



BASIC INCOME WATERLOO REGION

COMPARING BASIC INCOME TO SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

BASIC INCOME GUARANTEE

DEFINITION



- A cash transfer from government to individuals enabling everyone to meet their basic needs, participate in society and live with dignity

VALUE STATEMENT



- The majority of people are capable and best able to make decisions for themselves

KEY FEATURES



- An empowering approach that enables people to access opportunities
- An inclusive and humane approach that respects people's individual circumstances
- Responds to changes in work and economy
- Based solely on Income

INCOME



- About 7.7% of Ontario live in poverty and would benefit from an income at or above the poverty line

EMPLOYMENT



- Income security allows people to develop new skills and find a job

RESULTS



- Improves both physical and mental health
- Reduces healthcare costs
- Reduces poverty-related crimes

ADMINISTRATION



- Could be disbursed efficiently by Canada Revenue Agency reducing bureaucracy, duplication, and system navigation

AFFORDABILITY



- It is affordable without impacting how 98% of Canadians live

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE INCOME

- A cash transfer from government to individuals that has been too low for them to meet their basic needs, participate in society, and live with dignity

- People are thought to lack motivation to work
- People need to be directed and monitored

- An approach that undermines individuals' dignity, fosters stigma and is overly bureaucratic
- Excludes people through numerous rules and eligibility requirements
- Does not respond to a changing economy
- Means-tested with surveillance and varying levels of support

- Remains significantly below the poverty line
- This has led to band-aid solutions, such as food banks and other needs-tested programs

- High claw-backs of income penalize and discourage paid employment

- Ongoing stress and adverse health effects due to income instability and food insecurity

- Currently administered via provincial and municipal governments and are difficult to navigate

- Expensive and bureaucratic with inadequate benefits

Basic Income is **not** a replacement for other essential government services such as healthcare, mental health, domestic violence and addiction services, housing, and employment assistance.

Establish income security through a Basic Income now.
Speak to your Member of Parliament today!

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.BASICINCOMIEWR.CA

