

Submission by [Coalition Canada Basic Income-revenu de base](#) (Coalition Canada), as part of the 2026 Pre-Budget Consultations.

Recommendation 1: That Budget 2026 identify the implementation of a livable Guaranteed Basic Income as a federal priority.

Recommendation 2: That Budget 2026 commit federal funding and immediately initiate formal negotiations with Prince Edward Island (PEI) to implement the Demonstration Project described in [A Proposal for a Guaranteed Basic Income Benefit in Prince Edward Island](#), a policy that already has all-party support in the PEI Legislature.

Recommendation 3: That the federal government develop a framework for the implementation of a national livable Guaranteed Basic Income program.

Coalition Canada is a national volunteer network advocating for a livable Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) in Canada. Income security is a human right, recognized by Canada when it adopted the [United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) in 2015 and committed to its 17 goals, the first of which is No Poverty.

Professor [Jiaying Zhao](#), at the University of British Columbia calculates that we spend between \$300 and \$500 billion per year on a social support system that is failing us and has been for decades. Income assistance (welfare) is insufficient and punitive. Despite these costs, people on welfare often live in deep poverty and experience considerable stress—forced to make impossible choices—while being managed and monitored intrusively by case workers. Additionally, rapid claw-back rates disincentivize work.

Keeping people in poverty as welfare does, costs the Canadian taxpayer more than [\\$85 billion per year in additional, preventable expenses](#) (health care, soup kitchens, shelters, police, corrections). As [former Senator Hugh Segal wrote](#), “Poverty is the best predictor of early illness, early hospitalizations, longer hospital stays and earlier death. It is a reliable predictor of substance abuse, food insecurity, poor education outcomes, and for some, trouble with the law.” Providing income security in the form of a GBI would ensure that individuals and families are able to live healthier, safer, more autonomous lives and participate more fully in society and the economy.

Basic Income has been studied for many decades, far more than most policies adopted by governments. There is considerable research showing that providing unconditional income support in the form of a livable GBI significantly reduces poverty and stress on the health care and criminal justice systems. Research also shows that the money spent by recipients is spent in their local communities, providing support for local businesses.

We already have several GBI-like supports in Canada—OAS and GIS for seniors and CCB for families with children under 18. Administered through the CRA, these benefits are subject only to income requirements. These supports have substantially reduced poverty and increased health in children and seniors and have generated a [positive return on investment](#) for the government.

It is high time Canada stops cherry-picking subgroups of people to receive support and stops providing small temporary supports. Instead, we urge the government to ensure that all Canadians have income security, starting with the demonstration project in PEI that will develop a practical and affordable model in real time.

Implementing a GBI would reflect the human and societal values PM Mark Carney embraces in his book; shared moral principles such as fairness, sustainability, and humility that should guide how we treat each other and nature.

We strongly urge you to act on behalf of all Canadians to do the following:

Recommendation 1: That Budget 2026 identify the implementation of a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income as a federal priority.

Recommendation 2: That Budget 2026 commit federal funding and initiate formal negotiations with Prince Edward Island to implement the Demonstration Project outlined in A Proposal for a Guaranteed Basic Income Benefit in Prince Edward Island, a policy which already has all-party support in the PEI Legislature.

Recommendation 3: That the federal government develop a framework for the implementation of a national Guaranteed Basic Income program.