

SEEING BIG

PROGRESS TOWARDS BASIC INCOME GUARANTEE IN PEI

For many years, the PEI Working Group for a Livable Income has been engaging the Prince Edward Island community to press for a Basic Income Guarantee (BIG).

We want PEI to be the launch site for a BIG program that spreads to benefit all Canadians, providing a basic income to meet people's basic needs and support everyone to live in good health and dignity. Everyone has a human right to live free of poverty, with enough to eat, a safe and accessible place to live, the resources to take part in community, and the ability to face emergencies.

BIG NEW FOCUS

2013: After 10 years working to address low income and eliminate poverty in PEI, the PEI Working Group for a Livable Income (WGLI) makes advocacy for Basic Income Guarantee its central focus.

COMMUNITY FORUMS

2014: WGLI organizes community-led forums on BIG to take place in Rustico, Souris, O'Leary, and Charlottetown, and Cooper Institute holds its 1st Annual Social Justice Symposium on BIG.

BIG ENGAGEMENT

2015: With community forums in Summerside, Montague, and Charlottetown, the BIG model best for PEI takes shape: a province-wide, permanent program to top up incomes for all adults.

BIG COLLABORATION

2017: Community advocates team up with MLAs or political party leaders from all 4 provincial parties to host forums in Districts 5, 7, 12 & 17. The WGLI sets out BIG principles for PEI.

GROWING EVIDENCE

2018-19: Experts from PEI's WGLI, leading national voices Dr. Evelyn Forget and Hon. Hugh Segal, and others present in favour of BIG for the public and PEI's Special Committee on Poverty.

CANADA-WIDE CALL

The new group Coalition Canada: basic income/rev-enu de base organizes a letter-writing campaign across Canada, calling on federal and PEI provincial officials to launch a BIG program from PEI.

IT IS TIME FOR BIG

BIG ACTION IS NEEDED.
What year will the governments of Prince Edward Island and Canada announce PEI as the launch site of a BIG program that can be scaled up to all of Canada?
THE TIME IS NOW.



2013: Prince Edward Island's federal and provincial politicians begin learning from community about the promise of BIG.

BIG LEARNING

April 2015: During a provincial election campaign, leaders of all 4 provincial political parties make a historic public commitment of their support for exploring a Basic Income Guarantee program for PEI.

BIG COMMITMENTS

Dec. 2016: Motion #83 passes unanimously in the PEI Legislative Assembly to "urge government to pursue a partnership with the federal government for the establishment of a universal basic income pilot project" in PEI.

POLITICAL CONSENSUS

March 2017: The WGLI presents a brief advocating basic income to the federal Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development, and the Status of Persons with Disabilities (HUMA) Study of Poverty Reduction Strategies for Canada.

MAKING A FEDERAL CASE

2019: Motion #36 passes unanimously in the PEI Legislative Assembly and creates the Special Committee on Poverty in PEI to examine and cost out a BIG program for PEI. The June 2020 report of the Special Committee endorses BIG principles set out by the WGLI.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE

2020: A global pandemic makes the need for BIG obvious and much-needed public support programs draw inspiration from BIG. Of thousands of recommendations from the public for PEI's recovery, implementing BIG is the most frequent.

BIG PANDEMIC RESPONSE

