

Basic Income for economic recovery and well-being



BIWR

Basic Income Waterloo Region

What is a Basic Income?

A basic income is money provided by the government that helps all Canadians to meet their basic needs, participate in society and live with dignity regardless of work status.

Why do we need it now?

- Too many Canadians are losing their jobs and savings
- Canadians who work in precarious and gig jobs do not have access to employment insurance or paid sick leave
- Jobs will change as we recover from COVID-19 and many Canadians will need to train for new jobs
- Some jobs will never return due to business closures or due to automation
- Our economy needs a program that minimizes gaps and leaves no one behind
- Current social programs do not reward people for looking for work

Basic Income is the most important post-recovery solution to COVID-19

What are the benefits?

- Increases financial security for all Canadians and businesses
- Every Canadian has money for housing, food and other basic needs

- A predictable income stimulates spending which is essential to economic recovery
- Improves our individual and collective health and well-being
- We have similar programs operating now that are working (e.g., Canadian Child Benefit, Guaranteed Income Supplement for seniors, Old Age Security)
- Would replace social assistance programs that trap people in poverty
- All basic income models are affordable: http://www.basicincomecanada.org/policy_options

What needs to be done

- Continue a program like the CERB but which is available to *all* Canadians over age 18
- Monitor, measure, evaluate, and improve

What you can do now

- Learn more about Basic Income at www.basicincomecanada.org and the Ontario Basic Income Network www.obin.ca
- Let local politicians, your MPP or MP know how important a basic income is to you
- Follow us on Facebook www.biwr.ca or Twitter @BasicIncomeWR