

WHAT WE LIKE AND DO NOT LIKE ABOUT BASIC INCOME – KNOW THE FACTS

With new government supports like CERB, the groundwork for basic income is being laid across the nation. Back in 2018, Ontario also did its own [test run of basic income](#). This yielded promising results despite the project being shut down [prematurely](#). Looking at these experiences it becomes increasingly evident that basic income, in some form (as there are many styles), is a viable policy on the provincial and federal political agendas.

We at COPE Ontario support basic income for our members and all workers across Canada. We firmly believe that the financial security that comes with basic income allows for healthier, happier, and more successful communities. When the stresses of grocery bills and the like are taken out, or at the very least reduced, one can focus on other pursuits like their career, family, education etc. However, it must also be asserted that we at COPE Ontario **do not** believe that basic income is a fix-all remedy for the financially grounded barriers affecting workers today (i.e. skyrocketing rent and stagnant wages). Basic income should not replace or reduce existing social programs like EI or ODSP rather, it must supplement and be expanded alongside these other government initiatives. Moreover, basic income should not be used as an excuse to privatize government services or as a scapegoat for employers to underpay their workers.

As we approach election season, we encourage our members to do some reading on basic income as it is sure to become an election issue. COPE will also be holding a [workshop](#) this summer to further delve into basic income, the various possible models, and how we as a union should respond towards it!

Additional Resources

Guy Caron on basic income: [Basic Income: an explainer by Guy Caron \(broadbentinstitute.ca\)](#)

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives: [Basic Income | Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives](#)

Study of basic income from 1970s Manitoba: [Canada's forgotten universal basic income experiment - BBC Worklife](#)

The Canadian Office & Professional Employees' Union is a Canadian Union representing approximately 35,000 members in the private and public sector. COPE ONTARIO works with Ontario Health Coalition, Labour Councils and the Ontario Federation of Labour to protect healthcare jobs so that we retain and grow unionized jobs and create a stronger healthcare system that serves all of Ontario. Together we are stronger!

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