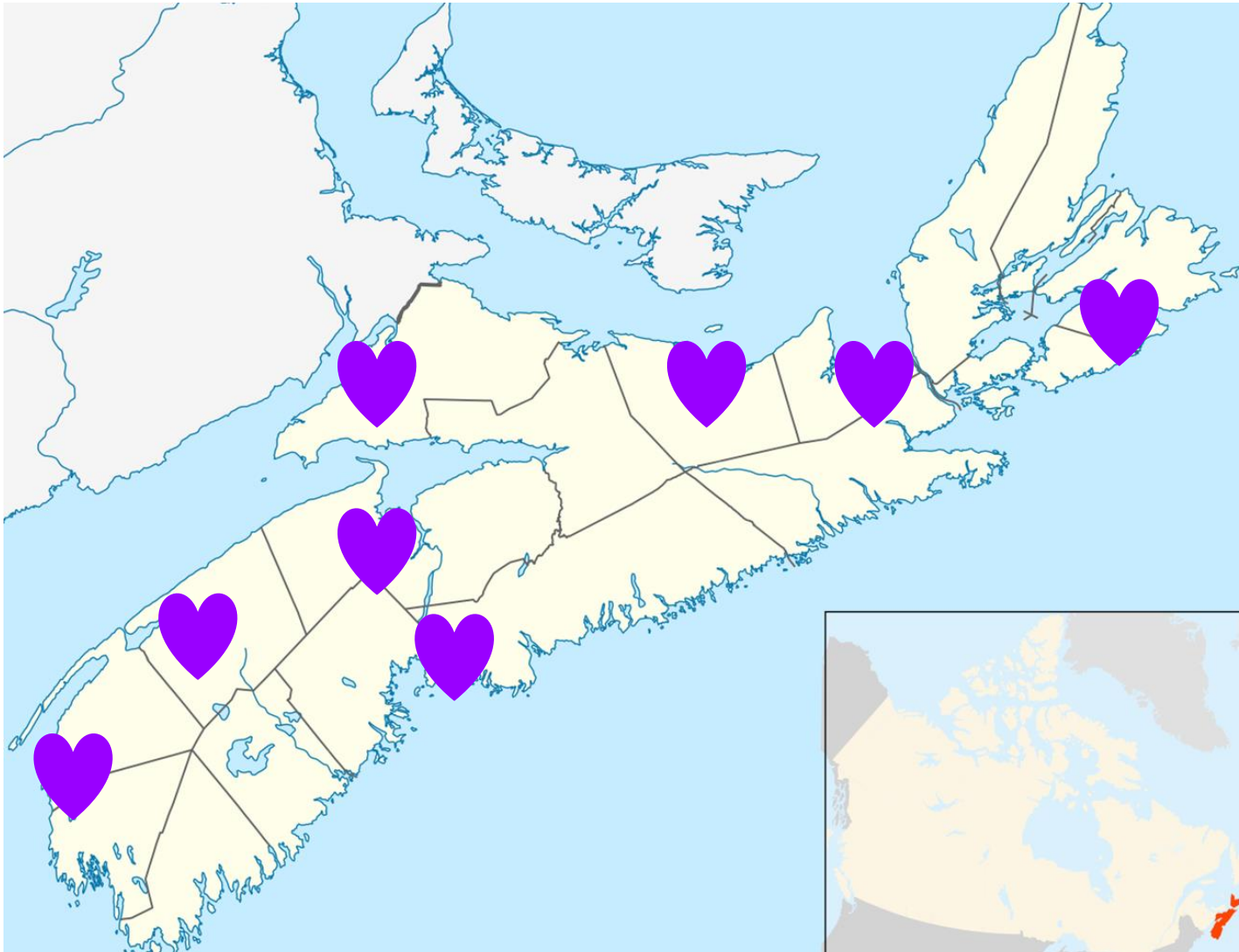


**BIG-NS**





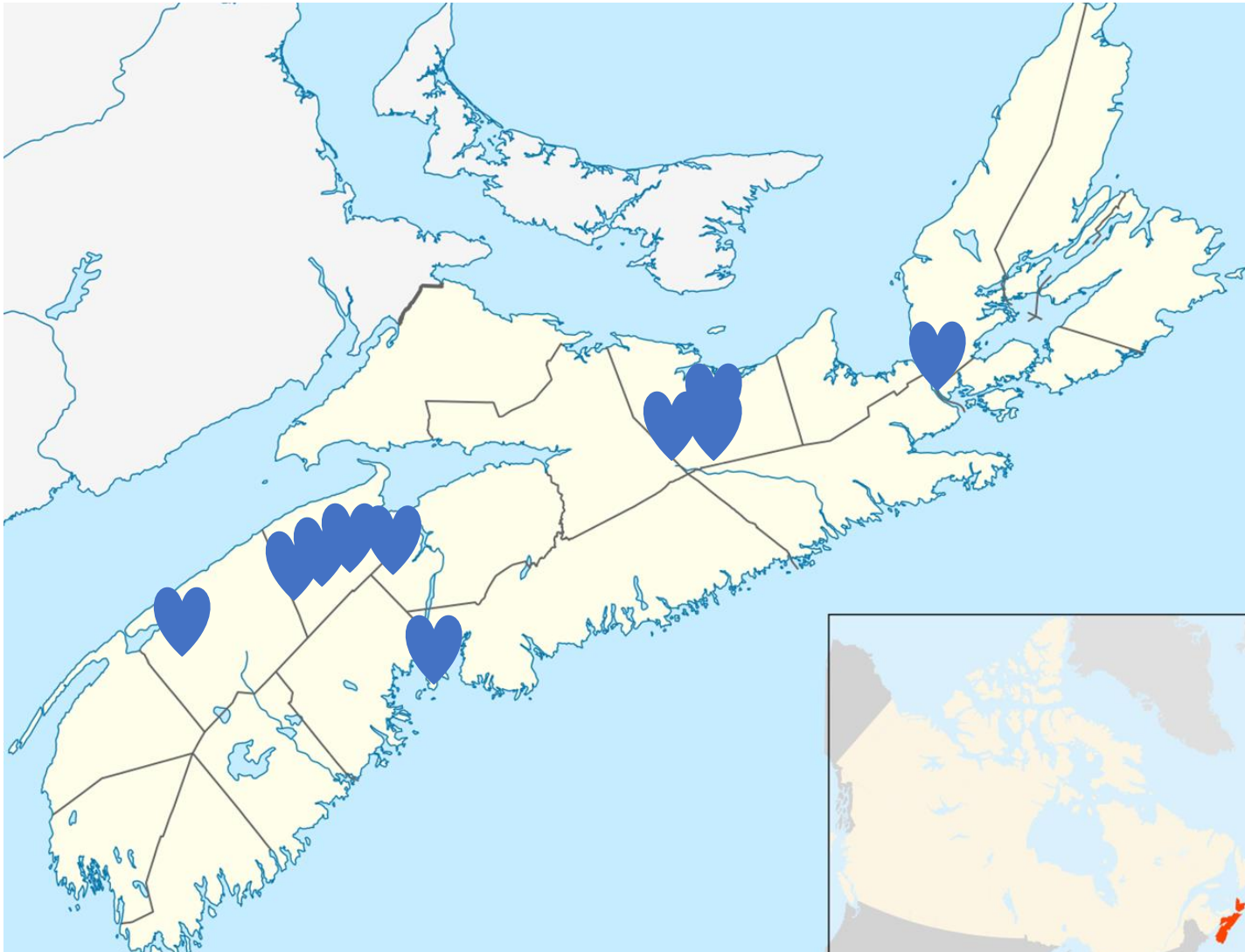
# N.S. Municipalities that Have Passed Resolutions Supporting BIG



HRM  
CBRM  
Wolfville  
Antigonish  
Annapolis Co.  
Yarmouth  
Antigonish Co.  
Cumberland Co.  
Pictou Co.

The Atlantic Mayors' Congress passed a motion in support of BIG in summer 2023.

# N.S. Municipalities that Endorse the Coalition for Healthy School Food



HRM  
Kings County  
Wolfville  
Kentville  
Berwick  
Annapolis Royal  
Port Hawksbury  
New Glasglow  
Trenton  
Westville