



More than half of Manitoba's political parties support Basic Income

Local petition urges ALL parties to get on board

Winnipeg, August 20, 2019 – According to the latest data, 20.8 per cent of Manitobans live below the poverty line.¹ This is one of the highest rates of poverty in the country. For the first time, three of Manitoba's major political parties have announced their support for basic income.

So far, the Green Party of Manitoba, the Manitoba Liberal Party and the Manitoba NDP have each proposed a form of basic income as part of their campaign platforms. Only the Progressive Conservative Party of Manitoba has yet to release a plan.

“A basic income ensures everyone has the ability to afford basic needs like clothing, shelter and food,” said Paul Walsh, chair of Basic Income Manitoba. “Everyone has the right to live a life with dignity.”

Manitoba was home to one of the first basic income pilot projects. The Mincome experiment, situated in Dauphin, Winnipeg, and a few smaller towns in the 1970s, proved to have positive impacts on health, education and social inclusion. Other pilot projects have been conducted in Ontario, Finland, the Netherlands and elsewhere.

Dozens of basic income pilots have proven the positive results of a guaranteed income. It is time for basic income to be implemented permanently. Basic Income Manitoba, a local non-profit organization, has launched a petition calling on elected and re-elected MLAs in Manitoba to study, evaluate and research the implementation of basic income in the province.

A basic income must be:

- Adequate to cover basic needs necessary for a healthy and dignified life
- Contain no conditions of participation in work or education
- Be available to everyone, with the amount reduces based on other income
- Available for use based on the individual recipient's discretion.

“We have launched this campaign to fight for change in the way poverty reduction is handled in this province. Basic income is a compassionate and cost-effective response to gaps in our current social systems,” said Walsh.

¹ Census Family Low Income Measure After-Tax, 2017

The petition will be presented to the legislature following the election on September 10, 2019. Find the petition on our website at basicincomemanitoba.ca/petition.

About Basic Income Manitoba

Basic Income Manitoba (BIM) is a non-profit organization that educates, promotes, and advocates for basic income in Manitoba. We believe everyone has the right to basic needs in order to live a comfortable life. BIM is led by a volunteer-run board of directors and works with a community of supporters.

For more information about Basic Income Manitoba, visit basicincomemanitoba.ca

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