

Guiding Principles for a Basic Income Guarantee for Prince Edward Island

From: The Final Report of the Special Committee on Poverty in PEI, Page 21

- 1) A basic income guarantee should be universal and unconditional to all adult residents (Prince Edward Island residency of at least one year), subject to income, but regardless of work status, relationship status, or age.
- 2) A basic income guarantee should be available to all adult residents, age 18 and above, and include seniors.
- 3) A basic income guarantee should recognize that not all people have the same basic needs. Any program implemented should be sufficient to provide for people's basic needs with dignity and self-determination. Sufficient needs includes, but may not be limited to: housing, transportation, food, medicine, learning opportunities, childcare and eldercare, participation in community and emergencies.
- 4) A basic income guarantee should transform some social programs and services, such as income support. It is believed that many social programs and service should be maintained, including disability supports. It should be recognized that many will need more supports in addition to a basic income guarantee, including support programs for needs that money cannot fill.
- 5) A basic income guarantee should be administered through the income tax system, and respond to people's changing income levels in a timely matter, meaning that the system can adjust to fluctuations in income throughout the year. At such a time where the basic income guarantee is reduced, any reductions in the basic income guarantee should occur gradually. Calculations of a basic income guarantee should be made based on income, and should not include assets held by individuals.
- 6) A basic income guarantee should be evidence-based, and that appropriate lenses are applied to ensure the program is equitable for all people (such lenses include but may not be limited to: gender, diversity, age, ability, mental health, class, culture, language and literacy, sexuality and gender identity and geography).
- 7) A basic income guarantee should include the establishment of an arms-length third-party agency that would be responsible to monitor, measure and evaluate the basic income guarantee program.