

All Party Committee on Basic Income

Meeting #9 Minutes – January 24, 2024

11:15am – 12:30pm

West Block, Confederation Building

In attendance:

Hon. Paul Pike, Minister, Children, Seniors and Social Development (CSSD), Chair

Jim Dinn, MHA, St. John's Centre

Sherry Gambin-Walsh, MHA, Placentia-St. Mary's

Craig Parady, MHA, Bonavista

Scott Reid, MHA, St. George's - Humber (alternate for Hon. Bernard Davis)

Aisling Gogan, Assistant Deputy Minister, Prevention and Early Intervention, CSSD

Scott Fleming, Policy Analyst, Third Party Caucus

Margot Pitcher, Executive Assistant, CSSD

Keith Jewer – Senior Policy and Planning Development Specialist, CSSD

Guests:

Deatra Walsh, Ph. D. – Director of Advocacy – Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador

Regrets

Hon. Bernard Davis, Minister, Minister of Environment and Climate Change

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome and Introductions

- The Chair welcomed the guest from Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador (MNL) to the meeting.

2. Presentation by MNL

- The presentation by Dr. Walsh provided an overview of the work that MNL is involved in, as well as overview of their strategic priorities.
- According to Dr. Walsh, evidence suggests that a federally-funded basic income is not only feasible in Canada, but could bring significant benefits at the municipal level by alleviating pressures on municipalities to address poverty.
- MNL has been advocating for a basic income. Both MNL and the City of St. John's' passed resolutions to engage with the Federal and Provincial governments regarding the establishment of basic income.

3. Discussion

- The attendees discussed the issues municipalities face related to the provision of services, such as housing and public transportation, as well as the inter-connectivity with and benefits that could be seen from basic income.

4. Concluding Remarks

- The Chair thanked Dr. Walsh for attending the meeting.

The guest from MNL left the meeting.

5. Next Steps

- The Committee has its next meeting scheduled for February 6, 2024 for a discussion with the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour.
- The Committee will be meeting soon after February 6th to review a report and recommendations that have been drafted for release from the committee. Scheduling for this meeting is in progress.
- Minutes from the last two meetings will be reviewed by the Committee at its next meeting.
- An update will also be provided at the next meeting on the status of the Targeted Basic Income initiative for residents between 60-64 years of age that was announced in Fall 2023.

Keith Jewer, Recorder