

**All Party Committee on Basic Income**  
Meeting #1 Minutes – November 24, 2022  
2:00pm – 4:00pm  
CSSD Boardroom

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**In attendance:**

Hon. John Abbott - Minister, Children, Seniors and Social Development (Chair)  
Hon. Bernard Davis - Minister Responsible for Labour  
Sherry Gambin-Walsh - MHA, Placentia – St. Mary's  
Jim Dinn – MHA, St. John's Centre  
Craig Pardy – MHA, Bonavista  
Aisling Gogan, ADM, Children, Seniors and Social Development  
Scott Fleming - Policy Analyst, Third Party Caucus  
Bradley George - Executive Assistant to Minister John Abbott  
Patti McCarthy – Policy Analyst, Children, Seniors and Social Development

**1. Presentation – Background and Context**

- The Chair provided the Committee with an overview of the background and context for the All-Party Committee.
- ADM Gogan presented on the following:
  - Basic Income – universal, guaranteed or targeted
  - CSSD-led work related to basic income, including:
    - Review of the Income Support Program
    - Social and Economic Well-Being Plan
    - New Targeted Basic Income for Youth Services Clients
    - Income Support Employment Stability Pilot
    - Health Accord
  - The Canadian context regarding Basic Income – Advocacy groups, Bill C-22 and Bill S-233.
  - Reports and past pilots - There have been pilot approaches to Basic Income, but there has been no long-term implementation to assess. Therefore, there is no single recommended approach based on best practice. Targeted and incremental approaches are showing success.
  - Cost considerations for various Basic Income programs – review of estimates to date by:
    - The Parliamentary Budget Officer
    - Basic Income NL
    - Basic Income Canada Network
  - Low Income prevalence in NL:
    - Low-income prevalence has declined from 18.9% in 2003 to 13.1% in 2019. Single parents have the highest prevalence of low income across all family types, as do women across almost all age groups.
    - It is anticipated that the 2020 data will show a significant decrease in the poverty rate for that year due to pandemic-related benefits.
  - Provincial and Federal income-tested programs.

- Following the presentation, the Committee discussed:
  - Calculation of the Market Basket Measure (MBM) - Canada's Official Poverty Line.
  - Provincial food insecurity.
  - Provincial minimum wage.
  - Potential impact of basic income on other supports and benefits.
  - Ensuring that a basic income program does not discourage labour force attachment.
  - Identifying a way to account for all supports, including wrap around supports, that individuals receive, and how these factor into determining the income level and how it compares to the MBM.
  - Encouraging the filing of income taxes to ensure that individuals receive all the benefits for which they are eligible.
  - Potential for overall future savings following implementation of a basic income program.

## **2. Review of Draft Terms of Reference (Handout)**

- The Committee decided to review the Terms of Reference individually and provide feedback to Aisling within the next couple of days.
- The Terms of Reference stated that the committee would aim to achieve its goals within 6-8 months. Some committee members felt that this timeframe might be a challenge, given the work of the committee. The timeframe may need to be adjusted.

## **3. Work Plan**

- Consultation with experts
  - Sheila Regehr is a subject matter expert who will be joining the committee in person on December 12, 2022.
  - The committee was encouraged to provide suggestions for inviting other experts to meetings.
- Summary of Existing Consultations: what we can learn from work that has already been completed:
  - Health Accord consultations.
  - Social and Economic Well-Being Plan consultations.
  - Income Support review.
  - Internal government consultation.

## **4. Communications**

- The Committee reviewed and approved a draft news release.

## **5. Monthly Meeting Schedule**

- The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
  - The committee suggested Friday meetings going forward.