



Join the Conversation

This is one part of a series. Look for all our basic income modules and other resources at basicincomecanada.org

WHAT BASIC INCOME COULD MEAN TO YOU

Students

While student loans and grants help pay for tuition, books, and some living expenses, a basic income guarantee ensures that someone who decides to go to school (or go back to school) will not be penalized for trying to improve their lives. Basic income allows young people to think more about what they want to do with their lives.

Employers

With a basic income as a safety net, workers may challenge their employers about unfair working conditions. And yet employers have some tangible reasons for supporting a basic income. Employers that can only offer part-time work should feel more secure in the knowledge that the difference is made up with a basic income and that their employees are then more secure in their lives. Stable, relatively content employees make for a more stable workplace, too. A basic income would also ensure more people have more money to spend. People who earn lower incomes inevitably need to spend most of their money, and they do so locally for the things they need, which is great for local economies.

Basic income is good for employers because those employers lead businesses that rely on people who have enough money to live. Even though basic income

provides economic security to people, most people will still want to do paid work for many reasons, and that's where good employers come in, with meaningful work for fair pay.

Employees

Many employees are stuck in so-called 'precarious' work – contract jobs or temp jobs, seasonal employment, or part time, usually without benefits. The unpredictable hours can take a toll on people's lives and on family life. Basic income can help here. Dead-end jobs with poor working conditions aren't likely to be supported any longer, at least not without better levels of compensation. This tips the balance of power back some to employees, especially in an era of decreased unionization.

Family Members

For people who can't access maternity/parental benefits, a basic income affords time off the job to give birth, look after babies and return to work with a healthier start to family life. People would be better able to manage employment and other responsibilities.

Unemployed

For people who are laid off from work, a basic income provides a clear safety springboard for them to not only avoid

poverty and the kind of traps that come with our current social assistance model, but to spring into new opportunities.

Entrepreneurs and Creatives

A basic income might very well have a meaningful impact on a person's chance of success in choosing to become an entrepreneur, start a social innovation enterprise, or pursue a talent as a writer, actor, or other creative worker. It would reduce the amount of risk an individual incurs when they make the big decision to change their job or start a business, which is fraught with all kinds of risks but yet benefits the economy if successful.

Building Trust

Part of the reason that a lack of trust in government occurs is because people don't feel their needs are being met. The

lack of trust mainly comes from people who are under more threat, or perceived threat, of economic difficulty.

Having a basic income guarantee would help diminish people's anxiety since they would know they would not fall below the poverty line. With basic needs met, this opens up room and space to consider other possibilities, such as what's going in the community, what's happening in politics, and maybe even taking the time to volunteer in civic activities, such as with political parties and non-governmental organizations. Just having the time for reflection and discussion about current events would add more interest for people in our processes of government and enhance individual liberty.

KEY FACTS

- Basic income would reduce the amount of risk an individual incurs when they make big decisions, such as starting a business, going back to school in order to get a better job, or starting a family.
- For people who are laid off from work, a basic income provides a clear safety springboard for them to not only avoid poverty traps, but to spring into new opportunities.

DID YOU KNOW?

Having a basic income guarantee would help diminish people's anxiety since they would know they would not fall below the poverty line.