



# Basic Income Canada Network Réseau canadien pour le revenu garanti

## 2019 Canada Federal Election

### BICN Helpful Reminders for discussions with candidate

- Remember that we already have successful, affordable, basic-income-like programs that have been running for decades for seniors and for families with children, with the federal government in the lead. The key issue is why some people are being left out and how we fix that.
- You do not have to be an 'expert' and you don't have to 'prove' anything. State clearly what basic income means to you and why it matters. Personal stories and examples can be incredibly powerful.
- Have some material to leave with them (such as [The Basic Income We Want](#) handout); invite them to check out the BICN website and to contact us if they have questions.
- If you can link basic income to another issue that you know is of particular interest to an individual or group, that's a great way to begin a connection.
- Be respectful; the goal is to build understanding of basic income and a constructive relationship (even candidates who don't get elected are still often influential in their communities). If you are met with hostility (it happens in debates), keep your cool. Sometimes people come around slowly so don't dismiss them too quickly.
- Do not hesitate to stand up to discriminatory or hurtful statements, but do it calmly and do not shame anyone. If, like me, you are not quick with snappy retorts, rehearse some generic statements that are collaborative and positive, such as, "Canadians are counting on you to serve them and protect the future of this country; it's important that you respect and hear them."
- Be aware that candidates are bound to a large extent by their party's platform and positions. Demanding that they commit to something else won't get far. But perhaps they can commit to personally learning more, working with basic income proponents, working within their party in future to promote attention to basic income, even champion it.