



Prince Edward Island

Legislative Assembly

PO Box 2000, Charlottetown PE
Canada C1A 7N8

Île-du-Prince-Édouard

Assemblée législative

C.P. 2000, Charlottetown PE
Canada C1A 7N8

This letter is to state our continued support for the implementation of a Province-wide Basic Income Guarantee on Prince Edward Island in collaboration with the Federal Government.

The Special Committee on Poverty in PEI was directed by the Legislative Assembly in July 2019 to report to the House with fully costed recommendations regarding the creation of a basic income guarantee pilot for Prince Edward Island. The committee “met with individuals, community groups, government officials and subject-matter experts over the course of a seven-month period (September 2019 to March 2020)”, and in November 2020 tabled its final report in the Legislative Assembly. The report was adopted unanimously by all members.

A key recommendation in the report is “That the Government of Prince Edward Island begin immediate negotiations with the Government of Canada for the development and implementation of a basic income guarantee program for Prince Edward Island.” The report provided costed recommendations for a full basic income program for PEI, including “Guiding Principles” for future work on any program or pilot that is implemented in the province. The full report including all recommendations and guiding principles can be found here at www.assembly.pe.ca/committees.

Eliminating poverty was recognized as a priority by all parties in the PEI Legislative Assembly with the adoption of the *Poverty Elimination Strategy Act* in 2021. We believe that a basic income guarantee following the guiding principles outlined in the Special Committee’s report would be a significant step toward reaching these goals and contribute to the health and wellbeing of Islanders.

We believe that basic income is a vital tool for addressing many of the complex challenges Canada will be facing in the coming decades, such as climate change, ageing demographics, the changing nature of work, and adjusting to endemic COVID-19. We need to ensure we have as many tools at our disposal as possible to ensure the well-being of our citizens and vitality of our country.

Our province’s small size makes it an ideal testing ground for a basic income program before scaling it up to a national scale. We urge the federal government to engage with the province and provide the funding necessary to create a basic income program on PEI.

Honourable Dennis King Premier of Prince Edward Island

Honourable Peter Bevan-Baker Leader of the Official Opposition

Sonny Gallant Leader of the Third Party