

CONSENSUS STATEMENT ON BASIC INCOME GUARANTEE (February 2023)

This statement represents the wide consensus of the basic income movement in Canada, endorsed by Basic Income Canada Network/Réseau canadien pour le revenu garanti, Coalition Canada basic income - revenu de base, and UBI Works at the national level, and supported by many regional and local basic income groups, and other allies, regarding the key characteristics of a desirable basic income guarantee. It does not provide a detailed design but sets out the parameters to which any basic income guarantee must adhere in order to be acceptable.

Core Elements

- The basic income guarantee will be available for citizens and residents of Canada, aged 18 to 64 years.
- Benefits will be sufficient to cover basic needs and ensure that no one falls into poverty.
- Benefit amounts will be determined based on taxable income with provisions to rapidly accommodate significant changes in income and family composition.
- Benefits will be reduced gradually as other taxable income increases.
- Benefits will be paid on a regular schedule (e.g., bi-weekly, or monthly).
- Benefits will be paid to individuals.
- No behavioural conditions will be applied (e.g. work requirements, education, life skills training, etc.).
- Application and registration processes will be accessible and accommodate the range of capabilities and circumstances among citizens and residents.

Design

- The basic income guarantee will be designed based on collaboration among federal and provincial and territorial governments, and Indigenous peoples – First Nations, Metis, and Inuit.
- The basic income will be guaranteed by the federal government based on legislation which establishes it as a right.
- Municipal governments are acknowledged as important advocates for a basic income.

Other Programs

- The basic income guarantee should be an essential component of broad publicly funded universal supports and services.

- The basic income guarantee will not replace any publicly delivered social, health or educational services.
- The basic income guarantee will not restrict access to any current or future benefits meant to meet special, exceptional, or other distinct needs and goals beyond basic needs.

Financing

- Revenues required for a basic income model will be developed based on two principles:
 - Tax fairness
 - Contribution to lowering income and wealth inequality.