

Basic Income Canada Youth Network

Online Meeting Recap

Date & Time: April 15, 2020 at 19:00 ET

Overview:

On Wednesday, April 15, 2020, from 19:00-20:00 Eastern Time, the Basic Income Canada Youth Network (BICYN) hosted an online meeting bringing together young people (10-35 years old) from across the country on Zoom, including a number of anti-poverty and governmental organizations. There were 20 participants.

The meeting consisted of conversations and brief “myth busting” presentations about common challenges to basic income. The presentations were delivered by members of BICYN. Participants asked a series of questions related to BI, and had a rich conversation about why BI is a youth issue that requires youth activism and engagement.

The next webinar is to be hosted on Wednesday, April 22, 2020, and will focus on BI for youth, including a virtual group brainstorming exercise on the implementation of BI in Canada in 2020. Those who are interested can register [here](#).

Summary of Presentations

Topic: Myth: BI will make people lazy

Speaker: Daniel Snider

- BI research from Canada (e.g. [Mincome](#)) and the US (e.g. Alaska) shows that the opposite is true: people seek more and better employment and education.
- Stable income in the form of BI can help move people away from drudgery and into more creative and exciting jobs thus breaking a societal malaise.

Topic: Myth: We don't have enough reliable data/research to justify a BI

Speaker: Chloe Halpenny

- There are [literally hundreds of studies](#), in theory and practice, that should rightfully be referenced to ensure evidence based program making and implementation
- Generally the data point to decrease in use of health care services, reduction of crime, high school graduation rates and improved health outcomes, reductions in stress, happiness goes up, trust in government institutions, showing what people spend money on (clothes, food, bills); though some research does suggest otherwise
- There are also thousands of reports on the failures of existing programs/status quo: so this is not a question of proof, it's one of political will

Topic: Myth: BI conflicts with the living wage movement

Speaker: Robert Kiley

- BI and LW work to the same ends, making people less stretched and less stressed which helps in health and happiness
- BI fills in gaps LWs cannot, particularly for part-time and precarious workers and students who are paid less than “adult” or full-time employees

Topic: Myth: BI isn't affordable long-term and is only OK in emergencies

Speaker: Kendal David

- Canadian fiscal statistics are staggering, including [surveys that highlight](#) how 46% of Canadians report being \$200 or less away from financial insolvency at month-end (January 2019) and young Canadians are especially at risk with “49.8% of those in their peak working years (twenty-five to fifty-four) were in full-time, full-year work”
- BI creates downstream savings for provincial governments

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- The [Parliamentary Budget Office](#) estimated in 2018 that a UBI would cost \$76B per year federally (based on the Ontario Basic Income Pilot model)
- The federal government currently spends \$32.9B annually to support low-income Canadians through tax credits and specific programs for “working age” folks
- Without even considering the savings on income security programs that are administered federally, that means a federal UBI would cost \$43.1B annually