









Comparing BASIC INCOME to SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

	Basic Income	Social Assistance Income
Define 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Basic Income is a cash transfer from government to individuals enabling everyone to meet their basic needs, participate in society and live with dignity, regardless of work status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social assistance income is a cash transfer from government to individuals that has been too low for them to meet their basic needs, participate in society, and live with dignity
Value statement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The majority of people are capable and best able to make decisions for themselves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People are thought to lack motivation to work People need to be directed and monitored
Key features 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An empowering approach that treats people with dignity and respect, enabling them to access opportunities An inclusive and humane approach that respects people's individual circumstances in our continually changing world Responds to a changing economy Based solely on Income 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A demeaning approach that stigmatizes people and is overly bureaucratic Excludes people through numerous rules and eligibility requirements Does not respond to a changing economy e.g., COVID pandemic Means-tested with surveillance and varying levels of support
Income 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At or above the poverty line or about \$22,000 per year for a single person 10 percent of Canadians live in poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Way below the poverty line or about \$9,000 per year for a single person This has led to band-aid solutions, such as food banks and other needs-tested programs
Employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income security allows people to develop new skills and find a better job 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High claw-backs of income penalize and discourage paid employment
Results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improves both physical and mental health because a lack of money translates to poorer health. Improved health reduces healthcare costs A Basic Income reduces poverty-related crimes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing stress and adverse health effects due to income instability and food insecurity
Administration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could be dispersed efficiently by Canada Revenue Agency reducing bureaucracy, duplication, and challenges with navigating systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently administered via provincial and municipal governments which are difficult to navigate, making them stressful and time-consuming
Affordability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple experts say it is affordable (see Fact Sheet on Basic Income Financing Options) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expensive and bureaucratic with inadequate benefits

Basic Income is **not** a replacement for other essential government services such as healthcare, mental health, domestic violence and addiction services, housing, and employment assistance

*Establish income security through a Basic Income now
Speak to your Member of Parliament today!*