

**BACKGROUND:**

The idea of an assured annual income is the subject of international interest most recently it received the attention of participants during the annual Davos World Economic Forum. Canada's experiment with a GAI in Dauphin, Manitoba during the Trudeau 1 era, is noted prominently along with more recent developments in Finland, Brazil, India and others. Even municipal government recognize the potential merits, notably, the City of Utrecht in the Netherlands, while Kingston, ON has officially endorsed the concept of a basic income guarantee. Both the Edmonton and Calgary Mayors have expressed support for a broader discussion of some form of guaranteed basic annual income.

A representative from Calgary Social Workers for Social Justice is a regular participant in the ongoing national discussions on the Basic Income Guarantee.

Strategies for developing support in Alberta could include a proposal to gain support for a formal Motion by an individual MLA for debate during a Session of the Legislative Assembly. Similarly, a related strategy would see the Alberta Government select two suitably sized municipalities and a First Nation as a pilot project. Such a project should include a significant research component to evaluate the effectiveness of an assured income guarantee. Finally, government should be urged to establish an inter Departmental Committee of Deputy Ministers, supported by a Working Group of technical experts as part of the developmental work.

Submitted by:

Calgary Social Workers for Social Justice  
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