

EXPLORING POVERTY REDUCTION GAME CHANGER SERIES

GAME CHANGER #1 - INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT

Income security through employment and non-employment sources, and readiness for, access to, and retention of secure, livable wage jobs, where employer policies support employees' needs.



Economic security remains the primary factor in ensuring that individuals and families are able to meet basic needs and build assets. It secures one's capacity to afford necessities, including housing, food, transportation and childcare. Self-sufficiency through secure employment income is tied to the availability and accessibility of quality work, supports to access employment, job security, positive working conditions, and reliability of hours. Access to non-employment income, including social assistance, employment insurance, and disability supports, is essential for those who are not tied, either temporarily or permanently, to the job market, including people living with disabilities or medical conditions, seniors, and mothers of very young children. Increased workforce participation supports productivity, stimulates economic activity, and decreases costs spent on social programs.

**What is a poverty reduction Game Changer? Read: [Sometimes to hear the music you have to turn down the noise](#).
Have feedback or ideas on our Game Changer exploration? Let us know by filling out this [short survey](#).**

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BEST PRACTICES AND POLICIES

FEDERAL



Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

[Government of Canada's Guaranteed Income Supplement \(GIS\)](#) – A monthly non-taxable benefit to Old Age Security (OAS) pension recipients in Canadians who live on low income.



[Canada Revenue Agency Community Volunteer Income Tax Program](#) – Free tax preparation clinics through community organizations where

volunteers prepare income tax and benefit returns for individuals on modest incomes.

PROVINCIAL / TERRITORIAL



[Ontario Works](#) – Provides emergency, financial, and

employment assistance for those in financial need.



[Manitoba Employment and Income Assistance \(EIA\) Program](#) – Provides

financial help including Rent Assist, financial assistance for basic needs, and back-to-work supports.

MUNICIPAL

[Ottawa Social Assistance Services](#) – Provides temporary employment and financial benefits and services, including basic financial assistance for shelter and basic needs, employment assistance, and supports to complete high school, overcome barriers, obtain work experience, and gain and retain employment.

COMMUNITY



[Vancouver's Living Wage for Families Campaign](#) –

Encourages employers to pay a living wage and advocates for government policies that support working families to make ends meet.



[Workers' Action Centre](#) – Worker-based organization in Ontario that advocates for fair employment and improved working conditions for people in low-wage and unstable employment.