

**Written Submissions for the Pre-Budget Consultations in  
Advance of the Upcoming Federal Budget**

**By:**

Youth Policy-Makers Hub (YPH)

Ontario Council for International Cooperation (OCIC)

- **Recommendation 1:** That the government place a Guaranteed Livable Income on the federal policy agenda.
- **Recommendation 2:** Account for and include both, the costs, and the benefits, of implementing a Guaranteed Livable Income for all people in Canada in the 2021-2022 Federal Budget.
- **Recommendation 3:** Use the Parliamentary Budget Officer's Costing A Guaranteed Basic Income During The COVID Pandemic Report (2020) to support the process outlined in Recommendation 2.
- **Recommendation 4:** Use Dr. Evelyn L. Forget's book, Basic Income for Canadians: The key to a healthier, happier, more secure life for all (2018) to support the processes outlined in Recommendations 1 and 2.

August 7th, 2020

Dear Standing Committee on Finance:

COVID-19 has exposed cracks in an already-broken system. In many ways youth are being hit hardest by the pandemic, with the post-pandemic job market for students and youth especially dire (1), and young people disproportionately struggling with mental health (2). These challenges are not new. Even before the pandemic, young people in Canada were concentrated in precarious or low-paid jobs and riddled with student debt (3, 4), all while struggling to balance work, volunteering, caring, and other roles. Programs like the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) and Canadian Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) are only temporary. It's time for a more permanent solution, and we believe a Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI) is part of it.

A GLI is a regular payment made to individuals, providing enough money so that everyone can meet their needs, participate meaningfully in society, and live with confidence and dignity. It should work in synergy with strong public services, including health care, childcare, housing, pharmacare, and dental care.

During the past several months, groups like the Canadian Council of Young Feminists - Conseil Canadien de Jeune Feminist, the Ontario Council for International Cooperation's Youth Policy-Makers Hub, and the Basic Income Canada Youth Network, have been mobilizing young people across the country in support of a GLI. Today, as one of those three Youth Basic Income groups, we emphasize the need for this recommendation to be reflected in the 2021-2022 Federal Budget.

Implementing a GLI in our country would position Canada as a global leader. It would reflect a commitment to evidence-based policy, the Sustainable Development Goals as outlined by the United Nations (5), and Canada's existing human rights responsibilities. Although we are writing to you as young people in Canada, the impacts of a GLI would extend beyond youth, leaving a legacy that will far outlast the current crisis being caused by the global pandemic.

According to Canada's youth policy (6), this government envisions a country where "young people are equipped to live healthy and fulfilling lives and feel empowered to create positive change for themselves, their communities and the world." While a GLI is by no means the only policy needed to equip and empower this generation, it is one of them.

Throughout the course of history, youth have been at the forefront of social change in this country. Today is no different. If youth are the future, our voices must be heard. For young people in Canada, implementing a GLI today would be the difference between surviving and thriving for many years to come.

We look forward to our government's response.

Sincerely yours,

Youth Policy-Makers Hub, a part of the Ontario Council for International Cooperation

# References

1. Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey, June 2020 [Internet]. Ottawa: Statistics Canada; 2020 Jul 10 [cited 2020 Aug 7]. 52 p. Available from: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/daily-quotidien/200710/dq200710a-eng.pdf?st=49QTxnl7>
2. Cision Canada. COVID-19 poll: Canadian youth the most impacted by pandemic lockdown. Cision. [Internet] 2020 Jun 3 [cited 2020 Aug 7];Policy & Public Interest:[about 2 p.]. Available from: <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/covid-19-poll-canadian-youth-the-most-impacted-by-pandemic-lockdown-848074531.html>
3. CUPE. Precarious Work on the rise [Internet]. Ottawa: CUPE Newsroom. 2018 Mar 15 [cited 2020 Aug 7]. Available from: <https://cupe.ca/precarious-work-rise>
4. Vomiero J. Canadian students owe \$28B in government loans, some want feds to stop charging interest. Global News [Internet]. 2018 May 28 [cited 2020 Aug 7];Canada:[about 2p.]. Available from: <https://globalnews.ca/news/4222534/canadian-student-loans-government-interest/>
5. United Nations' Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA). Sustainable Development Goals [Internet]. Geneva: UN DESA. [unknown date] [cited 2020 Aug 7]. Available from: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>
6. Government of Canada. Canada's Youth Policy [Internet]. Ottawa: Government of Canada; [unknown date] [cited 2020 Aug 7]. 16 p. Available from: <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/y-j/documents/YP-ENG.pdf>