



## INTRODUCTION OF THE CONCEPT OF GUARANTEED BASIC INCOME

### Guaranteed Basic Income

*The National Advocacy Circle is comprised of Vincentians from across Canada that are interested in Social Justice. Our intention is to identify advocacy issues for our fellow Vincentians and suggest actions we can take for the benefit of our neighbours in need. We are presenting a series of articles promoting the consideration of a Guaranteed Basic Income to address the needs of Canadians living in poverty. Please share this information with your conferences, councils and parishioners.*

### Why is it important to start this conversation in the SSVP across Canada?

As written in the National Strategic Plan (2021 – 2024), Frédéric Ozanam observed the real situation of the poor and sought to be more and more effective in helping them in their human development. Charity and justice go together. Frédéric had the clear-sighted courage to seek a front-line social and political commitments in a troubled time in the life of his country.

### What is the Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI)?

According to the Basic Income Canada Network<sup>1</sup>: “A basic income is an unconditional cash transfer from government to individuals to enable everyone to meet their basic needs, participate in society and live with dignity, regardless of work status”

What would be the benefits to GBI?

- The main benefit is to offer life choices to everybody even if it is modest. Social assistance is a trap that keeps people poor.
- It would have an impact on the mental health of the people, less anxiety, more power, develop a real sense of being part of the society.
- It could help the change the perception of what it is to be a situation of poverty.
- The GBI would regroup all the basic income federal programs into one and the GBI would be based on the calculation on the income tax every year.

What are the main hurdles of the GBI?

- Overcome the stigma around poverty, laziness, lack of trust in the capacities of making good decisions, etc.
- Seen as an unaffordable expense for the taxpayer.
- Possible jobs loss in some ministries and in NFP organizations.

In jurisdictions where the concept of a GBI has been introduced, research shows that there has been no significant evidence of recipients choosing the benefit over seeking good employment. In fact, the stability of having an adequate, predictable and stable source of income leads to improved health and employment outcomes.

These questions and more will be explored in the next newsletters concerning GBI:

- What would be the impact on the Current Federal Programs that work?
- What are the misconceptions around GBI? What are the facts?
- Is it implemented somewhere? Is it bringing the promised benefits?
- Why is it important for the Vincentians to speak and advocate this program?

We believe that having this conversation on GBI and promoting it, could make a major difference in the lives of many of the people that we are helping regularly.

Our mission as SSVP and the Vincentians is to help people to grow out of poverty and to become contributing members of our Canadian society.

*Denise Ouellette, member  
National Advocacy Sub-committee*

For further information please see <https://www.ubiworks.ca/research>  
Take action by signing this petition <https://www.ubiworks.ca/>

<sup>1</sup> The Basic Income Canada Network (BICN) is a voluntary, non-profit, non-partisan organization promoting informed, constructive public dialogue leading to a basic income guarantee in Canada