Lifting People from Poverty: Fairly, Efficiently, & Effectively

The Canadian Welfare System

Canada’s current welfare system is complex, inconsistent, and inefficient. And inadequate benefits leave too many people in poverty.

Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI)

A Guaranteed Livable Income would automatically top up the incomes of people living in poverty using direct, automatic payments via the existing tax system.

Onerous Criteria

Before qualifying for welfare, Mary has to meet complex, strict criteria. She has to prove that she’s completely destitute, and continuously justify that she needs to continue on welfare, even when her situation improves.

Guaranteed income (including her vehicle and savings).

Minimal Criteria

A GLI recipient would simply have to file a tax return. No application, no ongoing monitoring. And it comes with a far lower stigma.

Benefits

For those not in the labour force, but whose work still brings economic and social value. A GLI would recognize the significant contributions of child care, personal care, and other non-paid work.

Burdensome Administration

Steps required to get and continue receiving welfare:

- File a tax return
- Submits a hardship appeal
- Submits a caseworker’s Screening
- Regular follow-up

With the complex criteria for qualifying and ongoing monitoring required to administer welfare, it’s an incredible amount of time and resources.

Admittedly through Tax System

Because, GLI would be administered through the tax system, there would be no need for the current welfare bureaucracy. No applications, no monitoring, they simply come in, pay their taxes, and get their benefits.

Steps required to receive GLI assistance:

- File a tax return

Because no one would know they received a GLI, recipients wouldn’t suffer the shame or stigma that comes with welfare.

Inadequate Rates

- $5,429
- $11,712
- $18,069
- $23,498

In nearly half of poor households in Canada, at least one person has a job.

Steps to get and maintain employment:

- $18,069
- $23,498

And for those unable to work or to find work, a GLI would automatically top up the incomes of people living in poverty using direct, automatic payments via the existing tax system.

Disincentives to Work

- $0.50 - $1.00
- $18

A Guaranteed Livable Income would be a far better option than welfare. And it comes with a far lower stigma.

Ineffective

- $50

A Guaranteed Livable Income would fully, fairly, efficiently, and effectively reduce poverty.

The Case for a Guaranteed Income

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