

All Party Committee on Basic Income
Meeting #3 Minutes – January 19, 2023
1:00pm – 4:00pm
West Block, Confederation Building

In attendance:

Hon. John Abbott - Minister, Children, Seniors and Social Development
Hon. Bernard Davis - Minister Responsible for Labour
Jim Dinn – MHA, St. John's Centre
Craig Pardy – MHA, Bonavista
Scott Reid, MHA, (alternate for Sherry Gambin-Walsh)
Aisling Gogan, ADM, Children, Seniors and Social Development (CSSD)
Scott Fleming - Policy Analyst, Third Party Caucus
Renee Ryan, Director of Social and Economic Well-Being, CSSD

Guests:

Rob McLennan, Basic Income NL
Jen Crowe, Basic Income NL
Penny Rowe, Basic Income NL
Doug Pawson, Basic Income NL
Paula Sheppard, Basic Income NL
Debbie Wiseman, Basic Income NL
Josh Smee, Basic Income NL
Dan Meades, Basic Income NL

1. Welcome and Introductions

- The Chair welcomed members of Basic Income NL to the meeting.

2. Overview of Committee Work

- The ADM provided an overview of the committee's work to date:
 - Establishment of committee and identification of membership.
 - 1st meeting – overview of Basic Income, including research and work in other jurisdictions.
 - 2nd meeting – Sheila Regehr, Chairperson of the Basic Income Canada Network, attended the meeting and shared her knowledge on Basic Income and essential factors needed for success.
 - Also highlighted related work happening within government, including the review of the Income Support program and Basic Income for Youth Leaving care (who are receiving residential services)
- The Chair discussed Basic Income for Youth receiving residential services

3. Presentation by Basic Income NL

- Brief overview of Basic NL history, including the 2021 Policy Paper and the 2022 NL Summit on Basic Income.
- Rationale for Basic Income
 - Poverty and food insecurity
 - Health and mental health
 - Support with dignity

- Economic development
 - Alignment with the new economy
- Current landscape – promising moment with respect to work in PEI, municipal motions in Atlantic Canada, public support and Health Accord recommendations.
- Recommended principles of a Basic Income: universally accessible; unconditional; an essential component of a broad safety net of universal supports and services; sufficient; responsive to changing circumstances; respectful of autonomy; and respectful of Indigenous self-determination.

4. Discussion

- Attendees discussed:
 - next steps and potential role of Basic Income NL
 - advocacy options
 - proposed Canada Disability Benefit
 - need for lived experience input
 - broad benefits of Basic Income
 - continued need for other social supports

5. Concluding Remarks

- The Chair thanked Basic Income NL members for attending and committed to re-engage with the group once options are developed.

Only All-Party Committee members remained for the rest of the agenda.

6. Publicly Releasing Materials

- A decision was made to post all committee materials, including agendas, minutes, documents and presentations to the CSSD website. CSSD officials will arrange this.

7. Review and Approval of Minutes

- November 24, 2022 meeting - approved
- December 12, 2022 meeting - approved

8. Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

- Meeting with Health Accord NL in February

9. Additional Agenda Item: Discussion on Lived Experience Consultations

- Options for consultation were discussed, including how best to engaged persons with lived experience and who might benefit most from a basic income program. Some next steps:
 - i. Feedback on consultations on the Income component from the Social and Economic Well-Being Plan consultations will be compiled and shared with members.
 - ii. CSSD staff will also summarize other relevant consultation processes that involved people with firsthand experience of poverty
 - iii. Health Accord NL will be asked to give an overview of what they heard from people with lived experience

- iv. Approach EDs of NLHC community centres and others to seek their advice
- Once this information is compiled, the All-Party Committee will discuss how to best to undertake these consultations.

Renee Ryan, Recorder