

Q & A about Coalition Canada's 2026 Paper Petition Campaign

- 1. What is a Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI)?** A GBI creates an income floor for working-age adults that both raises people out of poverty and prevents us from falling into poverty. Broadly, it ensures everyone has sufficient income to meet their basic needs and live with dignity, regardless of their work or relationship status. While it goes by different names, (Universal Basic Income (UBI), Livable Income Guarantee (LIG), Basic Income Guarantee (BIG) and others), in Canada, advocates generally call for a basic income [based on six key principles](#): (1) **Universally accessible**, readily available to those who need it; (2) **Few conditions**, subject only to residency and income (3) **Sufficient**, to live with dignity and security; (4) **Respects autonomy** by being paid to the individual; (5) **Complements social services and supports**, as part of a robust social safety net; (6) **Reliably delivered**, responsive to sudden changes in income, and gradually reduced if income increases. For more information see our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) about basic income.
- 2. Why do we need a GBI?** Given current political, economic, social and climate/environmental conditions and the concurrent, intersecting crises of affordability, housing, health, mental health and addiction, inequality, climate change, and polarizing politics, people everywhere are facing a deepening sense of insecurity. While everyone is looking to political leaders to regain Canada's economic stability and security, politicians must also address these multiple crises with policies that protect both people and the planet. A GBI is one such policy.
- 3. Why do a Government of Canada Paper Petition campaign for a GBI for PEI?** PEI has developed an [all-party consensus in their Legislature](#) to support the implementation of a GBI. A large team of cross-party provincial and former federal politicians, experienced civil servants, economists, and PEI basic income advocates spent two years researching and developing [a proposal to implement a GBI in PEI](#). This proposal is now ready for implementation. A federal-provincial working group was established to examine the proposal. We now need both governments to commit to implementing a GBI in PEI in the form of a demonstration project.
- 4. Why a demonstration project?** Currently, provinces and territories offer welfare for working-age adults living in deep poverty. It is designed as a benefit of "last resort", where you must prove you have neither income nor assets that can support you. The process to receive this benefit is onerous, punitive and lacks dignity. Welfare has proven not to reduce poverty, but instead traps people in deep poverty. There is no incentive to work, even if one has the capacity to do so, as every dollar earned is subtracted from your welfare benefit. A GBI would replace welfare, but it must be studied at a province-wide scale to demonstrate how it **improves people's lives, reduces poverty, and is cost-efficient**, by saving money in the health, social, justice and public safety systems. Based on the evidence, this model can then be adapted for implementation in every province and territory.

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5. **Why do a Government of Canada Paper Petition Campaign?** Each of us probably receives many requests in our email inboxes to put our names to electronically generated letters, petitions, etc. Politicians receive hundreds, if not thousands, of these in their inboxes every day. No official government response is required for these kind of automated campaigns. There are also more personal, face-to-face methods, such as writing your own letter, or signing a paper petition. These require much more effort, so politicians receive far fewer of these, and they are generally paid more attention to than those received from e-campaigns.

[Official Government of Canada e-petitions](#) need a minimum of 500 signatories (people who add their name electronically to the petition), while a [paper petition](#) needs just 25 *certified* signatories (meaning each person has followed the guidelines when signing and providing their address). We recommend collecting 30 signatures on each paper petition, incase some are disallowed. Every official government petition presented in the House of Commons, no matter how many names are collected above the minimum requirement, receives one official government response. So an e-petition with 500+ names, is recorded once in the official record, as is each paper petition with 25+ certified signatories.

6. **What is the goal of our Paper Petition Campaign?** We are looking for volunteers across the country to collect 30 signatures on our Government of Canada Paper Petition. As a face-to-face campaign, it provides the volunteers the opportunity to learn about the GBI for PEI project so that they can discuss the project with people they are asking to sign the petition. When the volunteers ask their MP to present the petition in the House of Commons, it is an opportunity to discuss and inform their MP about the GBI for PEI project. The more times an MP is asked to present a petition in the House, the more time they are reminded of the importance of this project to people across the Country.

See more information about the [GBI for PEI](#).

See [complete Instructions for volunteers](#).

See [our Paper Petition](#) you can use to collect signatures.

See a [poster](#) you can download for display in public places (churches, etc.)

Find the [name and contact information for your MP](#) (put your postal code in the search box).

If you have questions or would like to speak with us more about this volunteer opportunity, please contact us at basicincomecoalition@gmail.com.