

All Party Committee on Basic Income

Meeting #6 Minutes – May 19, 2023

11:00am – 12:30pm

West Block, Confederation Building

In attendance:

Hon. John Abbott, Minister, Children, Seniors and Social Development (CSSD), Chair

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

Jim Dinn, MHA, St. John's Centre

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

Scott Reid, MHA, St. George's-Humber

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

Scott Fleming, Policy Analyst, Third Party Caucus

Bradley George, Executive Assistant, CSSD

Renee Ryan, Director, Social and Economic Well-Being, CSSD

Regrets

Craig Pardy, MHA, Bonavista

Agenda Items:

1. Review and Approval of March 24 Meeting Minutes

- Minutes were approved as presented.

2. PEI Proposal for a Guaranteed Basic Income Benefit (Confidential Embargoed Report)

- ADM Gogan provided an overview of the proposal and the approach, including benefit levels and other design elements, estimated cost and administrative model.
- Committee members discussed the potential advantages and disadvantages of the proposed approach, and how the report can inform work in NL.

3. Federal Engagement

- The Chair circulated a draft letter to Minister Karina Gould (Families, Children and Social Development) from the All Party Committee regarding federal cooperation on a basic income program in NL.
- Members were asked to review and provide feedback early the next week. The letter draft will be provided to member Pardy.
- The Chair indicated he has spoken with MP Sean Casey (PEI), who co-chairs the federal anti-poverty caucus with Senator Kim Pate (Ontario) regarding potentially meeting to discuss basic income.

4. Document on existing Income Benefits

- The Chair circulated a document that MHA Gambin-Walsh requested. The document provides an overview of existing federal and provincial income benefits, the minimum income that different family sizes and types receive and how these income levels compare to the relevant low-income thresholds.

5. Next Steps

- Meeting with NLHC Community Centre Executive Directors
 - This has been set for Friday, May 26 at 9:30 am.
- Lived experience sessions
 - The meeting with the NLHC Community Centre Executive Directors will inform this work.
- Analysis and recommendations
 - Once all ground work is completed, the Committee will have a specific meeting to discuss information to date, analysis of same and potential recommendations for a basic income approach in NL.

Renee Ryan, Recorder