

# BASIC INCOME



Basic Income Manitoba  
Revenu de base Manitoba



## What is basic income?

A basic income guarantee (BIG) ensures everyone an income sufficient to meet basic needs and live with dignity, regardless of work status.

## How does a basic income guarantee make a difference?



1

With the security of a regular, direct, Basic Income all Canadians will be free to manage their own and their family's unique circumstances more effectively than any bureaucracy. Recipients of Basic Income are not only better able to rebound from financial setbacks but also are in a position to balance employment and family care needs, as well as protect their health, or recover from illness or injury. Once they have the assurance of continuing Basic Income, the recipients will be able to take positive steps including furthering their education, retraining, or exploring a job in an emerging sector of the economy, with the confidence of knowing their essential needs will always be met, and without the risk of catastrophic reversal in case of failure.

2

Basic Income means that the many devastating and often long-term consequences of poverty are avoided. The analysis of pilot projects shows that Basic Income promotes better health, higher success rates in school, and reduces crime.



3

A basic income guarantee doesn't just help individual recipients – it has a larger impact because it reduces excessive inequalities and human insecurities that are at the root of many societal problems. It fosters resilience and flexibility in a changing economy. It's good for cities struggling to create vibrant neighbourhoods and strong communities. It's good for democracy because as much as voting in elections matters, in our monetized society we vote every day with our dollars for the kind of life we want, a vote that increasingly excludes many Canadians.





## If everyone has access to basic income, why would anyone work?

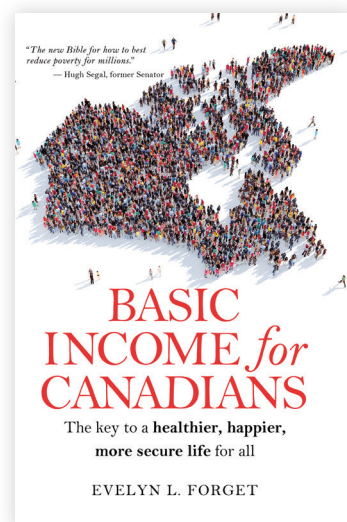


Basic Income will ensure that all citizens will be able to meet their basic “needs”. However, for the “wants” in life, income will have to come from other sources. People work for many reasons. Most people work to earn well beyond what they need for basics. Many people who earn more than a sufficient income continue in the workforce for various reasons, only one of which is to purchase more consumer goods or enhanced lifestyle. By ensuring financial security, Basic Income promotes engagement in paid and unpaid work of various kinds, with greater choice [freedom] as to the type of work. Basic Income enables people to balance work in the labour market with the valuable work they might otherwise do in the community.

## Basic Income for Canadians: The Key to a Healthier, Happier, More Secure Life For All

// *This is an even-handed and thorough survey of what basic income can, and also importantly cannot, do. Readers are implored to consider all the evidence about basic income before making up their minds. It would be a refreshing change from the current state of affairs if politicians on all sides took Forget up on her offer.* //

- **Jason Kirby**, Toronto-based journalist and editor



*Basic Income for Canadians* is available at all bookstores and online.



**Basic Income Manitoba** is a volunteer-run organization based in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Its members are people of diverse backgrounds, interests and skills, including researchers, activists, people living with low income, policy analysts, members of professions and business people. We value the contributions of all and respect the different talents, viewpoints and experience that each of us bring to the basic income conversation. Basic Income Manitoba is led by a volunteer Board of Directors working with a community of supporters who participate in advancing public dialogue about basic income in Manitoba. Where possible, Basic Income Manitoba works in partnership with other community groups for the elimination of poverty in our province.

[www.basicincomemanitoba.ca](http://www.basicincomemanitoba.ca)

#### References:

1. Canadian: [biencanada.ca](http://biencanada.ca)
2. International: [basicincome.org](http://basicincome.org)