

Revised: 28 Sept. 2009

Income Security for All Canadians

A Workshop to Explore the Potential for a Guaranteed Income Framework for Canada

Sponsored by:

Basic Income Earth Network Canada (BIEN Canada)

October 1-2, 2009

Dominion Chalmers United Church

355 Cooper Street (corner of Cooper and O'Connor Streets)

OTTAWA Ontario

What is GUARANTEED INCOME (also known as Basic Income, Citizen's Income, Guaranteed Livable Income)?

“Basic income” is defined by the Basic Income Earth Network (www.basicincome.org) as “an income unconditionally granted to all on an individual basis, without means test or work requirement.” Behind this or similar terms is a vision for income security for everyone, made possible by governments ensuring every individual has unconditional access to at least a modest but adequate income to meet basic material needs.

The goal of universal income security could be provided in principle through a single basic or guaranteed income benefit. However, such a benefit could also work in concert with existing or modified government programs such as seniors' pensions, unemployment insurance, child benefits, and financial support to students.

Purpose of this Workshop

The purpose of this workshop is to share perspectives and build understandings about approaches to Guaranteed Income. BIEN Canada believes that such sharing will aid the continued growth and mobilization of a network of individuals and organizations in Canada committed to realizing an expanded basic/guaranteed income system for Canada, and thus to realizing income security for all Canadians.

Who Should Participate?

The workshop is designed to both inform and engage participants in discussion of a variety of approaches and models for achieving Guaranteed Income and universal income security. The target audience includes “first voice” persons (those with the lived experience of poverty), academics and researchers, social justice movements, community organizations, social and economic policy analysts, and government officials and politicians.

Schedule: Thursday, 1 October 2009

8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Pre-Workshop RESEARCH FORUM

→ note change of venue from previous version of this program!!

Board Room, Ottawa Construction Association, 196 Bronson Avenue

This session will be of particular interest to academics, policy analysts, and others involved in empirical research topics related to income security. If you wish to participate, please contact Jim.Mulvale@uregina.ca

12 NOON – 1:00 P.M. **REGISTRATION**

DOMINION CHALMERS UNITED CHURCH, 355 Cooper Street

1:00–1:30 p.m.

Welcoming Remarks – Jim Mulvale, University of Regina

Introductory Presentation – “Income Security for All Canadians: Understanding Guaranteed or Basic Income” – Chandra Pasma, Citizens for Public Justice

1:30 – 2:45 p.m. **Opening Keynote Address**

"A Governance Dilemma: Effectiveness and Legitimacy in Basic Income"
Jurgen De Wispelaere, Editor, *Basic Income Studies* & Visiting Scholar, Centre de Recherche en Éthique de l'Université de Montréal (CREUM)
(followed by questions and discussion)

2:45 – 3:00 p.m. BREAK

3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Panel Presentations (including questions and discussion)

a) Starting Where We Are: Work Now Underway Towards Better Income Security

Ensuring Livable Wages and an Adequate Safety Net: a Perspective from the Labour Movement – Andrew Jackson, Canadian Labour Congress

The MISWAA Initiative: Getting the Pieces of the Puzzle to Fit Together – John Stapleton, Policy Fellow, Metcalf Foundation / St. Christopher House

b) Winning Hearts and Minds: Strategic Advocacy for Improved Economic Security

Poverty Reduction Strategies as a Way Forward

- Sheila Regehr, National Council of Welfare

Economic Security as a Human Right: the “Dignity of All” Campaign

- Rob Rainer, Canada Without Poverty

5:00–7:00pm **SUPPER (ON YOUR OWN – BUT LET’S KEEP TALKING INFORMALLY!)**

7:00pm – 9:00 p.m. **Keynote Address**

Senator Hugh Segal

“Core Freedoms: Why Freedom from Fear and Freedom from Want Cannot Be Separated”
(followed by questions and discussion)

Schedule: Friday, 2 October 2009

9:00 – 10:30 a.m. **Keynote Address**

Is Guaranteed Income Good for Your Health? The Manitoba Story

Evelyn Forget, Univ. of Manitoba

(followed by questions and discussion)

10:30 – 10:45 BREAK

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Panel Presentation (followed by questions and discussion):

GI Approaches and Economically Vulnerable Groups

Women’s Paid and Unpaid Work – Pat Evans, Carleton University School of Social Work

People with Disabilities: Income to Enable Participation - Marie White, Council of
Canadians with Disabilities

Aboriginal Peoples – Income Security and Economic Development – Geraldine King,
Board Member (elect), Canada Without Poverty

Ensuring Economic Inclusion for Newcomers to Canada – Vilma Dawson, Calgary Centre
for Culture

12:15 – 1:30 p.m. LUNCH (provided)

1:30 – 2:45 p.m. *Moving Forward Politically: Parliamentarians Working on Income Security*
Tony Martin, Member of Parliament

2:45 – 3:00 p.m. BREAK

3:15 – 4:00 p.m. Panel Presentation (followed by questions and discussion):

From Rhetoric to Reality: Designing, Funding and Building Effective Income Guarantees

Mike McCracken, Informetrica

Chandra Pasma, Citizens for Public Justice

Jim Mulvale, Faculty of Social Work, University of Regina

4:00 – 4:15 p.m. Closing Remarks and ADJOURNMENT
