

Whereas the City of Kingston passed a motion in December 2015 calling on the Ontario and Canadian governments to establish a Basic Income Guarantee which is an income floor sufficient to eliminate income insecurity and enable everyone to live with dignity regardless of work or relationship status; and

Whereas a Guaranteed Basic Income goes to those most in need and phases out as income from other sources increases; and

Whereas studies from the Ontario Basic Income pilot, which ended abruptly in 2018, demonstrated improvements in the physical and mental health, labour market participation, food security, housing stability and financial and social well being of pilot participants; and

Whereas the Government of Canada's report Building Understanding: The First Report of the National Advisory Council on Poverty from 2020 used 2016 census data to highlight how poverty disproportionately impacts racialized individuals at twice the rate as compared to non-racialized individuals in Canada at 20.6% and 10.6% respectively; and

Whereas the pandemic, rising cost of living and surges in food and housing prices have worsened income inequality and created scenarios where more people find it difficult to meet their basic needs; and

Whereas social assistance recipients are living in extreme poverty and food insecurity and are at great risk of developing associated health concerns; and

Whereas in lieu of a provincial or federal anti-poverty strategy, the City of Kingston has developed programs to decrease the impacts of poverty and, income inequality, and to make it possible for residents to participate in programs that provide a better quality of life which can positively improve mental and physical well-being; and

Whereas these programs and services are the result of downloading by the provincial and federal governments which would be more fully addressed by a basic income guarantee program; and

Whereas implementing a basic income guarantee program has been shown to reduce the need for individuals to apply for multiple support programs in order to maintain a healthy and dignified life; and

Whereas the late former Senator the Honourable Hugh Segal, told the Kingston Whig-Standard that Kingston Council had "shown tremendous courage and real leadership" when it passed a motion in 2015 supporting the concept of a basic income guarantee;

Therefore Be It Resolved That the City of Kingston requests that the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario work collaboratively to establish an income-tested basic income guarantee to combat poverty, income inequality and economic insecurity within our community; and

That a copy of this motion be sent to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of Ontario, the Party

Leaders of the other Parties in the Federal and Provincial governments, the local and area MPs and MPPs, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for further consideration.