# BASIC INCOME

## WHAT?

The idea of a Basic Income (BI), also known as a Guaranteed Annual Income (GAI) and by other names, has been around for some time. A Basic Income provides a regular payment from government to all citizens. It is meant to reduce poverty, and improve lives, by making sure that no one's income falls below a certain level.

In Ontario in 2016, there was a pilot to look at Basic Income. It was cancelled with the current government.

Different than social assistance, a basic income can be:

- given to anyone who meets the income eligibility criterion
- given to someone who may be working but earning below the basic income level
- generally simpler to administer

## SO WHAT?

Basic income has supporters from across the political spectrum since, depending on how it is provided, it can achieve a range of policy objectives. There are a number of economic, social, and health-related arguments favouring basic income:

Economics – A BI Guarantee has the potential to alleviate or even eliminate poverty. This is a powerful rationale, in current times of growing economic inequality and persistent poverty in the setting of rich countries (Young and Mulvale, 2009).

Health and Social – Given that basic income is designed primarily to bring individuals out of poverty, it has the potential to reduce the substantial, long-term social consequences of poverty, including food insecurity, inadequate or unstable housing, poorer mental and physical health including chronic diseases, higher crime rates and fewer students achieving success in the educational system (Basic Income Canada Network, 2015).

**Fast Facts**

- Basic income is not a new idea
- Basic income doesn't necessarily have to pay a living wage
- In 2017-18 approximately 4.4 million (1 in 8) Canadians reported being food insecure, including 1.2 million children under the age of 18

## NOW WHAT?

We recommend the Government of Canada look at the Canada Emergency Response Benefit and evolve it into legislation for a basic income as an effective long-term response to the problems of income insecurity, persistent poverty and household food insecurity, as well as a response to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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The Child, Youth and Family Services (CYFS) Coalition of Simcoe County is a countywide alliance of organizations providing services to children, youth and their families in Simcoe County.

## Vision

All children, youth and families thriving in a strong, nurturing community.

## Mission

To maximize the capacity, effectiveness and cultural uniqueness of the child, youth and family service system through collective efforts.

## CYFS Member Agencies

Barrie Area Native Advisory Circle
Barrie Police
Barrie Public Library
Canadian Mental Health Association-Simcoe Branch
Catholic Family Services of Simcoe County
Catulpa Community Support Services
Child Advocacy Centre Simcoe/Muskoka
Children's Treatment Network of Simcoe York
Community Connection/211 Central East Ontario
Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir
Conseil scolaire Viamonde
County of Simcoe
CSC Chigamik CHC
Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiiyag Child & Family Services
E3 Community Services
EarlyON– Simcoe North
Elizabeth Fry Society of Simcoe County
Empower Simcoe
Georgian College
Gilbert Centre
Gilda's Club of Simcoe Muskoka
John Howard Society
Kerry's Place
Kinark Child and Family Services
La Clé d'la Baie en Huronie
Mackenzie Health
New Path Foundation
New Path Youth and Family Services
NSM LHIN
Orillia Public Library
Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre
Seasons Centre for Grieving Children
Simcoe County District School Board
Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board
Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions
Waypoint Centre for Mental Health
YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka
Youth Haven