

Basic Income Advocates Across Canada Applaud Historic Progress in Newfoundland and Labrador

November 14, 2023 - Last week, Newfoundland and Labrador took another small step towards the implementation of a guaranteed livable basic income - and made it clear that more steps are to come.

As part of the province's [newly-announced](#) Poverty Reduction Plan, Newfoundland and Labrador is implementing a Basic Income program for seniors aged 60-64 who are attached to the provincial income and community support programs. The Basic Income will bring their incomes in line with the benefit level they will receive once they turn 65 and move to federal seniors' benefits.

This is the second targeted basic income program implemented in Newfoundland and Labrador - last year, a similar program was introduced for young people in residential services. An all-party committee of the Newfoundland and Labrador House of Assembly is also in the final stages of an in-depth study of basic income, with a report and recommendations expected soon.

Basic income advocates across the country were also encouraged by NL Premier Andrew Furey's remarks at the launch of the Poverty Reduction Plan, during which he expressed strong support for a broader basic income program, highlighting the data showing the effectiveness of basic income and connecting many of the ongoing reforms happening in the province's social support systems to this goal.

With basic income endorsed by the PEI legislature and under study both in Newfoundland and Labrador and in the Canadian Senate, advocates from Basic Income NL, Basic Income Canada Network, and Coalition Canada Basic Income - revenu de base, are jointly calling on decision makers to move quickly to make this transformational policy a reality.

Quotes

“We at Coalition Canada Basic Income - revenu de base applaud the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador for providing a basic income to adults aged 60-64. With this decision, the province has recognized the struggles of many in their communities, and has taken an important step towards ensuring that more have financial stability and can live with dignity. Many others could benefit from a basic income in NL and across the country. Thus, we urge the federal government to work with provinces to create a national basic income guarantee for all Canadians who need it.”

- Dr. Elizabeth Kay-Raining Bird, Chair of the Steering Committee of Coalition Canada Basic Income - revenu de base

“The Basic Income Canada Network applauds the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador for its focus on the social determinants of health, with income as the leading determinant among them, and its program changes to simplify and enhance income benefits. The more programs move towards basic income goals of adequacy, unconditionality, autonomy and dignity, the better off everyone will be. Newfoundland and Labrador provides great examples of what provinces and territories can do to pave the way for a full basic income. Yet, a single province cannot do that alone. The federal government must work with them. That’s why a national framework for a guaranteed livable basic income, called for in the Senate (Bill S-233) and the House of Commons (Bill C-223), is so important. All our governments need to work together to tackle the multiple crises we are facing and ensure everyone has income security that’s there when they need it.”

- Sheila Regehr, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Basic Income Canada Network

“The basic income program for people aged 60-64 is an important milestone for Canada, reflective of tireless work of advocates and civil society members. I hope it is the first step in extending income security to all working age Canadians.”

- Floyd Marinescu, Founder, UBI Works

“Basic Income NL came together as a network of community groups who saw two things: the immense positive impact a basic income could bring, and the potential for Newfoundland and Labrador to lead the way in making basic income a reality. These targeted programs are a part of what that leadership can look like - as is having the voice of the Premier and other decision-makers in the public conversation. We’re glad to see both happening.”

- Joshua Smee, CEO, Food First NL (Member, Basic Income NL)