



Basic Income Canada Network Réseau canadien pour le revenu garanti

2019 Canada Federal Election

BICN Sample Questions for All-Candidate Meetings

Please aim to keep your questions one minute or less; there is no time for detailed arguments and data. Depending on circumstances it may make sense to be either very broad and "big picture," or to use a specific example. If two people can coordinate to ask questions using both a big picture and a specific framing this can be a powerful combination.

General example:

We see what the future holds: our health depends on our income or lack of it; robots and algorithms are taking our livelihoods; poverty and inequality are costing us a fortune; the list goes on; it's causing social and economic disruption. A basic income can help solve many of these problems and do it quickly; Canada already has forms of it for seniors and children and they work.

What will you do within your party and parliament to champion basic income and give all Canadians hope and capacity to build a better future?

Specific example #1 (your city, your issues):

In Toronto, the increase in gun violence can be traced to drastic cuts in income assistance in the Harris years. Many young people in some neighbourhoods see few viable alternatives for their future except crime. It's clear that more policing is not the answer to this problem; income is, and dignity. A basic income, similar to the kind that Canada provides for seniors and children, can be a better answer to this and many other issues Canada faces.

What will you do within your party and parliament to champion basic income and give all Canadians hope and capacity to build a better future?

Specific example #2 (call for basic income to address a particular issue):

The recent report of the inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls calls for a basic income. Organizations in many sectors have also done so. It is clear that lack of income security combined with racism, gender discrimination, and other factors disadvantages and endangers Canadians. A basic income, similar to the kind that Canada provides for seniors and children, can change this situation and help solve many other problems Canada faces.

What will you do within your party and parliament to champion basic income and give all Canadians hope and capacity to build a better future?



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Specific example #3 (personal story):

This could be based on the experience of either yourself, or someone who can speak directly (for example, Ontario pilot participants) or others who can talk about what a basic income has meant for them. It should be cast as an example of the kinds of situations that other Canadians could find themselves in and how basic income helps the broader society and economy.

What will you do within your party and parliament to champion basic income and give all Canadians hope and capacity to build a better future?