



BASIC INCOME WATERLOO REGION

# COMPARING BASIC INCOME TO SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

## DEFINITION



## BASIC INCOME GUARANTEE

- A cash transfer from government to individuals enabling everyone to meet their basic needs, participate in society and live with dignity
- The majority of people are capable and best able to make decisions for themselves
- 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
- About 7.7% of Ontario live in poverty and would benefit from an income at or above the poverty line
- Income security allows people to develop new skills and find a job
- Improves both physical and mental health
  - Reduces healthcare costs
  - Reduces poverty-related crimes
- Could be disbursed efficiently by Canada Revenue Agency reducing bureaucracy, duplication, and system navigation
- It is affordable without impacting how 98% of Canadians live

## VALUE STATEMENT



## KEY FEATURES



## INCOME



## EMPLOYMENT



## RESULTS



## ADMINISTRATION



## AFFORDABILITY



## 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.BASICINCOMEWR.CA](http://WWW.BASICINCOMEWR.CA)

