

# Basic Income Waterloo Region



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## What is a Basic Income?

It is a cash transfer from government to individuals enabling everyone to meet their basic needs, participate in society and live with dignity, regardless of work status.

## Why do we need it now?

- The pandemic is accelerating automation
- 4 out of 10 recent jobs losses may be permanent
- 40% of Canadian families are vulnerable with less than \$10,000 in net assets
- 25% of Canadians report that they cannot meet their monthly debt obligations
- About 1 in 5 Canadians with children experienced food insecurity in the last 30 days

## What needs to be done?

- Continue a program like the CERB that is available to *all* Canadians over age 18 in need
- Administer it through the income tax system, as it can respond to people's changing income levels in a timely manner
- Monitor, measure, evaluate, and improve

## What are the benefits of a Basic Income?

- Practically eliminates poverty and the welfare trap
- Stimulates local economies
- Enables education and innovation because of financial stability
- Improves health and well-being
- Reduces crime
- Benefits all Canadians through a less marginalized and more cohesive society

*"Basic Income helped me to become financially stable, obtain an apartment, move out of a motel, and cook."*

*Participant, Ontario Basic Income pilot*

## What you can do now?

- Learn more about Basic Income at [www.basicincomecanada.org](http://www.basicincomecanada.org) and [www.obin.ca](http://www.obin.ca)
- Let local politicians and your MP know how important a basic income is to you at [www.ourcommons.ca/members](http://www.ourcommons.ca/members)
- Follow us on Facebook [www.biwr.ca](http://www.biwr.ca) or Twitter [@BasicIncomeWR](https://twitter.com/BasicIncomeWR)