

Ginny Gemmell

From: Theresa Coles [REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 7:36 PM
To: Council
Subject: Cities across Canada are asking for this

Dear Mike Caljouw (Councillor), North Cowichan,

FIPPA s. 22(1)

My name is Theresa Coles at [REDACTED] and I am urging you to introduce a council resolution to call on the provincial and federal governments to work towards a Basic Income.

Municipalities bear the brunt of income insecurity and, as councillors you see first-hand how poverty and economic precarity affects our families and communities. These are issues that cannot be solved by one community alone, and that is why it is important for our city to add its name to the growing list from across the country who are pressuring our provincial and federal governments to act.

Canadian mayors who have shown support for Basic Income include: John Tory (Toronto), Mike Savage (Halifax), Marianne Alto (Victoria), Kate Rogers (Fredericton), Danny Breen (St. John's), Dan Carter (Oshawa), Dawn Arnold (Moncton), Guy Caron (Rimouski), and Rick Goldring (fmr. Burlington mayor).

In 2022, the city councils of Halifax, Moncton, Fredericton, and St. John's, as well the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) passed motions calling on the federal government to work towards Basic Income. In 2020, the Hamilton and Thunder Bay chambers of commerce passed a resolution calling on the federal government to launch a Basic Income program, garnering support from the national Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

In 2015, Kingston's city council became the first elected body in Canada to endorse Basic Income, passing a motion calling on municipalities across the country to adopt similar resolutions and send notice to their provincial and federal leaders. In the end, over 40 other Ontario municipalities endorsed Basic Income in 2016.

In the US, over 100 mayors have openly supported Basic Income and started 40+ pilots in their cities. The data show that people who get a Basic Income spend it on basic needs and are better able to secure full-time employment.

Basic Income has been demonstrated time and again to be a good investment that improves health outcomes, safety in our communities, and economic mobility of our residents. It can help reduce the strain on city services aimed at addressing poverty, freeing up resources to invest in other important priorities.

A report by the Canadian Centre for Economic Analysis showed that a national Basic Income could grow Canada's economy by \$80B/year, create 600,000 jobs, and increase private capital investments by nearly \$15B/year, while lifting 3.2 million families out of poverty. No doubt, many of these benefits would be felt right here in our community. You can read more at <https://www.ubiworks.ca/groweconomy>.

This matters not only to our city's residents but to all Canadians. It's a policy that can only be adequately addressed with input from all levels of government, so I am urging you to help by introducing a resolution calling on the provincial and federal governments to work together towards a Basic Income. The need for changes to our social policy have always first been identified in municipalities. From Universal Healthcare to

Old Age Security, the debate for how we build stronger communities has similarly always started at City Hall.

I urge you to continue this proud tradition and join us in the push for Basic Income.

Sincerely,
Theresa Coles

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