



Basic Income Waterloo Region

The Basic Income Waterloo Region (BIWR) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the urgent efforts needed for Canada to refine its response to COVID-19 and move from emergency to more permanent policies.



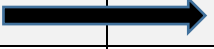

The COVID-19 pandemic has magnified and raised the stakes of an inequality and insecurity crisis that has been building for the past few decades. Businesses and jobs have been significantly influenced by changes in technology and these changes have accelerated because of the pandemic. There is no going back. Adaptations to a new normal is the only way forward. One of these adaptations must be making the emergency income support permanent, through a **basic income guarantee** for 18-64 year olds. A basic income guarantee -

- ✓ Stimulates the economy
- ✓ Fosters entrepreneurial activity and job creation
- ✓ Keeps Canadians safe, healthy and working

This approach is consistent with programs for seniors and children that have demonstrated success.

At a glance

Our lives are undergoing continuous rapid change		A basic income guarantee enables adaptation and success, and stimulates the economy	
Economy		Economic recovery	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People are stressed and anxious about their financial security and the future • COVID-19 has impacted the economy and magnified existing inequalities 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases financial security for all Canadians and businesses • Stimulates spending because people have a predictable income 	
Job loss and insecurity		Job creation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jobs are disappearing and changing (e.g., business closures, automation) and will continue to do so 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourages entrepreneurial activity and innovation which drive job creation and economic recovery 	

Training and retraining 	Skilled labour force
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many Canadians will need to train for new jobs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic income enables training and completion of education for Canadians of all ages
Unemployment and illness 	Stability and security
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many Canadians do not have savings to bridge even short periods of unemployment or illness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensures every Canadian has money for housing, food, and other basic needs
Well-being falters 	Healthy lifestyles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stress increases mental health and other health costs Some 40 percent of workers reported that employment anxiety was interfering with their personal and family lives¹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improves our individual and collective health and well-being Reduces demand on other costly services that treat what are largely preventable problems
Existing policy 	New Policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Austerity programs are used to mitigate the impact of economic downturns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The economy has changed and austerity programs no longer work for most Canadians or the economy Basic Income Guarantee for 18-64 year olds stimulates the economy, enables innovation and business development, and prepares Canadians for new jobs, while keeping us safe and healthy

Recommendations:

1. That the federal government establish a basic income guarantee for 18-64 year olds comparable to the CERB monthly amount of \$2000, ensuring that some benefits continue into the middle-income deciles, consistent with the design and principles of Option One in *Basic Income: Some Policy Options for Canada* (https://www.basicincomecanada.org/policy_options)
2. That the federal government lead in immediately adopting a basic income guarantee in response to the pandemic and as a way to recover and rebuild the economy, adapting as evidence may require, while working towards a fully national basic income, in collaboration with provinces, territories, municipalities and First Nations, to ensure that all orders of government contribute and benefit fairly and that other necessary changes and supports are made appropriately to ensure that no one is left behind.

¹ Wayne Lewchuk et al., 'Getting Left Behind' (McMaster University, June 2018), p. 55. https://pepso.ca/documents/pepso-glb-final-lores_2018-06-18_r4-for-website.pdf

About BIWR

Basic Income Waterloo Region is a group of everyday people who are passionate about revolutionizing Canada's social safety net. We are committed to seeing a basic income implemented to solve the socioeconomic problems affecting communities across Canada. More information is available at <https://basicincomewr.ca/>