

Technical Considerations

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Basic Income Atlantic Canada Summit

November 9, 2022



Today's Agenda

- Welcome, land acknowledgement, technical considerations
- Getting to know Basic Income
- PEI Demonstration project
- Panel: Effective collaboration amongst jurisdictions
- Closing remarks



Who's In the Room?

Poll?

Acknowledge all levels of government

Acknowledge community advocates

Note organizers from all four provinces









A United Voice for a Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI) in Atlantic Canada

Atlantic Basic Income Summit
November 9, 2022

Presented by Mandy Kay-Raining Bird, PhD
On behalf of Basic Income NOW Atlantic Canada



Basic Income NOW Atlantic Canada

- A coalition of Atlantic Canadian organizations and individual advocates working in solidarity to call for the implementation of a basic income
- [Consensus statement](#)
 - A shared vision—we speak with one voice
 - Identifies the basic income we advocate for and why
 - Currently signed by 41 organizations and 274 individuals



“Everybody deserves a life where they don’t have to choose between what bill gets paid this month.”

“Everybody deserves a life where you matter, even if you are not rich.”

Comments from Consensus Statement Signers



The Basic Income We Want (BIG, GLI)

Consistent with definition & principles of BIG-NS, Coalition Canada Basic Income, and Basic Income Canada Network

Definition

A regular payment, made to people who need it, and distributed with minimal bureaucracy. A BIG is an essential component of a just society but must not replace the social supports and services that currently exist, and which, in many cases, should be strengthened.






Principles


- **Universally Accessible.** Everyone who needs it gets it.
- **Unconditional.** Subject only to income and residency requirements. Migrant workers and refugee claimants are eligible.
- **An essential component of a broad safety net.** A full, adequate BIG replaces income assistance but not other vital social programs. Housing, childcare, education, disability, addiction, mental health, and other supports should remain. BIG should coexist alongside efforts to strengthen social supports in other ways, such as implementing a livable minimum wage, pay equity, affordable housing options, corporate regulation, and universal pharmacare, dental care, and vision care.
- **Sufficient.** Set at a livable level, above the poverty line, enhanced for those with disabilities, and indexed to the cost of living.
- **Responsive to changing circumstances.** Simple to access. Delivered monthly or biweekly.
- **Respectful of autonomy.** Payable to individuals to be used at their sole discretion. No intrusive or degrading application or oversight processes.
- **Respectful of Indigenous self-determination.** Respect autonomy and rights of Indigenous people to determine whether a basic income is delivered in their communities and, if so, what form it will take and how it will be implemented.

The Basic Income We Advocate For

NO

- For everyone
 - A replacement for other necessary social services and supports
 - Means tested
 - Same for everyone
- 

YES

- For those who need it
 - Complements other efforts to strengthen existing services and social supports
 - No intrusive, onerous, demeaning, stigmatizing requirements or conditions.
 - The maximum benefit would be provided to those with the lowest incomes. Gradually reduced as incomes rise.
- 



**Former MP Wayne
Easter, Liberal**

Elected officials of
all parties &
jurisdictions
support GLI



**MP Leah Gazan, NDP
Bill C-223**



**Kim Pate,
Independent Senator
Bill S-233**

Indigenous leaders

PEI is calling for a province-wide basic income program

- All party support
- Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI support
- FN Chiefs' support
 - Lennox Island Chief Darlene Bernard
<https://www.saltwire.com/nova-scotia/news/first-nation-chief-on-pei-backs-basic-guaranteed-income-for-mikmaq-people-396189/>



MMIWG Calls for Justice

4.5 We call upon all governments to **establish a guaranteed annual livable income for all Canadians, including Indigenous Peoples**, to meet all their social and economic needs. This income must take into account diverse needs, realities, and geographic locations.

16.20 We call upon all governments to support the establishment of programs and services designed to financially support and promote Inuit hunting and harvesting in all Inuit communities. All governments with jurisdiction in Inuit Nunangat must immediately **increase minimum wage rates and increase social assistance rates** to meet the needs of Inuit and to match the higher cost of living in Inuit communities. **A guaranteed annual livable income model, recognizing the right to income security, must be developed and implemented.**



Municipal leaders



Because poverty impacts our communities and costs of poverty are downloaded onto municipalities



[Case for Basic Income for Municipalities](#)

Municipal Basic Income Actions

Past

- 2015: Kingston resolution passed, followed by 40 other Ontario Municipalities
- 2018: Halifax included 2 action items (1.5, 3.4) for a BIG in its [Poverty Solutions report](#)

2022

- January, 2022: City of Victoria [resolution](#)
- April, 2022: Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities (AVICC) ([resolution #37](#))
- June, 2022: Halifax Regional Municipality [resolution](#)
- September, 2022: Moncton
- October, 2022: St. John's and Fredericton
- More considering. St. Johns, Lunenburg district, Yarmouth...

Why We Need a Basic Income



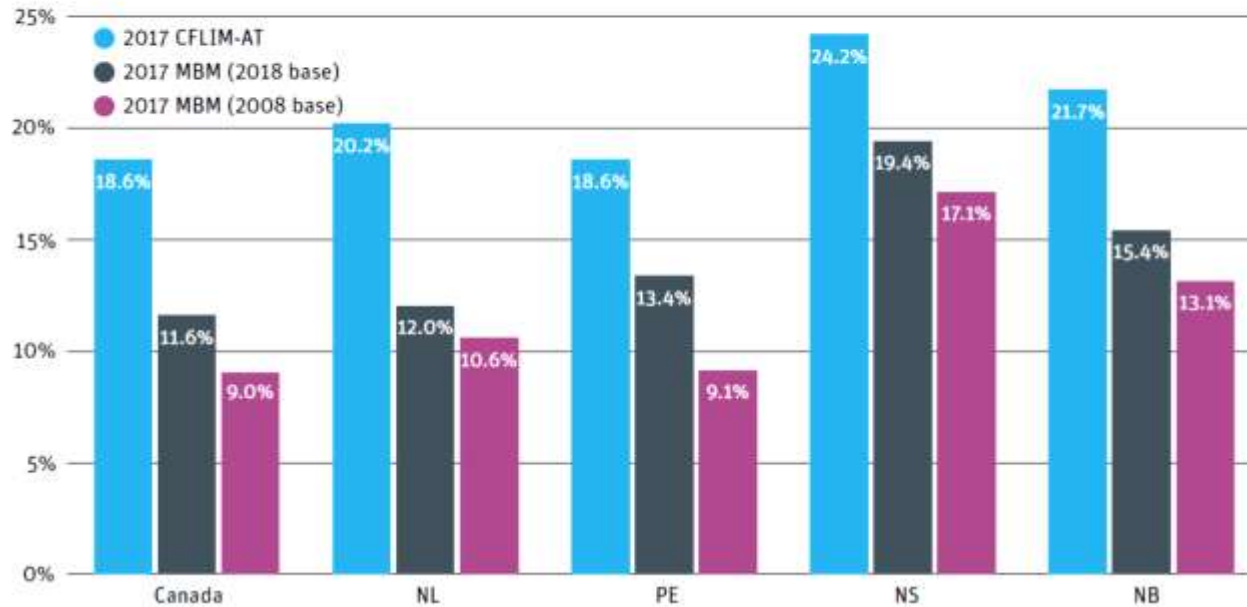
Ontario Pilot Basic Income recipient

Because poverty rates are high, and many are vulnerable

“Allow me to live, not just survive!”

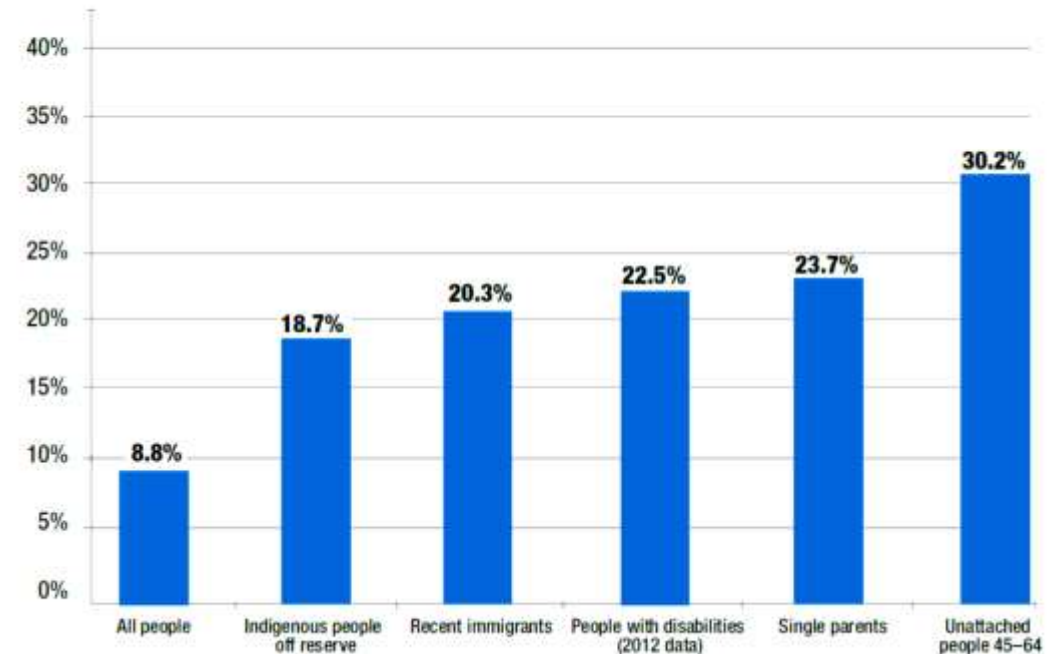
Consensus statement signer

FIGURE 2 2017 Child Poverty Rates, Canada and Atlantic Provinces, Market Basket Measure (2018-base and 2008 base) and Census Family Low Income Measure, After-tax



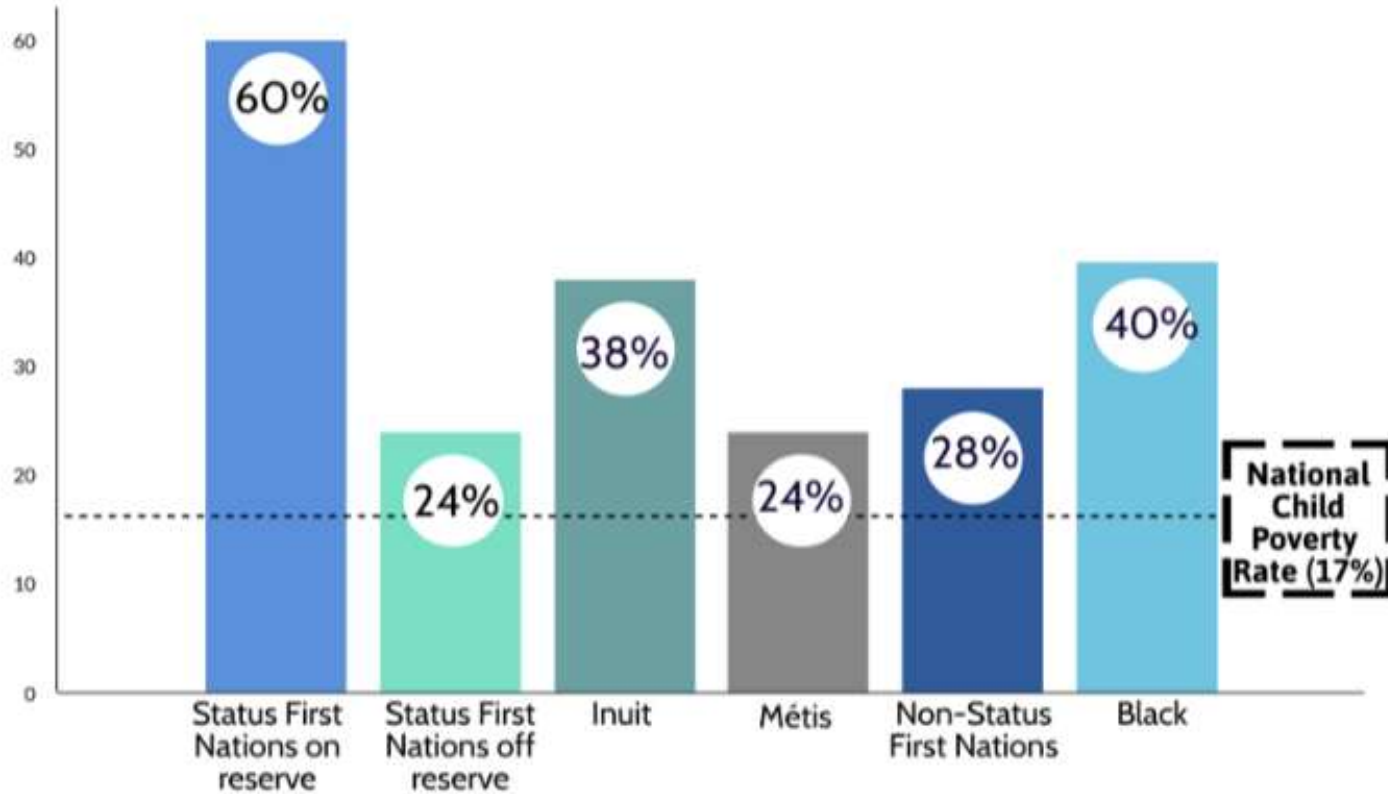
[CCPA, 2021 Cost of Poverty in the Atlantic Provinces](#)

Figure 7: Low-Income Rates of Vulnerable Groups, Total Population, 2014 (Low Income Cut-Offs – After Tax, Base Year 1992)



[Stats Canada, 2016](#) Towards a poverty reduction strategy

Nova Scotia Rates of Child Poverty for Black and Indigenous Children



Racism and colonial practices have caused very high poverty rates in indigenous and Black communities

Frank et al. (2020) <https://policyalternatives.ca/newsroom/updates/child-and-family-poverty-nova-scotia-anti-racism-anti-poverty-statement> in conjunction with the Campaign 2000 press release <https://campaign2000.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/anti-black-racism-media-release-final.pdf>

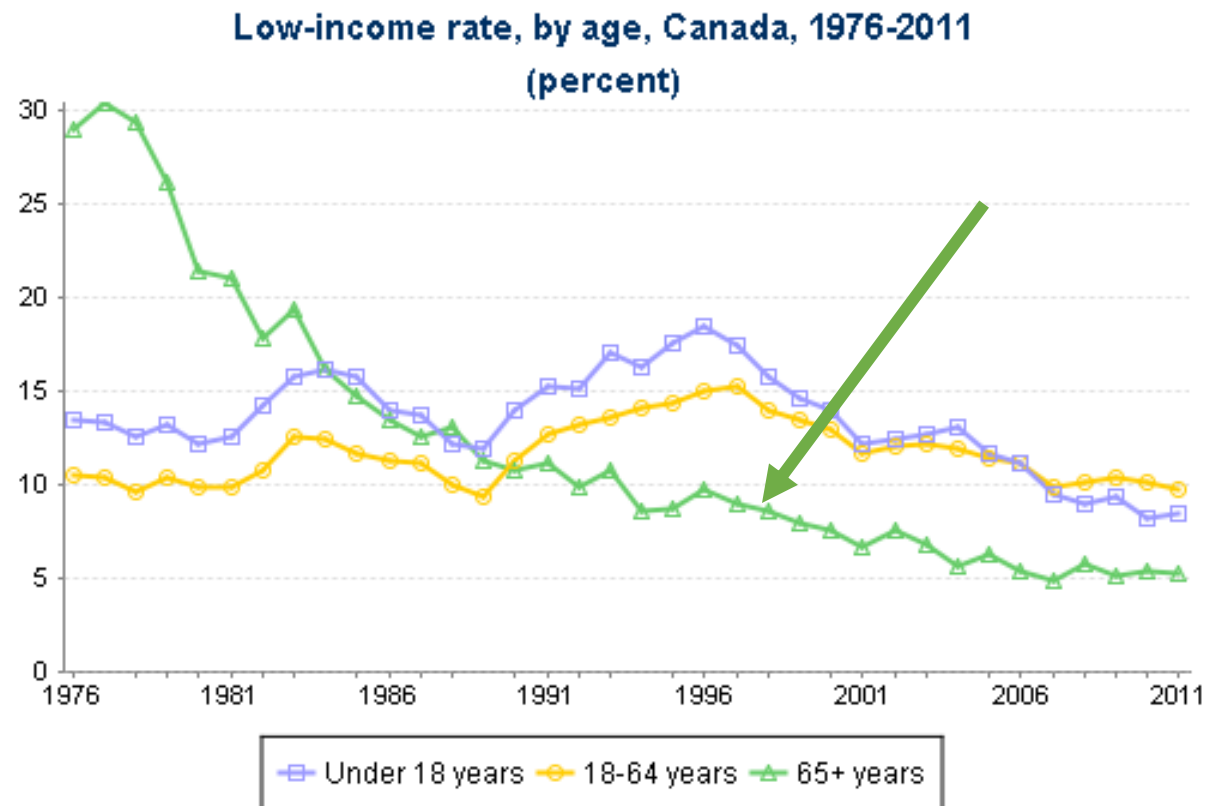
Introducing unconditional supports like Old Age Security + Guaranteed Income Supplement reduces poverty

Much better than welfare!

BUT

Not enough

Not keeping up with inflation



Stats Canada, 2012 http://www4.hrsdc.gc.ca/.3ndic.1t.4r@-eng.jsp?iid=23#M_4

Because income is the most impactful SDoH
and

Poverty is “...the best predictor of early illness, early hospitalizations, longer hospital stays and earlier death. It is a reliable predictor of substance abuse, food insecurity, poor education outcomes, and for some, trouble with the law.”

Because Poverty Costs:
In human suffering, human potential, and \$

\$4,604,723,040/year

TABLE 2 Total Cost of Poverty, Percent of GDP and Cost per person, Atlantic Provinces, 2017

Province	Total Cost (thousands)	Percent of GDP	Cost per person
NB	\$1,338,045.84	3.71	\$1,744.86
NS	\$2,034,821.03	4.76	\$2,140.38
PEI	\$272,572.10	4.10	\$1,810.32
NL	\$959,284.07	2.90	\$1,814.88

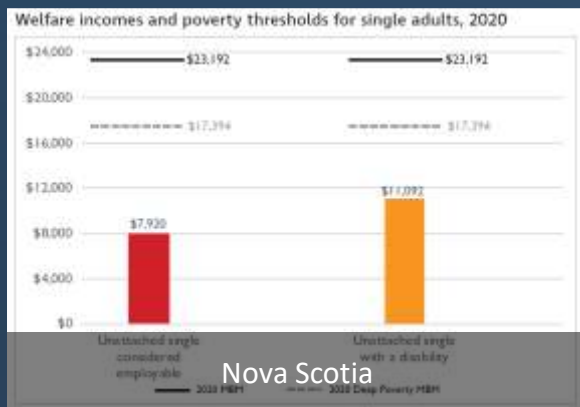
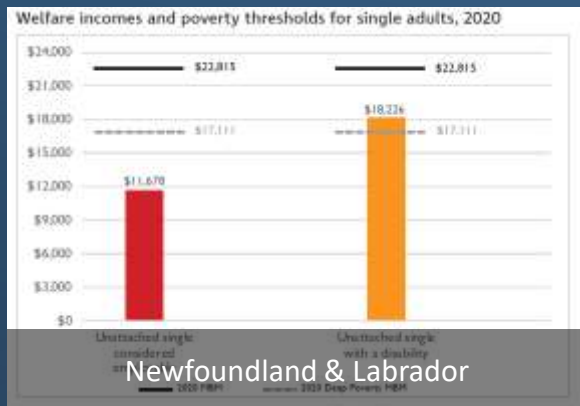
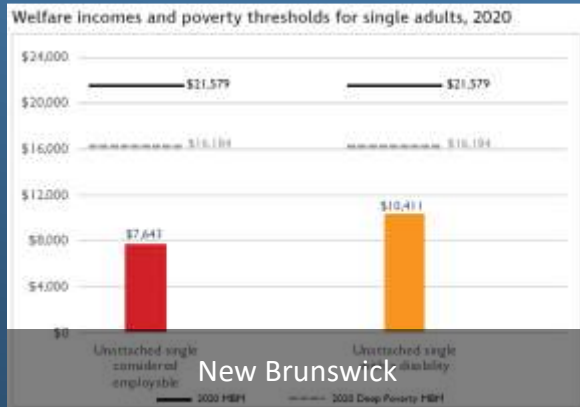
Because a BIG
would save
money &
improve
people's trust
& quality of
life

Health care costs: ↓ 8.5% (Forget, 2011)

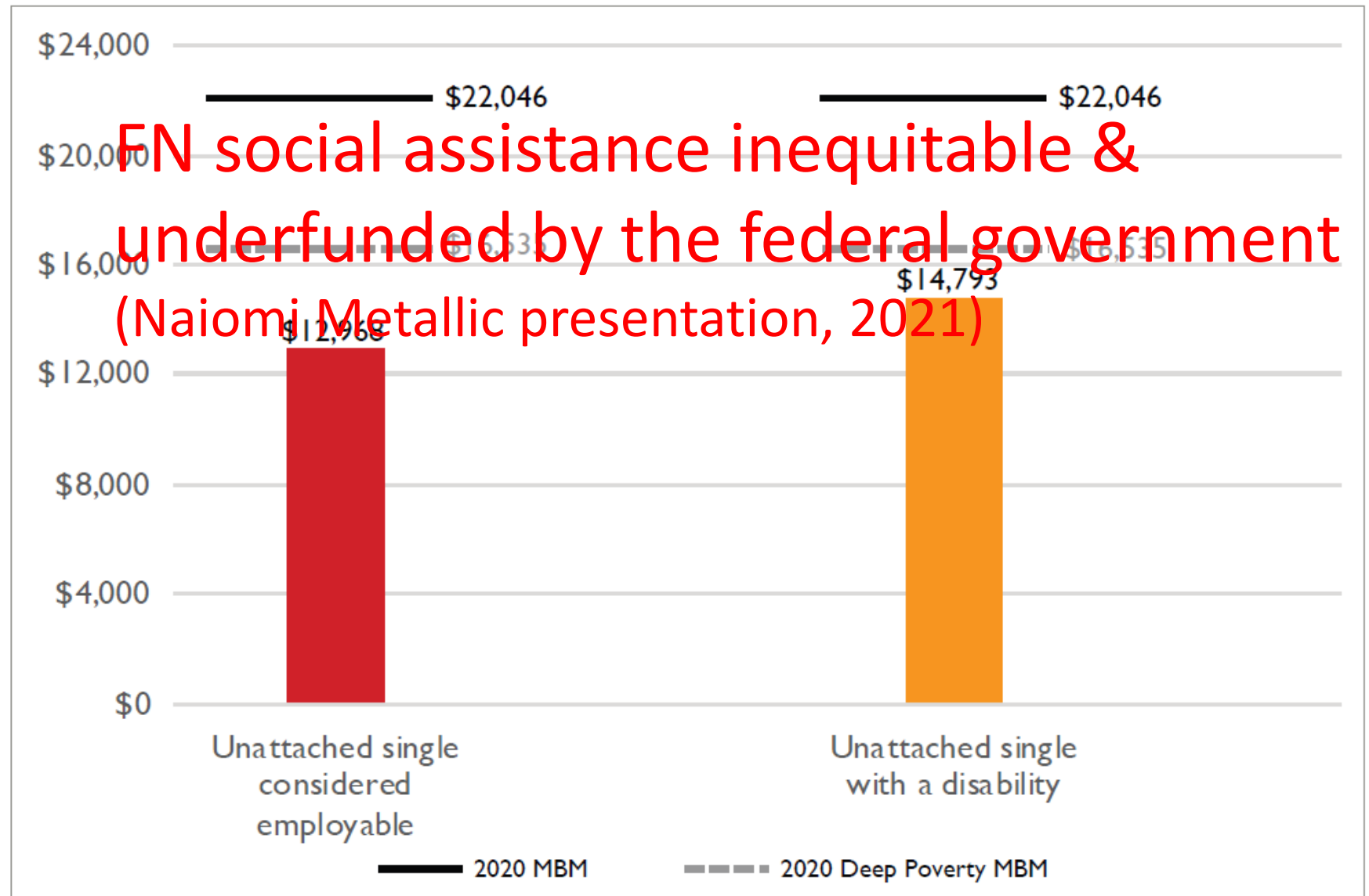
Violent & property crimes: ↓ 17.5%
(Calnitsky et al., 2020)

Stress ↓ and trust in government ↑
(Finland pilot, 2021)

Because Income Assistance (Welfare) Is NOT Sufficient and Demeaning



Welfare incomes and poverty thresholds for single adults, 2020



FN social assistance inequitable & underfunded by the federal government (Naiomi Metallic presentation, 2021)

Comment
from a
Consensus
Statement
Signer

Income Assistance Means Testing i.e.,
“Bureaucratic Nonsense” (K. Worth)

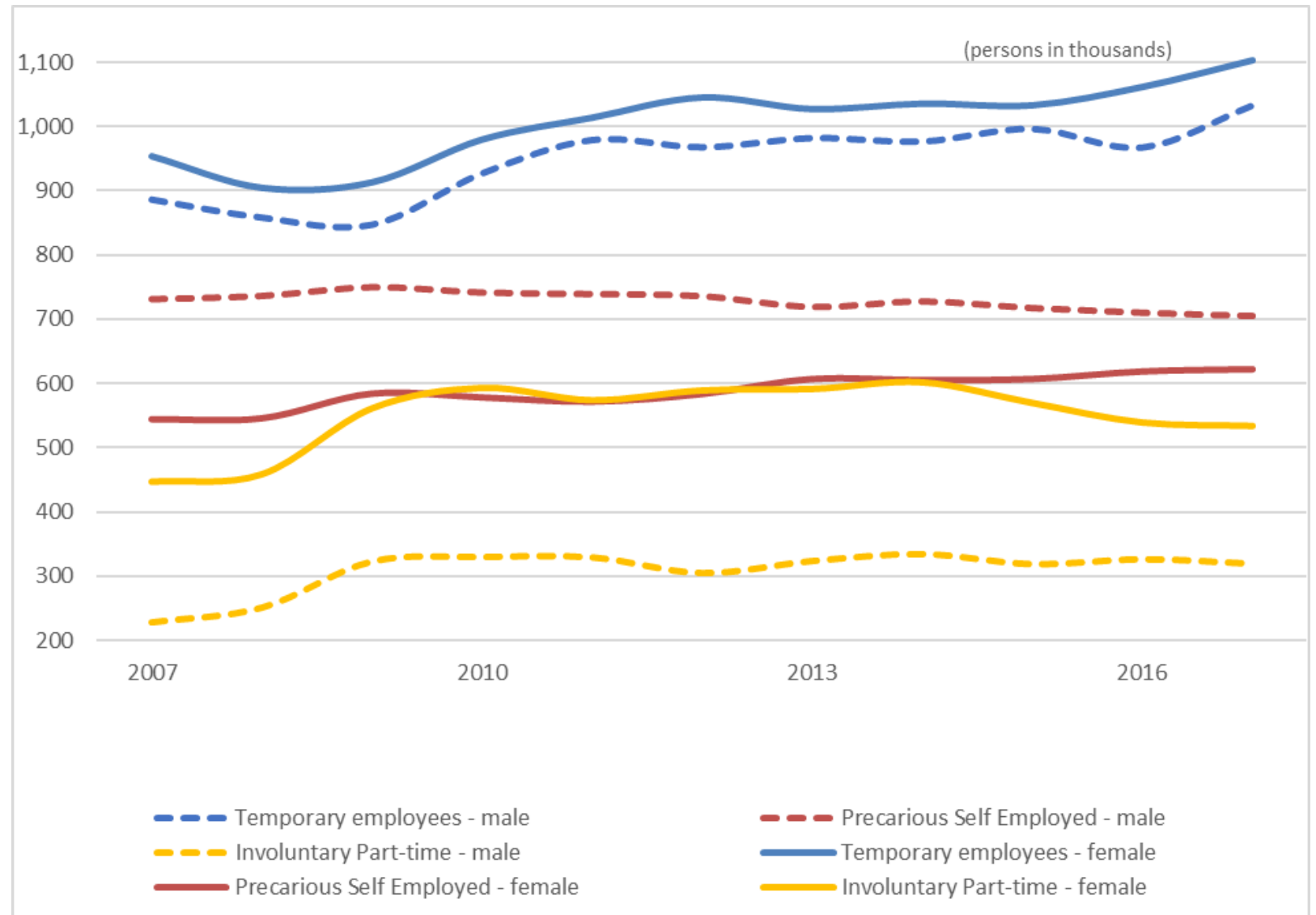
“I have panic attacks having to feel belittled every year at their annual reviews. I worry I may get something wrong or mess up how I spend...I don't even know if I'm allowed to buy products on amazon where I have no vehicle and use vitamins for my health. I am mentally and physically disabled.”

Poverty is a policy choice & we can
choose differently

A federally funded and
administered Basic
Income would
dramatically reduce
poverty and treat people
with dignity

Because 24% of jobs are precarious (2016 data)

- Temporary (——)
- Involuntary part-time
- Self-employed
- Variable hours
- Not unionized
- No benefits
- Few rights & protections
- Often 1 paycheck away from poverty



Case for Basic Income in the Fisheries

Fisheries employment: “is seasonal, dependent upon resource availability, policy and politics, often without benefits and contracts, in non-unionized environments and, even within unionized environments, vulnerable to change and negative outcomes rooted in the intersection of capitalism and climate change.”

“A BIG may offer a way of supplementing and stabilizing seasonal employment that allows people to remain in their communities, have more control over their work choices, and make occupational pluralism more feasible and responsive to community needs.”

“As Indigenous peoples mobilize for justice in the interrelated areas of fisheries, food systems, and climate, a BIG could be one step towards economic reconciliation by providing the support and autonomy needed for communities to maintain sustainable livelihoods tied to the fisheries.”



Because not all work is paid work

Volunteering

Raising children

Caring for sick family and friends

Repairing

Gardening

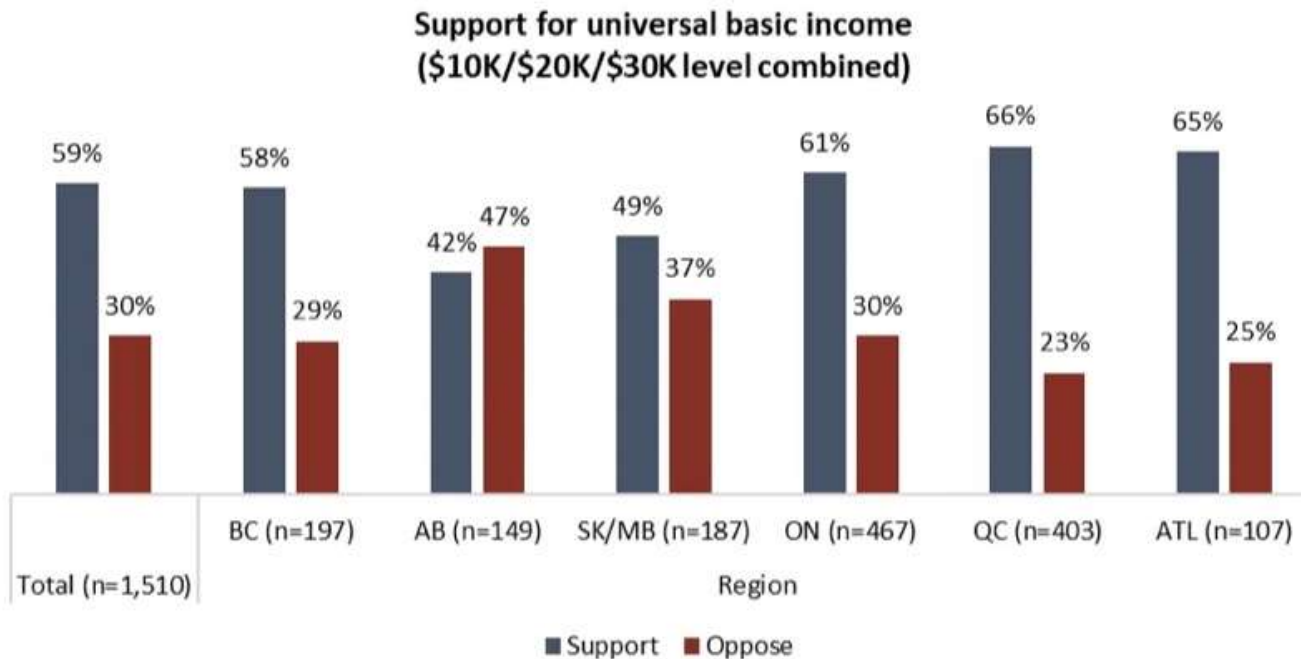


A BASIC INCOME WOULD

- Give people economic security
 - If they lose a job
 - If they cannot find work
 - If their work is precarious
- Let people take risks
 - Artists and entrepreneurs
- Give people choices
 - Accept or refuse a job
 - Take time to learn new skills
 - Provide care for loved ones

Why? Because there is considerable support for a basic income

65% of Atlantic Canadians



Jan. 2021, [Angus Reid Poll](#)

Open letters from

- 50 Senators
- Groups representing over 1 million Youth
- 75,000 artists
- United, Anglican, Evangelical, Lutheran, and Presbyterian church leaders
- 167 Health professionals
- 120 CEOs
-

Myths about Basic Income

People won't work

We can't afford it

Government spending causes Inflation



Myth 1: People won't work. Not true!

Finland pilot study →
employment increased slightly
(Allas et al., 2020)

Less oversight → more people
find permanent work (Verlaet et
al., 2020)

Because the benefit declines
gradually with paid work, it
incentivizes employment



Research from the Mincome pilot
showed employment changed little

Continue school

Provide care for
family members

(Segal, Forget, & Banting, 2020)

Myth 2: We Can't Afford It



A BIG is expensive...PBO 2018 study

Gross cost ~\$76 billion

- 75% LIM: \$16,900 per individual; \$24,027 per couple
- +\$500/month disability benefit
- 'phase out' rate: \$0.50, for each dollar of employment income

Offset by

- ~\$32 billion in current federal spending: OAS, GIS, CCB, tax credits
- ~\$20 billion in provincial & territorial spending (Forget)

Net cost ~\$24 billion

But Consider

Cost savings
from poverty
elimination

Health, Policing & incarceration, Lost
opportunities, Forgone revenue,
Intergenerational costs

[CCPA, 2021 Costs of Poverty](#)

Economic
Benefits

“The economic activity generated by
the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) is
almost twice the size of the CCB
payments themselves”

[CANCEA, 2019](#)

Also consider:

We make many expensive decisions

- Health care: **~\$308 billion**
- Oil and gas subsidies: **~\$34 billion** (provincial & federal)
- Defense spending: **~\$28.4 billion**, new money represents year-over-year increases of between 1 - 5%
- Canada Child Benefit: **~\$23.7 billion**

And we make expensive tax choices

- “Between 2000 and 2006, the Chrétien and Martin governments cut the corporate [tax] rate from 28% to 21%; by 2012, the Harper government had taken it down to 15%.”
- “Every 1% cut in corporate taxes costs the federal government ~ \$2 billion in annual revenue.”

[CCPA, Polacko, 2019](#)

Studies	Level	Revenue	Funding	Policies
PBO report, 2020	75% of LIM	No New	Deficit Spending	Existing federal expenditures
Academic Studies	\$20-22,000	No New	Revenue Neutral	Income redistribution: Tax Credit Changes
BICN, 2020 Policy Options Report	\$22,000 \$31,113 (couple)	New	Revenue Neutral	Income redistribution: Tax Credit Changes, Progressive Tax Reform, Change to corporate taxes
UBI Works 2022	\$18,300 75% of LIM	New	Revenue Neutral	Income redistribution: Tax the financial sector, Reduce tax breaks for large companies and tax subsidies for the wealthiest

These are policy choices.

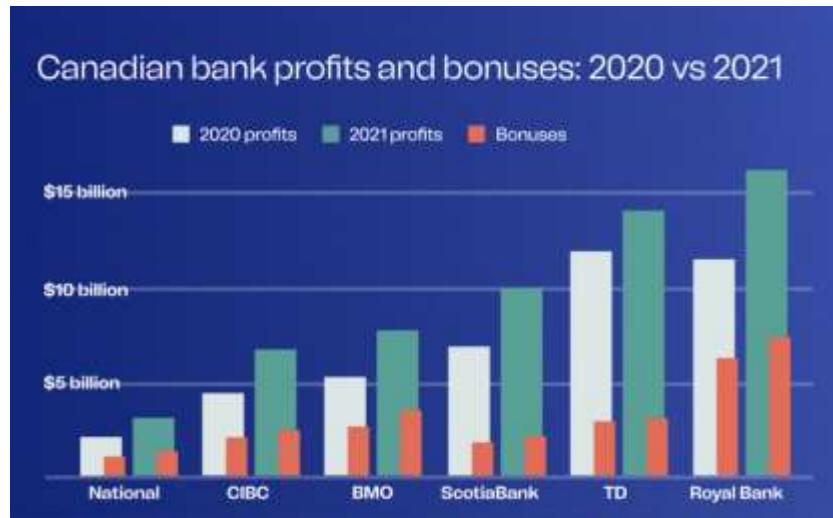
We could choose to fund
a basic income.

Myth #3

Government spending causes inflation

1 answer to inflation: Corporate tax reforms

- OAS/GIS and CCB have not led to inflation
- “High inflation [is being] driven by ... strong demand, post-pandemic economic recovery, geopolitical unrest and supply chain disruptions” ([Rush, 2022](#), KPMG)
- And corporate greed

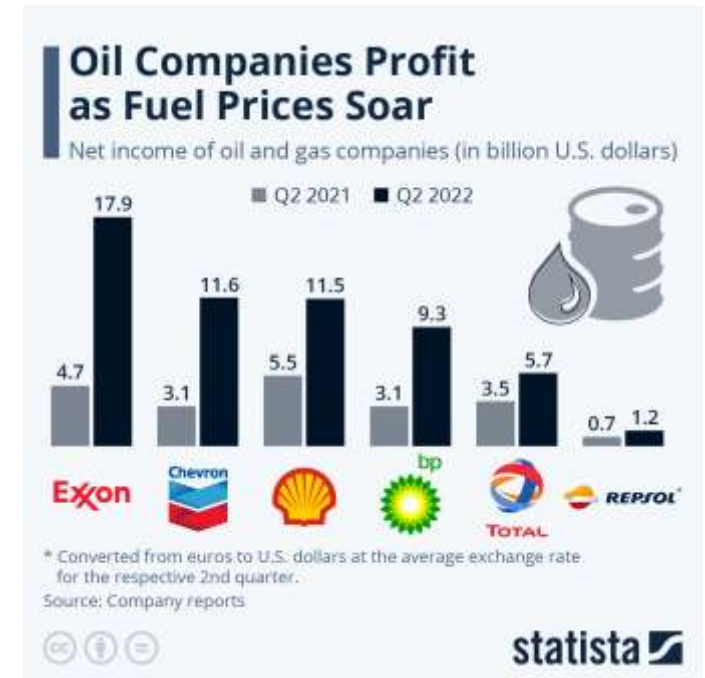


[Acorn Canada](#), 2021



[MacLaughlin, 2022](#), Ecojust

- 2022 mid year: major Canadian banks' profits increased from \$28.87 billion to \$31.53 billion (KPMG) while increasing fees and reducing the workforce (Canadian Labour Congress)



[Fleck, 2022](#), Statista

Comment from a
Consensus
Statement Signer

“Give people the means to support themselves and they will; give people the means to eat healthier and become more active, all of which costs money, and they will.”

Please
Take Action Now

Cooperate
Collaborate
Make it happen!



Thank you!

Questions?

Useful Websites

- Case for a Basic Income series
 - <https://basicincomecoalition.ca/en/actions/case-for-basic-income/>
- FAQs
 - <https://basicincomecoalition.ca/en/actions/basic-income-week/the-bi-we-want/faq/>
 - <https://basicincomecanada.org/faq/>
- BIG-NS
 - <https://www.big-ns.org/>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/basicincomeNS/>
- Coalition Canada Basic Income
 - <https://basicincomecoalition.ca/en/>
- Basic Income Canada Network
 - <https://www.basicincomecanada.org/>
- Basic Income Canada Youth Network
 - <https://www.basicincomeyouth.ca/>
- UBI-Works
 - <https://www.ubiworks.ca/>
- Green Resilience Project
 - <https://greenresilience.ca/>
- Stanford Basic Income Lab
 - <https://basicincome.stanford.edu/>

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- Welcome, land acknowledgement, technical considerations
- Getting to know Basic Income
- PEI Demonstration project
- Panel: Effective collaboration amongst jurisdictions
- Closing remarks



BASIC INCOME NOW
Atlantic Canada

The PEI Demonstration Project

Wayne Easter, Former MP - Malpeque

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BASIC INCOME NOW
Atlantic Canada

Panel: Effective collaboration amongst jurisdictions

Moderator: Sheila Regehr, Basic Income Network Canada

Chief Darlene Bernard, Lennox Island First Nation

The Honourable Senator Kim Pate

The Honourable Sean Casey, MP - Charlottetown

The Honourable John Abbott, MHA - St. John's East-Quidi Vidi

Trish Altass, MLA - Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke

David Coon, MLA – Fredericton South

Councillor Wayne Mason, Halifax South Downtown

THANK YOU

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