



Basic Income 101

What is it?



Basic Income is money distributed to eligible people, regularly, reliably, and without work requirement, and which, absent other income, should meet basic human needs.



Why Basic Income Matters



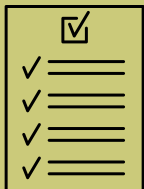
- Contributes to lower school drop-out rates
- Stimulates local economies and employment
- Complements a living wage since short-term and part-time jobs are on the rise
- Guarantees income for caregivers and non-employed parents, thus empowering important traditionally unpaid roles, especially for women

The cost of poverty in Canada is at least \$80 billion annually.



The human cost of poverty is devastating.

- Fewer early childhood and post-secondary education opportunities
- Poorer mental and physical health
- Increased social isolation and stress
- Greater susceptibility to chronic health problems
- Shorter life expectancies
- Healthcare costs that are more than double that of food-secure adults



Basic Income helps empower people to make healthier choices.

People can safely reject low-paying jobs, and jobs without benefits, and thus employers have an incentive to:

- Improve work conditions
- Create fair pay standards
- Reverse precarious work trends

What if:



- You were in a violent domestic situation and needed to start over?
- You had a stroke and could no longer work?
- Your spouse had a traumatic brain injury from a head-on collision and needed round-the-clock care?
- Your child was diagnosed with a life-limiting illness and needed immediate treatment?
- You lost your job due to downsizing or automation?

Together, we can make a difference.

Basic income is an essential pillar for ensuring personal, family, and community resilience, boosting local economies, and building a more equitable society for all.

Busting Basic Income Myths



"People won't work"

Improvements to mental and physical health mean more people return to education, seek employment, or retain jobs.

The 2017-2018 Ontario Basic Income pilot showed:

- 26% of participants started education or training programs
- 48% volunteered more
- 38% of employed participants found higher paying jobs
- Any decrease in employment was largely by those who returned to school, or stayed home to look after family members

"The money will just be spent on drugs and alcohol"

Studies have shown no increase in spending on such items.

The 2017-2018 Ontario Basic Income pilot revealed:

- 17% of participants quit smoking; 40% smoked less
- 5% quit drinking; 43% drank less
- On the other hand, 85% ate more nutritious food



"It will hurt the economy"



Basic income tends to be spent quickly and locally, thereby stimulating local economies.

- People have more money to spend
- Demand for goods and services in a community increases
- Existing businesses are more likely to expand
- New ventures open
- Available jobs increase

"It's never been done before"

Basic Income is not new!

Canada has various programs based on this concept, such as:

- The Canada Child Benefit for families with children under 18
- The Guaranteed Income Supplement for seniors
- New Basic Income programs in Québec and Newfoundland & Labrador



For more information:



<https://lanarkbasicincome.ca/public-resources/>