



Coalition Canada
basic income
revenu de base

June 2, 2025

Re: A call to explore/support a cost-shared PEI Demonstration Project to help support Canadians in uncertain times

Dear Prime Minister Carney,

Congratulations to you and your team on leading the next Government in Canada.

You have already established an ambitious and necessary set of priorities as the basis for evolving the Canadian economy to a strong and productive one.

We recognize the need to focus on building a strong economy, without which it is difficult to finance and develop the many innovations that will be required to address growing environment, health, security and social concerns including increasing income insecurity and inequality.

We at [Coalition Canada Basic Income-revenu de base](#) (Coalition Canada), a pan Canadian Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) advocacy organization, [have done considerable work](#) to show how a GBI could benefit many people and sectors: agriculture, fisheries, criminal justice, food insecurity, homelessness, mental and physical health, youth, and more. We understand that social supports fall under both Federal and Provincial jurisdictions.

Five years ago all [Provincial Parties in PEI](#) agreed to support and work with the Federal Government on developing a GBI demonstration project in PEI. With this historic agreement in mind, members of Coalition Canada created and helped lead the [PEI GBI](#) project. The team, made up of senior and very experienced economists, federal and provincial politicians, public servants, and advocates, developed innovative solutions to key issues with respect to implementing a GBI: cost, financing, administration, labour market and more. The team was able to cut the cost of a GBI by [about 40%](#) while better targeting those who live below the official poverty line (MBM), thus reducing poverty in PEI from 9.7% to 2.1% while ensuring that the impact on hours worked was negligible. These solutions have already found their way into other proposals as well as a recent report from the [PBO](#).

The PEI GBI team found a way to create an economically and socially feasible GBI. But it needs to be tested and modified as needed– which is why the report suggests a full-province 5- to 7-year federal/provincial demonstration project in PEI accompanied by a rigorous evaluation.

Currently, policy makers in Canada [cannot answer](#) the question: what is the best way to address poverty and income insecurity? The PEI report suggests a solution. No other evidence-based solution has come forward. By supporting this project, your government will be able to study both the social and administrative results of a GBI and ‘tweak’ it to ensure it is both effective and efficient. This in turn could lead to helping all Canadians and creating the type of economy your government is proposing: ‘helping people to get ahead’; giving people ‘access to the education and training they need to develop the necessary skills’. Helping people out of poverty and supporting them when they fall on difficult times will help make our economy more productive and reinforce your vision of a ‘fundamentally different approach to governing.’

Canada needs to build infrastructure to evolve our economy. We also need to re-envision our social support infrastructure to help create a fairer and stronger economy so as to ensure that every Canadian has an income that meets their basic needs. A cost-shared 5- to 7-year demonstration project for GBI in PEI would cost the Federal Government very, very little while allowing you the opportunity to rethink and revise an outdated and ineffective social security system which frequently keeps people in inter-generational poverty, is demeaning and is ineffective for those aged 18-64. It could also help entrepreneurs and small businesses, people who need to be caregivers and those who are looking to upgrade their skills and education. Sustainable incomes can help with every facet of the social determinants of health and can have a positive effect on criminal activity: many, if not most, of the people in our criminal justice system suffer the effects of poverty and racism.

Building a new social support infrastructure would be leadership at its best. It can be done. The PEI GBI report shows the way.

Members of the PEI GBI team would be happy to meet with you and your team to discuss this project.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Mandy (Elizabeth) Kay-Raining Bird (rainbird@dal.ca), Susan Abels (Susan.Abells@gmail.com), and Luc Gosselin (lgosselin@revenuebase.quebec)
Steering Committee for Coalition Canada Basic Income-revenu de base, on behalf of Coalition Canada

Cc:

Braeden Caley, Deputy Chief

Tom Pitfield, Principal Secretary

MP Sean Casey

MP Robert Morrissey

MP Heath MacDonald

MP Kent MacDonald