



Basic Income Canada Network Réseau canadien pour le revenu garanti

723-1500 Bank Street, Ottawa, ON K1H 1B8
info@basicincomecanada.org • basicincomecanada.org

October 5, 2017

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister, and Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada
Andrew Scheer, Leader of the Official Opposition and Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada
Jagmeet Singh, Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada

House of Commons
Ottawa, ON

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau, Mr. Scheer and Mr. Singh:

As you know, the year 2017 marks Canada's 150th anniversary. And as you also know, six generations along since 1867 millions of people in Canada today – in every city, town, and rural area from coast to coast to coast – suffer in poverty or experience relentless, stressful economic insecurity. Over Canada's history, even some parliamentarians have fallen into circumstances of desperation. No one is immune.

September 18-24, 2017 marked the 10th International Basic Income Week – an expression of the surge in interest worldwide in basic income as vital economic security. To mark both milestones, in early September the Basic Income Canada Network (BICN) invited people to send us 150-word answers to the question: How might a Basic Income Guarantee affect your life and your loved ones?

We committed to providing their answers to you and other members of Parliament who are in a position to help make a basic income a reality for all. Attached are over 500 responses from people from every walk of life who are counting on you. (Mr. Trudeau, you will notice that some people responded directly to you by name.)

These powerful responses are a microcosm of the Canadian reality. Many are expressions of raw suffering. Others reflect polished analysis. They are all testaments to the insufficiency and failure of old solutions, to the need for a basic income, and to the hope that a basic income inspires.

There are many reasons why support for a basic income is converging. There is concern about extreme inequality, the costly consequences of poverty, stress and poor health outcomes, the impacts of climate change, and longstanding unresolved problems rooted in gender discrimination, racism, and colonial legacies. Some see basic income as a way to help calm social unrest, to restore trust in democratic governance, or as a modern-day application of the principle of the common good that is shared by all major faith traditions, including Indigenous. As well, many see basic income as a way to uphold the human rights commitments Canada has made internationally and in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

A large and growing amount of evidence is showing how cash transfer programs, generally and in specific ways, benefit people and whole societies. As well, basic income pilot projects in now many parts of the world are contributing new knowledge and understanding of the ways to most effectively implement a basic income. We can anticipate that the three-year Ontario pilot, begun this summer, and any other

pilot that may be launched in Canada (e.g., in British Columbia pursuant to commitments of the governing New Democratic Party, supported by the Green Party), will add further knowledge.

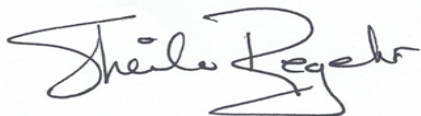
Prominent in the media lately (and perhaps in the public mind) is growing evidence of how profoundly technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI) will affect jobs and livelihoods in the future, challenging what it means to work, to be human, to raise the next generations. It is significant that technology leaders such as Elon Musk, Bill Gates, and Mark Zuckerberg have all voiced support for basic income. A number of our 150-word respondents are of like mind. Says one of them, a research scientist investigating AI: “I know that the coming development in AI will significantly affect the remaining jobs and that our capacity to adapt to new type of jobs is not strong enough to cope with the speed of change. After thinking, researching, and discussing, I concluded that UBI was the only viable solution.”

The stories that we are sending you, from adults young and old, paint a compelling, diverse picture of the human need, and too often desperation, that's out there. They also tell of the generosity of Canadians wishing to share the wealth more fairly. And, they reveal that Canada needs to plan better and act, without delay! The devastation of hurricanes from the Atlantic in the past two months offer a warning analogy. Amplified by human-induced climate change, these storms departed from the carefully predicted models. Many people who didn't think they were in their path were suddenly caught off-guard, unprepared.

Basic income is not magic, nor a panacea. It is, however, a practical income security policy solution that keeps us prepared and resilient in the face of many economic, social, and environmental challenges. We – fellow Canadians – need to and must ensure, without judgement, that everyone in Canada is able to meet their basic needs and live with dignity. By treating each other with common decency we will be stronger for it – economically, socially, and politically.

Would you be willing to discuss these matters with us? We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you in Ottawa. Please also visit our website (basicincomecanada.org) for more information on basic income. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Sheila Regehr, Chairperson

cc: Hon. Bill Morneau Minister of Finance
Hon. Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development
Hon. Patty Hadju, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour
Hon. Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Health
Hon. Maryan Monsef, Minister of Status of Women
Hon. Kent Hehr, Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities
Hon. Carolyn Bennett, Minister for Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
Hon. Art Eggleton, Senator

150 Words About Basic Income

Responses to Our Invitation

October 5, 2017

The year 2017 marks Canada's 150th anniversary since its founding. And yet some six generations along since 1867, millions of people in Canada today suffer in poverty or experience relentless, stressful economic insecurity. We know this from the tiresome statistics and from news story after news story, going back so long in Canada's history that poverty and economic insecurity are hardly "news" anymore.

The idea of a Basic Income Guarantee (BIG) – a reliable, regular payment of money from government that ensures everyone an income sufficient to meet basic needs and live with dignity, regardless of work status – is gaining currency, here in Canada and around the world. Discussions about it have spread beyond academia and into the mainstream. In Canada, in addition to Basic Income Canada Network (founded in 2008) at the national level, various local and/or provincial basic income action groups have taken root across the country, thus far from Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island (PEI), and New Brunswick to British Columbia (BC).

And, serious political considerations about basic income are underway across Canada, often being championed by politicians strongly on board with basic income. In the past 18 months alone we have seen, for example, the Ontario government commit to a three-year basic income pilot project now underway in three areas of Ontario, the PEI legislature pass a unanimous resolution in favour of the Province partnering with the federal government to undertake a pilot there, and the new BC government also commit to launching its own pilot.

Contributing, critically, to discussions and debates about basic income is growing awareness of the lived experience of ordinary Canadians. What is that experience? And how might a BIG affect their lives and those of their loved ones?

On September 3rd, 2017, we put that latter question to nearly 10,000 people registered with us as supporting a BIG. We asked them to email us with their answer in 150 words by September 15th (a few days prior to the start of the 10th annual International Basic Income Week, September 18-24, 2017). **Hoping for at least 150 responses, we received more than 600 (including some that came in after September 15th and that, due to time constraints, we were unable to incorporate into this document).** Some people wrote to us in just a few words. Others went beyond the requested 150-word limit. But no matter the length, the responses are typically heartfelt and sincere, and often raw and conveying



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gripping economic desperation. Below, we first summarize the responses from over 500 people and then publish each of these accounts. These stories show the real impact of basic income guarantee on the lives of real Canadians, in a concise and impactful way that had never been available before. **Keep in mind: the people who have written to us are but a tiny subset of the millions of people in Canada who are in similar circumstances.**

Some of the people we heard from are forced to live paycheque to paycheque. They told us about struggling to stay afloat in an increasingly precarious job market. “With the way employers hire people now (only part-time or seasonal), sometimes there is nothing to fall back on when times get hard in the winter months. With basic income, there will be a safety net for all of us.”

Of course, existing assistance programs already cover many people, but the responses to this project tell us about the reality of living with these systems. “I am a 58-year old man, medically unable to do any work that requires me to leave the house. I am currently on social assistance...The existing system will penalize me if I find work that earns more than \$200 a month.”

A basic income guarantee (BIG) ensures everyone an income sufficient to meet basic needs and live with dignity, regardless of work status.

We learned how easy it is to lose your benefits and how hard it is to qualify for them. “I am unable to obtain [benefits] because a learning disability does not qualify. I apply for employment but no one wants an inexperienced person with a learning disability. I am now 27 years old, living with my father, no income, no job experience and not much hope.”

Respondents told us first-hand how holes in our social safety net leave them vulnerable, and trapped, where they are covered at all. “Our daughter, a young adult, has an incurable chronic pain disability from a childhood injury at school...the medicines needed are not covered by Pharmacare...Her future looks bleak: pain and no home, no medical care.”

Some of the responses told us about sudden tragedies and the vulnerability that can ensue. “[My son] was earning about \$56,000 annually as an unlicensed machinist but after surgery for a broken femur, smashed teeth and a PTSD assessment, he could no longer stand for his full shift and eventually ended up leaving his job. Since then, he has steadily lost his apartment, most of his assets and has survived doing odd jobs and hauling scrap.”

Many of them were victims of violence or abuse, who have suffered terribly, only to have economic uncertainty added to their burdens. “About five years ago my husband was murdered. I was left with 2 children, a mortgage I could not pay, debt and I was diagnosed with PTSD. I lost my home and was forced into bankruptcy...Basic income would have allowed me and my children some sense of security and dignity. It would have allowed me a little time and money to seek help for both me and the kids.”

“I was sexually assaulted a few years back and as a result of those assaults, I have been dealing with PTSD. I have had to leave my job and home. I have been in many different types of therapy in order to deal with the PTSD I have been suffering. As a result, I have not been able to work and have been in financial distress as a result. I am now looking for work because I have used all of my savings.”

In spite of their difficult circumstances, many wrote with hope for how a basic income could change their lives, and the lives of others. “A Basic Income would provide the means for more independence for survivors of abuse like myself. Women need options to escape the danger and to live peacefully while providing our children with a healthier home environment. Financial freedom offers freedom from abuse and control, which will only improve the lives of people escaping family violence.”

Many who wrote did not do so to tell about their own difficulties. Instead, they wrote to explain their struggles to provide for their families and shared the true cost of caring for loved ones in need. “I would be able to look after my disabled spouse and aging mother and still afford shoes, something I cannot currently do.” “I am [also] raising a grandchild. Due to his circumstances, I retired early and am using my carefully built up retirement savings to pay for his special needs. A guaranteed annual income would allow me to keep those savings until I am truly elderly.”

The stress and strain of difficult circumstances is evident in these accounts. “This past year has been scary. I'm sitting here with tears in my eyes as I'm writing this. There is so much shame around poverty.”

A lot of the responses spoke directly to the difference a basic income could make for people who struggle every day. “Though I try to stay optimistic, there are days when I wonder why I am here and do not even want to live anymore. A Basic Income would bring hope back into my life, for sure. It is amazing what one can do with just a little more to give of themselves instead of just worrying about mere survival.”

Mixed in with all the vulnerability and struggle, there is a lot of excitement about the opportunities a basic income would afford people. We heard from people with plans to go back to school, to start new careers, to take chances and improve their situations. “Our incomes are stagnant and although I would like to go back to school to upgrade skills or obtain new ones in an effort earn more money, I can't because any drop in our combined... family income would mean no roof over our heads or food to eat.”

Canadians told us how hard it is for people living on the edge to take the steps they know will lead to change for their families. “I am a handyman, low income, having three children to take care. My dream is to become computer engineer but I never have chance to study. All my time is spending to earn money to survival. Basic income certainly help me accomplish my dream.”

All the same, many respondents conveyed how eager they are, for a chance to make things better for themselves and their communities. “It would empower me to be able to launch a successful, viable business that would also assist my community, instead of having to continue down the rabbit hole of trying to find employment.”

This document is being forwarded to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, other key members of the federal Cabinet, the Leader of the Official Opposition (Andrew Scheer, Conservative), and the soon-to-be-named new Leader of the federal New Democratic Party.¹ Why this focus on the federal government? Because more than any other government in Canada, the federal government is in the best position to introduce basic income security for all, from coast to coast to coast. We urge the government to do so, working in concert with provincial, territorial, and First Nations governments, informed by the evidence in support of basic income, and with the assistance of economists and public policy practitioners who can help identify the parameters for optimal basic income program design.

Notes to the reader:

¹ Following conclusion on October 15, 2017 of the federal NDP's leadership election contest.

Many who wrote to us did so anonymously. Others provided us only with their first name. For those who provided their full names, we have opted to publish only their first names to maintain confidentiality given that, in many cases, the stories shared contain information of a sensitive nature.

In aid of improving the readability of this document, we have slightly edited many of the responses for spelling and spacing problems, while largely leaving grammatical problems untouched other than some that could be quickly addressed.

As well, a handful of responses contained content that could be deemed to be discriminatory toward particular persons. We have removed such content in the interest of upholding the value of non-discrimination.

Aaron (place of residence not disclosed, ON, September 7, 2017)

Thank you for taking the time to read my info. If I were to obtain UBI, I would use the money for this online video course. I have obtained part of it, but currently what I have has been outdated by new stuff. The subject of my studies is IT. I could also afford supplies and equipment to practice on, right now it's mostly theory. I, myself and friends are on ODSP² right now, and basically living cheque to cheque. My friends would be able to get a car, which would give them some much needed freedom. They would be able to look for work. As would I, once I obtain a certification or two. To summarize, my main goal and those of my friends is the ability to look for employment. UBI would be a huge assist in this effort.

Aimee (place of residence withheld, September 3, 2017)

I used to work as a security guard. Even with that, I still didn't make enough money to live independently. Supplementing with basic income could have made it possible. I'm currently going back to school. Basic income would be a huge help to students who are trying to get or upgrade their education, as working while taking classes can often be difficult. Having a basic income would allow students to focus on their studies, while still having money each month to live on. Basic income would also save the government money. It's a lot easier to administer than the numerous programs out there now (welfare, employment insurance, disability etc.), which all have numerous rules and restrictions which need enforcing.

Alex (Vancouver, BC, September 11, 2017)

Please accept my submission for your 150-word request. Thank you for the opportunity. I'm in my mid-twenties, running my own business, and living in beautiful Vancouver, British Columbia. By all standard metrics, I'm doing alright. In that regard, a basic income would not make a huge difference in my life. However, for my brother, sister, and other amazing people in my life, it would mean a great deal. My sister could paint full-time, continue to sell her work, and make a name for herself in the art community, without having to pick up odd jobs to 'pay the bills'. My brother could continue to cook and develop his taste and skill for food creation without having to 'take the job with the most pay', which is inherently the least creative and professionally advancing. There are people in Canada that need this to live a fulfilling life, and I'd be proud to support and pay for a basic income that made it a reality.

² Ontario Disability Support Program

Alexander (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

Dear Trudeau. Basic Income would allow me more opportunity to find more appropriate work, when transitioning to another job. I could live without fear of losing or quitting my job. I could consider going back to school. I might even start my own business. Without Basic Income, I cannot afford to lose my job. My dream of starting a business is impeded by my need to support myself, since my business may not yield a return in the short term. Someone like me will probably not need Basic Income for very long, but the personal, social, and economic health benefits of having more options is undeniable. Reduced stress and anxiety for me and the population would clearly have a significant positive impact on our society. Sure, we're free to work where we choose, but what good is freedom without opportunity? Basic Income allows us to make better choices, instead of difficult ones. Is Canada not a "Land of Opportunity"?

Alexis (Essex, ON, September 11, 2017)

A Basic Income would help so much. I was in a car accident which left me unable to continue working. I'm young still so all I get is CPP which because I'm younger haven't paid into for long enough. I've had to move into geared to income housing and lost all my independence with no car. I have no quality of life. I could really use some extra money to pay for prescriptions, and surgery not covered by OHIP to fix my jaw!

Aleksandar (place of residence withheld, September 15, 2017)

Basic Income would enable us to have quality time at least with our grandkids since we didn't have it available with our own kids after almost 30 years of 9/10 hours per day hard working (including most weekends). On a more general note, in our opinion, Basic Income introduction would heavily improve family configuration in this beautiful country which is well deserved (G7 country = 64% of global wealth).

Andrea (Oshawa, ON, September 6, 2017)

I am Andrea Walker and I live in Oshawa, ON. This income would help immensely. Just with the price of rent food and hydro, I have no money for anything else. I have to use the food bank every month because I never have enough food for both of us. There's been days I live on soup so my daughter can eat. I live in a 2-bedroom apartment. My Ontario Works doesn't even cover the price of rent. I have to take from my Child Tax which is only \$563. So, this leaves very little for anything else. I'm lucky if my ex pays support. FRO is supposed to enforce this but he is still over \$5000 behind. I can't even afford to take a bus. So, I walk everywhere. Help CANADIANS. Thank you.

Andrew (place of residence withheld, September 4, 2017)

An annual basic income would improve not only my quality of life, but my ability to fund my numerous entrepreneurial projects. I am very intelligent, and I have many projects which are inching forward at a snail's pace due to my very meagre income and the rising cost of living / food etc. My monthly needs leave little if anything to redirect toward my healthcare needs, nor any of my projects. Being able to afford proper nutrition, and the loss of stress over not being able to obtain proper nutrition would also improve not only my quality of life, but also my productivity level. Being able to afford proper healthcare/medications would also improve my productivity. I firmly believe that if I had more money to play with, I could become financially independent in very short order. I am a very creative individual limited only by the financial inability to get my projects off the ground. In perfect love and perfect trust.

Andrew (Ottawa, ON, September 5, 2017)

Although a basic income would not positively affect my finances, I would have the peace of mind that my taxes would be going to those who need it the most, and allowing them to have more fulfilling lives, while living at or above the poverty line instead of below, and contributing to the economy while bettering themselves. Although not financial, I would see so many benefits to BI, from the patients I see

as a paramedic being in better circumstances, to dealing with traditionally-lower-wage workers who have less financial stress in their lives, which translates directly to their psyche and demeanor. Less stress – especially financial – in people's lives increases their well-being in a way that is contagious and visible, making the experience better for everyone. It's time we stop leaving people behind in society, and move forward as a progressive society!

Anita (place of residence withheld September 3, 2017)

Basic income is security for me. I don't need a basic income right now. Although my husband and I don't have any savings or job security, we both work at decent jobs. But that could change quickly. Basic income would mean we would could get by and keep our home until we could pick ourselves up again. Basic income gives people a chance – a safety net between the middle class and instant poverty when circumstances outside of your control change.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 3, 2017)

I don't believe I'd qualify. As I make too much money. Or is it for every Canadian citizen?

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 3, 2017)

Basic income will prove to be an essential element in the lives of the struggling population of Canada. It means a lot to me. I am a PhD in Business Administration who emigrated to Canada from India in 2009 and has been struggling and surviving with menial jobs since then. The immigration was under "skilled category" and was processed by the Canadian government in seven years. I have not been able to find any job matching my education, skills or talent. I have a family to support but not a stable job for survival. Basic income would give some respite to the large Canadian population in debt and living from pay cheque to pay cheque.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 3, 2017)

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau. I want to thank you for having the foresight to implement such a project as Basic Income for all peoples of Canada. What I would do with the funds is raise my sights and raise how I feel about myself. I am on a program called Pwd (Persons with Disabilities). Having more money would certainly raise my standard of living. I would be able to feed myself better food. As for right now I am living on food bank donations. While I am grateful, to be able to eat better food because I am a cancer patient and a diabetic and face health challenges at this time. As I said before, to raise my standard of living for myself and for all Canadians. This is a step forward for all the People of Canada. I hope that this type of program spreads to all of the world. Thank you.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 3, 2017)

Basic income would help me as a single mother on welfare to get off of welfare which will give me a chance to work and not have to worry about how my rent and bills will get paid. As a single mom, basic income would also help me with things like lunch monitor fees that I have to take care of on my own without the help is a spouse. I think basic income will help a lot of families get back on their feet.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 4, 2017)

Basic income for me. I drive a school bus get laid off for 2 months go without money for those months since EI forces me to find another job and I want to drive a school bus. I am also forced to live in abuse since I as a low income single female cannot live on my own. Thanks government.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 4, 2017)

Basic income would help by guaranteeing a stable income to my family. Both me and my husband are disabled. We don't qualify for disability where we beverage gad [sic] a chance to work. My son will be 18 in November. I will lose my child tax for him. He is going to trade school and living at home. I am barely making it by and now my child tax will be cut by almost \$600. Even though my son has ASD I am

unable to get any financial help other than his student loan. Basic income would ensure all of us got guaranteed money to help with the ever-increasing cost of living.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 4, 2017)

I am a handyman, low income, having three children to take care. My dream is to become computer engineer but I never have chance to study. All my time is spending to earn money to survival. Basic income certainly help me accomplish my dream.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 4, 2017)

My son is not able to work due his disability for rest of his life. For the current basic income he receive is not enough to pay his basic need in Toronto. The basic cost to survive in Canada at least \$1,000 that exclude renting cost according to statistic. This cost is exceeding the amount of welfare my son receive. As a result, I need to live longer than my son as I need keep working to subsidize my adult son. I am 66 already and no chance to retire. Therefore, increase basic income is necessary.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 4, 2017)

I am on a pension. I get \$1300.00 a month. If I was to get a few hundred more I would be on the road to pay off all my bills and eat better. I do without a lot. It would be so helpful but I don't know if basic income would be given to me.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 4, 2017)

If I could receive basic income I could finish the university studies I began before I married and had children and I could then work at a good job and be productive in the world. I was very shy when I was young, and the problem with being shy is not that you don't get what want, but that you get what you don't want – because bad people sense that you don't have the forcefulness to get rid of them. I understand very clearly now that if I need help to correct an abusive situation I must ask for it. I lost much time and many opportunities because of my abusive husband, but if I had a fixed income I would definitely go back and finish a University degree so that I could be self-sufficient, help my children get an education, become a productive member of society, volunteer to help at shelters for abused women, work on preventing abuse through the education of young women, because I do think I have a sound understanding of the myriad problems that lead to abuse, and I would be a better parent because I could provide for my children and help them to develop into productive members of society.

There is a sadness in children who can no longer afford piano lessons after Grandma dies, new sneakers, school supplies in time for school, who have never been to the water park or who can't afford to go out as a family occasionally. There are 1000 things that would change if the bills were paid and food was in the fridge. My children could be happy and I could be too. I am tired of struggling and feeling ashamed and low. Working for minimum wage leaves us in poverty and behind on the bills and is very discouraging because I am always at work so the children have no parent and no money. I WISH I could have a fixed income for a few years.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 4, 2017)

Basic income is an answer to poverty in the world. Canada is a respectable leading country with a large history of care for people. Canada will show that it can lead with compassion and help his brothers and sisters to move along. Taxes and inflation are two factors limiting growth for many Canadians. With life basic income, given to all people, regardless of income level, is thus established in fairness. People in need of such a boost in their life, will take this opportunity to rise up to the next level of their dream. Managed well, with good passive coaching, it will be a tremendous boost to the Country. Many passive examples can be provided has to how to manage this income properly. One example would be, a fictional family sitcom that would provide such insight. Thank you, for allowing people to express themselves.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 4, 2017)

With a basic income, I could afford to hire local contractors and staff to build my business. I wouldn't need to get a loan, or seek venture capital freeing me to grow slowly and ethically without hurting my family.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 4, 2017)

The extra money would make me feel less stress

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 5, 2017)

A supplement that helps to cover food and electrical/heating coast would be a great help to all low-income families including my own family. When injury to a spouse happens and there is only one person working to cover all the costs, it makes it tough to meet all the needs of the household. Or loss of a job. U.I. is barely enough for one person to live on let alone a family. Or students who are trying to better themselves but have to make a choice between rent, food, and medication etc. The cost of living has gone up and the minimum wage has not increased enough to equal out. In this process, more and more people fall in to poverty with no help in sight. More and more children go without proper clothes and enough food or school supplies. Thank you.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 5, 2017)

A Basic Income Guarantee, also known as B.I.G., would affect me in several ways. First off, being that my mother, who is a double amputee that has to be in an extended care unit, and whose tiny pension, even though she worked and payed taxes in Canada all of her life, and it still isn't enough to cover what her total monthly bills are. I would use as much of my B.I.G. as needed to pay the remainder of her monthly expenses. Then, because of my own health issues, I would use some of my B.I.G. to pay for some of the treatments that have been recommended to me that as it stands now my medical coverage doesn't pay for. After that, if there is anything left, I'd use that to help pay for some of the repairs that my home needs in order for me to be able to get home insurance, most importantly, the removal of some black mold infested insulation, then replace with new, and replace the drywall that goes over top.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 5, 2017)

The introduction of a basic income will bring my life full circle. The era of automation started in the 1950s when I was a young writer. It was an exciting time because new machines were poised to take over all kinds of mind-dumbing, assembly-line type work. Automation, while slowly returning dignity to the workplace, was also creating a myriad of new opportunities. Productivity soared over the subsequent years. Wages, unfortunately, failed to keep up with this torrid pace. Those of us who were in a position to see ahead – that there was a limit to new opportunities, that the productivity/wages imbalance could lead to dangerous unrest, and that people in middle management would become increasingly vulnerable – despaired. Despaired, because although the danger signs had been there for years, our young people were still being educated in how to work, not how to live. A basic income will return us to a more sensible role as humans. My circle will be completed.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 5, 2017)

I would stop worrying about how I'm going to survive and do nothing but relax for one week. Then I'd begin developing some ideas for businesses that I've had.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 5, 2017)

Basic income would make it easier to accomplish goals for everyone. Need to look presentable for a job interview? Money is available for wardrobe, grooming, dental work, etc. Have an idea that you want to invent or create? You have money to make the idea possible, whether it is a new technology or method of doing things. Need a home? You got rent covered. Poor people also deserve to have a good time, whether it is a movie or other activity or item. It would provide income for small businesses too and provide a safety net when people spend. It would help and make lives less miserable.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 5, 2017)

As a single Mom of three with no child support, a guaranteed basic income would go a long way in cutting down on my stress level as to how I am going to put food on the table for my kids. Allowing my twenty-year old son the same benefit would decrease his stress level as I won't be harping at him about earning his own money when there are no part-time jobs for him.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 5, 2017)

Well, let me count the ways:

1. I would no longer question why capitalism in its current form remains on.
2. It would bolster my belief that as we are on earth but once, that no-one ought to have an experience fraught with anxiety, ridicule, judgement, prejudice and a lack of autonomy.
3. I would no longer be made to feel as less of a person because I cannot partake in certain activities due to a shortage of cash. The shame that ensues is difficult to handle.
4. I would no longer have to rely on the goodwill of others to get by. And that goodwill? Sadly, there is not an abundance for it. Sadly so.
5. I would no longer have to request for more funding from a disinterested but powerful third party, for the likes of items such as sanitary products. The poverty industry must be abolished period. I resent being told by anyone what the best use of my money is as I have figured that out decades ago!
6. I would no longer have to live with other people which is a sheer nightmare for an introvert with a highly sensitive temperament, who is old and set in her ways. Other people are my hell and my home has to be an oasis from the outside world. I cannot afford my own place now and I face outright discrimination from landlords who do not want someone on disability in their home. Since the mid-eighties I have had over a dozen different homes! That is no way to live! I need to be living alone which BI, hopefully would allow me to do. Currently housing takes up 72% of my income.
7. Receiving money will not allow me to become lazy and not work. Society has to learn that it can be contributed to in different ways. The happiest people are those who contribute best with what skills they have and what they love to do. Universal Income is a fait-accomplis. In a mere 20 years 40% of the world's population will be without a job due to automation. Will those same people who insist handouts creates laziness still feel the same way?
8. Receiving more money will assist to pay for personal grooming items such as haircuts. I currently get one annually. Why annually? Because it takes me that long to save up for one. I happen to have beautiful hair and my hairdressers always question why I don't take better care of it. I am too ashamed to tell them I just cannot afford it. And in our society, personal grooming is key to making a good impression. It's been difficult to go from getting four haircuts a year to one!
9. The government assumes that those on assistance are getting financial support from relatives. I have had no living family since the mid-eighties. I am responsible for everything and that leads to a very meagre existence. Achieving status quo might occur with Basic Income.
10. As funding only covers the low-end of the scale when it comes to medical equipment one gets inferior stuff. And you end up having to buy better because the cheaper is causing you more health problems. I had to do this and wound up with \$19 a week to live on. That won't cover much.
11. There are certain physical activities that would be complimentary to good health that I cannot access due to lack of funds.

12. I was treated like a second-class citizen at the physiotherapy clinic I attended. I was reminded by different staff my time there was limited and they were only helping me because "they had to." Despite being in pain I was dismissed as my time was up. As a nice person who is well-educated, this did not sit well with me. Being discriminated upon due to your inability to manipulate the current version of capitalism is shameful and inhumane. BI would allow me to make the choice to attend more often until such time that I have fully healed.
13. How wonderful it would be to be able to access a psychologist rather than a psychiatrist, who often leave much to be desired. Being able to choose one's life coach ought to be mandatory as so much of good outcome depends on it. I have had four psychiatrists whose ratings lie at the bottom of Rate MD's scores. And I can attest to why.
14. BI would mean no more being embarrassed at the pharmacy while staff blurt out the details of your life reaching everyone's ears. Once another customer asked the clerk why my drugs were free. Had there been a hole in the floor, I would have disappeared.
15. Maybe with BI I could afford to shop at Value Village again.
16. I am very health conscious and need more money to buy healthy groceries whose prices are routinely rising.
17. The most noted negative impact BI could eradicate would be the monthly stress of the last week of the month when you might have only five dollars if that, to get through the week. Depression ensues on a monthly basis. One is forced to eat poorly. BI would eradicate the only an apple a day diet.
18. I could afford my own continuing education and not be barred from it due to lack of funds.
19. I could participate in classes that cost money at the gym which I really need to be taking to ward off arthritis, which runs in my family.
20. I could replace my broken phone. I anticipate it will take a year of GST rebates before I can do so. So, what do I do in the interim?
21. BI would allow me to afford Internet so I no longer have to make use of library computers, wifi and those of friends. All are privacy risks.
22. BI would allow me to start saving to pay for my funeral and burial not wishing the anonymity of a public burial, likely at the cost of the taxpayers.
23. BI would ensure a wee bit of dignity be returned to me until such time Universal Basic Income is a reality.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 6, 2017)

Life is filled with stressful events. Having to think about how to pay for a roof over my head and keep food on the table is stressful. My father has had four heart attacks. My grandfather died from a heart attack. This undue stress is literally killing me. With a Basic Income, the odds of me dying from a cardiovascular disease will inevitably shrink because of one less gigantic stress in my life. Having a Basic Income isn't only a humane thing to do, it is a smart thing to do for our economy and the physical and mental well-being of our population.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 6, 2017)

We have hobbled our children with massive student debt while they graduate into a jobless recovery. With a car payments and insurance, rent, food and phone, this next generation is forced to put off buying homes and having families. The west is at a tipping point. We need to choose between the corporate gospel and what our hearts are telling us. Since the 1970's the middle class has cowed to capitalism which has told us what to think. The boss who then made 20 times the average worker now makes 340 times. Had wages kept pace with productivity gains and inflation, the current minimum wage should be \$23 an hour. We need the guaranteed annual income to bring about a new renaissance which will provide the basic needs – food, shelter and health care so that all persons have the opportunity to make a difference in their own lives and the life of our nation.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 6, 2017)

Basic Income would allow my family to stop struggling to just pay rent and feed themselves despite their age and numerous medical problems that make full time employment impossible for them. It would also allow me to pursue my own work in fields I enjoy instead of spending most of my time in a customer service position, greatly increasing the time I could spend invested in my own business, and rather than my labor going towards the coffers of someone else, I would be able to bring in international currency from different clients around the world. Likewise, I would also be able to see many of my friends with outstanding mental problems and clinical depression not have to struggle to afford to live somewhere and feed themselves, greatly reducing their risks of committing suicide, or developing a substance abuse problem.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 7, 2017)

How would a basic income affect my life? It would affect it greatly! Having any larger increase in income helps out with so many things not to mention with dignity. Like us so many people are just not making it from month to month or paycheck to paycheck. They end up sacrificing foods causing great lack of nutrition and constant hunger especially for children and making other sacrifices they should not have to, forcing them to do without basic necessities. Cannot afford necessary medications causing detrimental health effects and mental health/depression issues do not get resolved it just gets worse. In all it causes a great downward spiral for so many people's lives, families etc. Homelessness is growing at an insane rate; the suicide rate has never been higher.

For people, it would literally be everything. The people need to know that the government actually gives a damn about everything. The people need HOPE something to help to raise them up, their spirits, their frame of mind, their mental health, to know they can eat or keep hydro or even have a phone. So many people want to work but either cannot get the education, cannot find a job, cannot manage the transportation to get there or cannot do daycare etc. It is time for a great change, the government needs and wants tax paying people well. Give them a way to actually become taxpayers and stay that way!! Just how many people do you think will be out of work when you implement all of the A.I. to take their jobs?? You need to start this basic income now, there should have been great change a long time ago!!

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 7, 2017)

Having a basic income would allow me to afford to pay for a mortgage to purchase my own place or save money up for emergencies.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 8, 2017)

If Canada had a BI program, I would have a sense of living in a society that is more equitable in terms of its distribution of resources and chances for all persons to live more fully.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 9, 2017)

The Canadian government is obsessed with selling out our natural heritage and our nation's resources to the lowest bidder, selling out its working class to exploitative corporate interests, and selling out the indigenous, the poor, women, and future generations to maintain the status quo for an indeterminate future class of wealthy politicians and business elites. Basic Income is a humane idea, and Canada is very selective about its humanitarian values. The more wealth you have in this country, the more humanely you are treated, just like everywhere else. Canada is not a utopia, it's a sloppy illusion, and a useless nation if you're not looking to pillage and loot it for all its worth. Nice idea though.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 10, 2017)

Maybe I could afford to live somewhere where I could find a suitable long-term job (for money) and be able to afford both rent & food bills. Right now, it's cheaper for me to not bother trying to live near where I might find work (for money). I'm not so unhappy doing volunteer and self-led work where I currently am (parent's attic in boony-ville), but the idea of some further independence is still an inviting

thought (but one I've largely set aside as an impossibility).

Transport: I do not drive but rely on walking, bicycling, public transit, and family/friends for lifts. During the time of the below job, I was renting a private 1bed apt in Edmonton for \$700-800/mo. My most long-term paid employment was nearly 1 year in childcare, part-time. I tried to take on more hours for some time, but illness led me to back off the hours again. The job was physically and mentally/socially/psychologically exhausting. It paid minimum wage or close to it. I didn't have any extra energy to seek out additional work, though I sometimes volunteered at a couple different places (note, my doctors advised me to treat my medical condition as a part-time job – to schedule enough time for record-keeping, analysis, medicine-administration and the excess life-planning required for ongoing personal healthcare). I earned enough money to cover rent OR food, but not both, so I kept borrowing the remainder from my parents.

I strive to maintain a healthy diet & struggle with several food allergies. During the above job, my grocery-&-household bill averaged \$100/week, but that did not include my regular pharmacy meds & other prescription items, health supplements (which were often graciously given by my mother), then any excess "treats" of coffee/take-out food/drinks, or anything else. I tried to budget ~\$500/mo for food & etc. costs with difficulty.

My bicycle got stolen that year which reduced my transit to work to walking halfway to reach a bus that could get me most of the rest of the way. It was just ~30 min travel time, but in winter it could be quite difficult. My shift began ~6:30a.m. and I had to allow some spare time for a sink-shower & wardrobe-change in the staff bathroom. This early morning schedule posed quite a challenge for me given my medical condition (note, I am not handicapped nor eligible to be given that status nor terribly unhealthy). A monthly bus pass was then ~\$80 I think.

I was eventually let off from that job to make room for a summer student pursuing further education in childcare (which I was not interested in doing), at which point I moved back home, and since then, I have mostly lived with my parents. Living with the parents has proved to be a much cheaper scenario for both them & me, so it seems I'm saving money by accepting joblessness. I hold a bachelor's degree but haven't used it for much other than volunteer opportunities (and a couple odd slim gains through a few commercial pursuits).

Basic Income. Food. Rent. Transit. The ongoing stress of not being able to pay one's bills and the persistent lack of basics may prevent many from spending Basic Income on what they could really use for their best benefit. Should that be their personal choice? Or should basic income be restricted to use at grocery stores and on rent & transit? No doubt some might otherwise just blow theirs all on booze. Do you care? It's still business transactions for the local economy, so maybe there is no need for you to care? Just curious. Hope my input can help out.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 10, 2017)

I've been living below poverty level for over 22 years. If I were at a basic income level I think I have more family dinners. I think that I would actually be able to breathe for the first time in my life. I don't know how to even explain how much easier life would be if I was at a basic income level. I've been below poverty level for more than most of my life. I was injured when I was young. Because I was a victim of crime my youth was taken from me. I've been shunned because I'm on ODSP. I've been not invited to family gatherings. I've been left out of most stuff. My family's embarrassed of me. First of all, what happened to me was not my fault. Secondly, because I didn't work enough I wasn't told anything from the federal government until just recently. I have beat cancer twice. I'm missing every organ I can live without. I've broken almost every bone in my body. Still I don't make enough money to live every day. It's either I pay my rent and my bills. That's how it works in Canada. You can ask me anything. I'm an

open book. A lot of people like me because I'm funny but I hide from most people because I'm embarrassed about who I am because I live at the poverty level.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

There are many people in my acquaintance who would benefit greatly from this possibility: single mothers; injured workers; older single or widowed women. Many, many citizens in these groups would be able to have a more dignified and stable life. And the list could go on and on.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

As long as it supplies a level of income support equal or greater than my current government pensions (I'm retired), it would not affect me directly, but the indirect effects would be huge. No more panhandlers clogging up the intersections. Vastly fewer sad stories about suicides and murders based on the stresses of extreme poverty. Healthier children and adults. Less need for police. If done right, implementing a UBI may well be a net gain for the public purse.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

The basic income will assist with everyday living expenses not excluding, gas, utilities and food. As the population ages and the prices continue to rise on utilities and gas and food, the cost will become so high that people will not be able to afford the basic cost of living

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

Having a Basic Income guarantees enough security for me to be able to properly assess my own transgender issues. At the moment, I literally "Don't have the time to be transgender" due to all of my cash going into basic living amenities, and my budding attempts at making a business. I have to push away my own unhappiness, and my own relationships, as a result of this. If I had more security, I would have a more fulfilling life and be able to both make my business, and be myself.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

How might a Basic Income Guarantee affect your life and/or your loved ones? Dignity. That word encompasses it all. To be given the ability, to live your life how you want to, to make your own decisions and put quite simply: live! I have never had that. Grew up poor and will die poor. Put the word dignity, back in the term, *low income*. Please. To be able to go to a dentist, is unimaginable. I have suffered with TMJ, the past few months, caused from my bad teeth and severe anxiety. So not only do I try to face each day without hiding, I now face it in pain. And I can't do much about it. Go without food, some essentials and power, to get my teeth fixed or – have enough food etc. to last me *most* of the month. This is my reality. This is *our* reality.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

A basic income would potentially allow me to stop working as a wage slave and instead allow me to do more volunteer work in my community. The last 25 years I've worked to make the owners of the company wealthy but done essentially nothing to make the world a better place.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

I'm a research scientist in artificial intelligence. Hence, I know that the coming development in AI will significantly affect the remaining jobs and that our capacity to adapt to new type of jobs is not strong enough to cope with the speed of change. After thinking, researching and discussing, I concluded that UBI was the only viable solution. Since then I'm advocating it as much as I can.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

I am a seasonal employee in the tourism industry so I regularly make use of the EI system since there is not enough work to cover my expenses in the winter. A basic income would allow me to cover my expenses with part time work in the winter season and would allow me to have a greater quality of life during my busy summer season. I would be able to do things like afford a car payment or improve my home that I currently am unable to since I need to save for my unemployed season while I am employed. I greatly enjoy the work I do and the area I live in. A basic income would allow me to continue to have both of those things and allow me to have greater economic freedom as well.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

I think the most profound way basic income would change my life would be in eliminating the extreme and visible poverty that is seen in very plain and visible sight in everyday life. That alone would make my everyday life more enjoyable knowing that people's basic needs are taken care of and they are not subjected to impoverished conditions because of economic roulette. I think it will make it easier for people to start businesses and participate as shareholders in this idea and nation we call Canada. It would free up the time I currently spend advocating for poverty reduction and let me focus once again on my passions as a working artist. I think it will brighten our arts communities and bridge cultural divides that currently prevent the less fortunate from being heard.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

A Basic Income Guarantee (BIG) would let me run not just one but *two* businesses which would both help Canada, economically and health-wise. I am a registered dietitian nutritionist whose passion lies in Upstream Healthcare. Upstream Healthcare helps prevent Canadian citizens from ending up in expensive hospital beds in an overstressed healthcare system by working to solve health problems before they become bad enough to require hospitalization. A BIG would let me open my own business which would serve the general population and give my clients more financial freedom to take proactive steps toward their health. I am also a freelance artist who specializes in sculpting. I have sold pieces to the USA and the Netherlands. A BIG would allow me the financial freedom to spend more time on expanding my client base which would bring foreign money into Canada.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

Basic income particularly beneficial to single women who have raised families and whose husbands have died, or divorced or victims of abuse. Please give us a break. I spent 3 years as caregiver to father. Spent everything. CCP pension only \$100 dollars a month as was self-employed. Government would not lose a cent. We need this now. Thank you.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

It's an amazing program for families who are "really" under privileged. I would like to see manufacturing/production units run by government so that it will provide employment to unemployed people with language restrictions/communication challenges. Provide subsidized transportation for new immigrants/low income families so that they can reach work economically.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

I believe it would help a great deal. I have 4 kids and I am a single mom. I would love to go back to school but money is an issue for me. This would help me so much so I could go to school and provide a better life for myself and my children and I can be a productive member of society.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

I don't know, maybe you can tell me how it would affect my life. Or anyone who is almost 65. Who has a pension that does not meet our basic needs and this basic income that is not available for anyone over 65. You tell me how will it benefit me. If it does not help those in need, then it really is not a benefit for the people. What is the purpose of this benefit? You tell us.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

A Basic Income would help us in ways that most take for granted. It would give my children the ability to do activities like sports or summer camp, it would make sure all our bills are paid on time and not wondering what isn't always getting paid. It would give my in-laws the security in their retirement to know that there is still money in the bank if there was an emergency. Basically, it would make sure that all our basic needs were met or almost met and that at the end of the month there was still a chance to save something for my husband and I to retire when the time comes and my children to go to college when that time comes. We're asking that basic incomes meets everyone's basic needs, a roof, heating, clean water and food.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

There are two ways that a Basic Income Guarantee would affect my life: safety and support. I would have the safety to take risks and build my own company instead of bouncing from start-up to start-up. With support, my wife would have an income while going back to school and volunteering for a social good project called 1 Million Teachers. It would greatly reduce our stress and allow us to give of ourselves even more.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

Basic income will benefit me, my family, my community, my Province, my Country and the Planet I live on. Once the less fortunate in society that surround us are provided sufficient funds to live on, the entire dynamic of the community will change. People will be out all the time, not only at the end of the month or every two weeks when the cheques come in. The lives of these individuals will be immediately transformed from the life of despair that most of them face, to a life of carefree living not having to worry about will I have to starve myself this winter so I won't freeze. Another positive aspect of financial freedom is it decreases stress levels, in turn decreases one's health issues. This opportunity will free these individuals to pursue their dreams and have better lives. This will directly accelerate the economy in our communities.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

As automation replaces labor and the socially constructed inequities created by capitalism and domination culture increases poverty, we have a growing population that has no access to the restricted but sufficient resources of our country. Provincially, my disability is defined definite but insufficient to qualify for financial support. A Basic Income Guarantee means the beginning of the reduction of red tape, expenses eliminated around creating, managing and maintain red tape and save the government money. The minimally/unpaid labour I do in parent education and interpersonal relationship building would be sustainable. My loved ones and I would focus on values and contributing to society unencumbered by the collateral oppression afforded at ours/others expense currently distributed in systematic hierarchy of access to resources by the elite. A Basic Income Guarantee would begin to

support community co-creation, connection and harness the natural compassion and energy to rebuild our society into a sustainable one.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

For me to have a guaranteed basic income would mean less daily stress of how to juggle what little money I have each month to pay for shelter, utilities, food, and other basic needs. It is a proven fact that constant stress can cause negative health, mental & physical. Everyone in this great country should not have to worry how to have a decent healthy diet, especially children.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

Basic Income will provide basic necessities for those who cannot work and cannot be qualified as 'disabled' to be enrolled in the disability income program. It is almost impossible to prevent homelessness when one becomes incapable of working and pay for rent, insurance, food and toiletries. There are only two options: collect disability (if you are qualified as disabled) or go on social assistance (which has many requirements and used as a short-term solution). There are no other choices to turn to if one cannot find an income source. Basic Income will allow one to have a quality of life without having to go to a homeless shelter. Canada has a homeless rate like never seen before, and this is an optimal solution to prevent and eliminate.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

Having a basic income guarantee would be the best thing that could ever happen to us. It would take so much of the stress and worry of trying to pay the bills and buy groceries. We are in our 50's and 60's and it's a struggle to find work we are able to do because we both have health problems. We are so very tired. I pray we see this basic income guarantee come into effect soon.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

People who live far below the poverty line are unable to live with dignity and hope for the future. I often go hungry at the end of the month. I try not to think about what would happen if I had an unexpected expense. I do not make even short-term plans because I simply do not know whether I will have money to carry them out: poverty makes your horizons much smaller. A basic income would give me some breathing space. Just to know that I'll be able to both pay rent and eat healthy food would let me make plans for the future. I would be a normal, functioning member of society able to participate in society – adding value to it, rather than taking from it. In other words, I'd be able to have some kind of future. As it is, I'm just barely surviving.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

Basic income would hopefully help me and my son be able to afford rent and food. As of now, I struggle to pay rent and be able to afford to put food on the table. Sometimes I will go without so my son has. I really need this basic income because right now we are struggling so much.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

Basic income would help me tremendously. If I lose my job it would help me pay for some of my bills. The money is a very good safety net. The welfare and the EI system is not working, too many strings attached. Society is changing, full-time jobs are disappearing. The federal and the provincial governments must be on board with basic income. The federal government give family childcare money somewhere between \$450-550 per child tax-free. The people like myself that don't have families: if the government gives money to those individuals, people that don't have children should get money from the federal and provincial governments. Help all people who are Canadians.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

Working as an independent contractor in the audio/visual field in Canada, I can say it is a very tough and unsecured industry. There are months when you do not get a single job, mainly in winter, but even in the summer you cannot predict your hours or income. Employers usually do not pay any benefits, CPP or Employment Insurance so we are left without any protection in any case. For the individuals like me, basic income would ensure we can continue to work but not worry constantly about surviving. Also, the money would be used to build me as a business and then I would create more money than I am now. The plusses are endless but I will also say that with basic income no one would have to go on welfare which helps my community which in turn helps me.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

A Basic Income in my life would forever alter my path and change my prospects in life. I don't just pinch every penny, I shave some off so I can build extra pennies from metal filings. I feel like every aspect of life wants to exploit me and leave me hollow and broken but unable to even lick my wounds because the perpetual treadmill of life never stops accelerating. It's not that I am sick of running, it would just be nice to be able to run downhill from time to time or even run on a level surface to give my legs a break. Maybe even catch up so I can enjoy a bottle of water and catch my breath. I've never had a holiday. I've never had money a week before pay day. I've never been able to buy a pair of shoes because I want them, just when I need them. But the last thing I need right now is shoes. The basic necessities of life are out of reach for me and I'm falling apart. That's what would change in my life if I got \$1000 extra a month. Proper nutrition is where I would start, education, transportation, hope. A country should be ranked based on their poorest cities not their richest.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

The basic guarantee income would change my life and my children's lives forever. We're barely getting by as it is now, I am unable to work because of health issues and this would equal it all out and help me out a lot with bills and such. I can see this all being a major positive for everyone! I wish I had this in my life right now! Then maybe I wouldn't be so stressed most days! Thank you for your time.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

I think basic income would greatly help me and close ones. I think life would be easier. Right now, I find it difficult and almost a struggle everyday just to be healthy and comfortable, unless you have a high paying job but that's not always the case. And it's not always the job we want and don't enjoy it: that was me for 7 years until finally deciding to go back to school. Maybe there won't be as much a routine and more time for myself. I don't know how the rules should be, but I would still work. I would feel a weight lifted from day to day life. It's also tough if you live alone these days like me. I do all the cooking, cleaning, shopping, laundry, pay my bills, my clothes, but no time for myself. I'm in school full time and work on the weekends. Sometimes I'm a little behind on bills because every now and then I like to treat myself but not often. I could write a thousand words how it would affect my life so I'll keep it short. Thanks for listening.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

Basic income my monthly would guarantee my family add up more time together I would not have to spend as many hours working overtime in order to meet the demand of the rising cost of living....to offer more valuable entertainment and to our device is to educate and build social skills for my family. The question I have though about guaranteed income in Canada is where are we getting this money and our Prime Minister is spending at hand over fist is that delinquent it would anyways I'm not in agreement with the basic income that even though it would be a great thing where's that money coming from a mean were supporting all these refugees we have homeless people on the street now there would be a good cause for basic income is below to look after them make sure they get a home rather than

spending it on people that have jobs and tired getting by even yesterday she can come would be great for me but it is not in line with my way of thinking for a successful Canada!

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

If I had a basic income, where I wouldn't have to worry about where my next meal was coming from, it would give me more time I could put toward education and improving the lives of people in my life and in any community I find myself a part in. When someone reaches financial security in life, they don't just stop working, they just start doing work that matters. The world doesn't need more young adults wasting away in the service industry. It needs more young adults with the time to educate themselves and innovate. (*Man is born free and everywhere he is in chains.* Jean Jacques Rousseau)

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

BIG would allow me to increase my knowledge of what interests me and help in creating my own business. For me, there are a few possibilities but owning a small business would be preferable to the way I live right now. Currently 95% of my income goes to my general upkeep only. I have to rent right now as I don't have good credit due to high cost of previous health issues and expenses incurred in correcting my vision and from medical ailments. The BIG would help with getting my business going and possibly later employing some like-minded people who would enjoy learning from me. I am educated with formal certificates and diploma (BC Institute of Technology), so I would not need more education beyond a few initial short courses. My dream is to be working in one of my favourite activities and be self-sufficient. Right now, that possibility is very far away.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

As my husband and I are self-employed, and on the lower end of and at most times been at the poverty level of the income scale, the security of basic income would help me not to fear my old age. I fear getting old and not having enough money to live on. I fear being a homeless old woman. I fear being a burden to my adult children. This fear has actually made me wish that there was a suicide pill that all elderly people were able to request after the age of 65, so we can choose when to end our lives so as not to become a frail, scared and homeless burden, or in a government funded old age home where there is high risk of neglect and physical abuse. If basic income was to come in to play, It could help save for retirement.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

Allowing good citizens to focus on their careers without worrying about food or rent, will drive the economy, and allow all people with universal income to flourish without the need of a high paying job. It will drive hard working people to work harder and find creative means to better their country and their families. Generosity will come naturally and a freedom of information and technology to follow.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

I'm writing as a disabled person advocating for basic income. We are in need of security as disabled person. I no longer have nutritional supplements covered or swim pass. My husband is exempt from work but does earn our allowable earnings. We are still struggling. We pay \$180 for hydro and \$600 hundred for rent. I only receive \$575 for shelter. I need access to housing that can accommodate my mobility disabilities. I currently have one flight of stairs and took the place because no place to rent is \$600. It's small. I can barely use walker or wheel chair when mobility lost. There's no disability housing. We need security. I don't leave often when I've lost my mobility. We also need specialized bed because of spinal issues called zero gravity to help rest properly. I sleep on a wedge; it isn't comfortable for spinal issues. The fact is there are always extra costs for lifelong disabilities. Disabled women need security. My first marriage – there was violence because of my poor health. Disabled men need security as well. I hope basic income is heard. Currently, PWD programs in province are not enough.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

I have two adult children trying to make a go of it on the social assistance program. They both have mental problems, and it is extra hard for them to deal with all the struggles involved with this program. I feel this system does not at all work for people with disabilities. I also have seen it is a struggle for mothers with small children to get the little extra money they need each month to barely get by to the next month. My one son has a small home to heat and power to pay for plus gas, to allow him to get food and doctor visits and to the hospital. He needs a phone to keep in touch with his doctors. They [social assistance workers] claim they can't give him more than \$357/month. He needs 4.5 cords of wood to heat his house each winter so they told him to put \$100 aside each month from this \$357 leaving him with \$257 to buy [medical] drugs and live on. This makes people with mental problems want to give up on life, so you can see why a mother would worry about her child wanting to end it all at times, when they have to struggle so with their illness and no money for the things they need to get by from day to day. Life can be hard on poor people, but to have extra struggles when one has a mental illness is too much for them to handle.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

About five years ago my husband was murdered. I was left with 2 children, a mortgage I could not pay, debt and I was diagnosed with PTSD. I lost my home and was forced into bankruptcy. If not for my mother and my in-laws, my children and I would have ended up homeless. I had no time to grieve or to take care of my mental health and took any job I could find in order to support my children. Basic income would have allowed me and my children some sense of security and dignity. It would have allowed me a little time and money to seek help for both me and the kids. My children are older now and both work and attend school and I work full time but basic income would allow me to put a little something away for a rainy day and it would help my children with their own expenses. It can only help as it would guarantee people the time to seek meaningful work. It would allow young widows like me the time to heal and return to the work force free of debilitating anxiety and fear. Thank you.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

It would greatly make my life better as we are living on \$640 CPP right now! Very hard to live but when you're disabled, I had a failed spinal fusion and husband had 2 surgeries and now has a blood clot! Basic Income would make our life a lot better and we could at least eat properly and live better!

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

A basic income is needed to ensure that people meet with their basic needs and live with integrity, no matter what type of the job they do. Most times low wage earners can't afford all three meals for their self and their kids. Everything is going up except our wages. You pay the rent, or put food on the table? If an attempt to eat healthy food, the bills wouldn't get paid. The basic income is now a necessity to live in this world and in society. Life is for once and, in this life, one should have peaceful living. God has created all human beings as equal so why there being differential among us.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 12, 2017)

No stigma of being on welfare. No worries about being homeless. A reduction in the amount of suicidal thoughts I have. Being able to see my family again. The ability to make a fresh start somewhere else.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 12, 2017)

A basic income would allow me to rent a more suitable apartment to live in, allow for healthier choices in my grocery list. Overall, it would make you feel better as a human being.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 12, 2017)

I've tried and failed twice to go to university. Having a basic income would let me have a guarantee that if I run out of money there would be a safety net and that I wouldn't have to worry about not being able to afford rent, utilities and transportation. Even working while going to university has saddled me with unreasonable debt and it'd be nice to be able to focus without too much worry. At the same time, it would relieve me of the stress I feel when I see panhandlers. I would no longer feel obligated to give them any money and I wouldn't have the daily moral quandary of asking myself if they're looking to spend the money on drugs or alcohol, or on accommodation or food. At a stroke, a basic income would increase education in our country and massively alleviate the homeless issues that exist across the country.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 12, 2017)

As a single mother of two young children (6 & 7), basic income would greatly affect me in a positive way. It would firstly affect my ability to work and afford child care. I would also like to take a course and further my education. Apart from the basics of obvious necessities, my kids would benefit as well by allowing me to provide tutoring, counselling (for children whom are a product of divorce), even some extra-curricular activities. Unfortunately, everything has become so expensive that as a single parent even the basics are an everyday difficulty to provide. I would be expressively grateful for this program and would not in any way abuse it but in fact use it to my best ability to provide a great home and childhood for my kids.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 12, 2017)

For me Basic Income wouldn't change anything at all. I am 80 years old. My pensions and modest investments guarantee a stable and sufficient income. However, for many people whom I know, a Guaranteed Basic Income would make a significant difference. It is often not well understood that people who receive Social Assistance or work for minimum wage or less, experience the lack of income as constant uncertainty and stress. Obviously, a Guaranteed Basic Income would raise the level of income. But what is far more important is that it will greatly reduce the level of anxiety. However, for the Basic Income to be guaranteed it should not be tied to any government's political agenda. Just as access to Health Care, is assured so must the Basic Income. Any other arrangement will not alleviate uncertainty.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 12, 2017)

Basic Income is so important! Imagine feeling relieved to have some money coming in and being able to save up for first and last month's rent. Imagine feeling relieved to be able to pay off debts and have the money to fly in your children to visit you. Imagine feeling relieved to be able to build up your future by contributing to RDSP or RRSP. Imagine feeling relieved to be able to save money to put down deposit for house purchase. NOW...please ensure the landlords do not gouge anything. Please ensure the realtors and banks do not increase the price of houses. Please ensure the mental well-being in every Canadian!

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 13, 2017)

Basic income would be beneficial to myself and my family because I'm not working right now. I've been injured prior on a job. I had to have one of two operations on September 8th which was a total shoulder replacement. I have three children and the money is very tight. It would ease some of the financial stress off of me until I can recuperate from the first operation and get ready for the second. After both surgeries, plus two other spinal operations, I'll have problems going back to work but would still love to. I would be able to do a bit more and give a bit more to my boys and spend a little bit on me. I think this basic income idea is good but unfortunately not everyone needs it. Thank you.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 13, 2017)

I am Canadian. To be a Canadian citizen is to be a citizen of the world. I know, I have the right to truly live free. To learn, love, share or struggle, protest, pray or even hate. Having piece of mind to know my health is a right, reassures me as a human being that my life is important. Basic Income Canada reinforces that piece of mind and extends the hand of hope & true freedom to those whom are most forgotten. Showing our fellow countrymen of the world by example, how we can care for those in need and lose none of the rights of freedom that we've become accustomed to. Data proves this program actually increases those rights & freedoms socially and economically. How could one who shares the privilege of citizenship, in return not reach out to the extended hand of hope that is Basic Income Canada?

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 13, 2017)

The Basic Income Guarantee would allow me to stay home with my children for their formative years and allow me to spend quality time with them without worrying about money and bills. I believe it will allow the main caretaker to provide a secure relationship with a parent and help them feel loved and valued, which will impact their adult lives greatly. It would allow me to focus on getting an education and pursuing a career I would enjoy after they started school. It would improve all my families' mental health, because I could take time for myself without feeling selfish or worried. I would also be taking stress off my husband by being able to contribute more the household bills. It would also allow my children to pursue a career they found fulfilling instead of just doing what they had to survive.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 13, 2017)

Growing up with a single mother, then having to move a lot as a child: it made it hard for me to get a good education, get a good job, to keep a stable home for myself. Basic income would help me get my own apartment that doesn't have bugs that seem to be always in places I can afford. It would also help me focus on bettering myself for the future by being less stressful to try and go to school. I'm 26 years old and have been on my own since 17. I need help bettering my life.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 13, 2017)

Thank you for asking me this question and I'll respond in this way. The economies of the world are realizing there's not enough jobs for people and money is only a certificate of human energy. Every single person that is in poverty on this planet (not just talking about Canada, the whole world) is not in a secure position because the jobs are no longer there for others. Also, the people who are in poverty fall into bad credit and even if they are an entrepreneur to create their own business the capital is no longer available for them. Basic income guarantees every single man, woman and child with the security that takes them out of the poverty mindset. Poverty is a destruction of every single Society ever created.

With a basic income, every single man, woman and child is guaranteed a home and food. It is then that they can sit down and figure out how to improve themselves from that point on. It also takes away the problems of theft from desperation. It also takes away Desperate Measures, to secure one's addictions. I'm not in agreement with any addiction but when one is not in poverty any longer they can look at their addictions wholeheartedly and deal with themselves.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 13, 2017)

Let's describe how and why this would benefit me!!! Having 3 disabled kids when I was 25. My first had difficulties early on!!! Going to nursing assistant at the time delayed a year graduating!! Off to nursing had to start again due to kids issues!! These are years you form careers educationally and job wise!!! Tried again to finish nursing again 2 years. 2nd baby with disabilities!!! 3rd child the same!! Gave up my dreams and hopes for my kids so they will be contributing adults!! That's what matters right!! Finally, I would get ahead, be more financially secure!!! Less stressed!! Personally, I think a parent especially with a disabled member of family should get this automatically since they are saving the government expense, but giving up their careers and means!! It would benefit me tremendously!!!! Today I do

housecleaning!! Back break job to make ends meet!! My arms ache!! Legs, back!!! So, please bring it on!!!

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 13, 2017)

Having basic income would allow me a balanced diet instead of skipping fruits and vegetables. It would allow me to have proper meals instead of always relying on the same high sodium and processed food. It would allow healthier eating and a more varied diet. Having a basic income would also mean we would have to stop choosing between paying bills and eating or getting things that we need like replacing clothing, getting haircuts, or other essentials like not covered medications and hygiene products.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 13, 2017)

Basic income is about empathy for your fellow Canadian. Basic income is about financial stability for the family and the individual. Basic income is about removing the stigma of social assistance by extending that assistance to all. As our marketplace becomes more and more automated, basic income won't be an option, it will be an inevitability. Reduced human jobs = reduced purchasing power = reduced cyclical consumption. The leading corporations of the world know this, which is why basic income has support from the right and the left, rich and poor, individual and corporation. I am a self-employed freelance illustrator. Basic income would give me financial stability as I practice my craft. The market isn't a level playing field, some are born into good fortune and opportunity, some aren't. Basic income recognizes this basic fact and helps erode the cruel and incorrect assumption that poverty is the fault of the impoverished. Thanks for your efforts to move basic income forward!

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 14, 2017)

I think a guaranteed annual basic income would stabilize our communities. It will allow healing. Healthier food, less stress, ongoing support. We live in a capitalist society where you have to have money to live. Currently, it is a society of winners and losers. By guaranteeing an annual basic income to cover basic needs, people would have the security to find themselves, be educated, and understand what work they can do, to support themselves and the community.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 14, 2017)

With basic income, the government could save millions in welfare administration jobs and give everyone the ability to cover their base needs. If my family had basic income, then my wife could stay home longer with our children and I feel it would honor her more as a mother. It would remove anxiety and fear in our family about getting all our needs met and it would also increase our quality of life. I feel it would also reduce theft and help many people who are in survival mode. It would also give us the ability to save for our children's education. Let's give basic income a try.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 14, 2017)

I am a mother of 7 children. My husband works minimum wage even though he is a licensed electrician, as we live in a rural area. We cannot afford our own vehicle so we are limited on resources and miss out on a lot of medical and dental appointments. We feel like we are over qualified for welfare, but between hydro and housing/living costs, as well as making child support payments, we are not able to make ends meet. A basic income for everyone would greatly improve the quality of our lives. We would feel like human beings again, rather than beggars to even put food on our table. We rely on foodbanks and handouts just to survive, and it's hard to hold our heads up like this.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 14, 2017)

What would Basic Income mean to me? As the mother of an autistic child, I'll try to distill it down. Security: knowing that when my child reaches adulthood, he can live a life of dignity and meaning. Peace: freedom in the knowledge that my neurotypical child can make her own life, which includes loving her brother, but not having her life taken over by an obligation to look after him. Gratitude: I am fortunate to live in an intact family, where my spouse makes a reasonable living. I have dedicated myself to looking after my disabled child. This hasn't been easy – our vacations are frugal, and our other child doesn't have the lifestyle of her peers. But we've been fortunate to have this as a choice, and my heart breaks for the many families who have no options. Sleep: it is no exaggeration to say that I wake most nights, wondering what will become of my child when I'm gone. Was I wise to give up work to manage his care? Would I have been better off paying someone else to look after him while I tried to make enough money to pay for that care plus manage to earn enough to save more for his future? Like all families, we have done what we thought best. Time will tell if we made the right decisions. There are so many reasons that Basic Income makes sense right now in Canada. I hope you'll consider the ones I have listed above.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 14, 2017)

With the way employers hire people now (only part-time or seasonal), sometimes there is nothing to fall back on when times get hard in the winter months. With basic income, there will be a safety net for all of us.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, September 15, 2017)

Basic income could make my life comfortable enough to keep on pursuing creative projects, that are what I find most rewarding, but that take a long time before becoming profitable. Having the security of my basic needs met would free me to refine my focus even more on my artistic passions and be able to volunteer more in my community.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, BC, September 11, 2017)

I am a resident of British Columbia. I have a small business and my income varies month to month. I struggle to keep my business going due to lower back problems. I am trying to get by with my bills. It's very difficult. I am in my mid-fifties and am a single woman living with my cat. This basic income would help someone like me. Rents are out of control and renting is extremely difficult when the vacancy is almost at zero. If my landlord decides to sell, well, I could find myself homeless: this from a woman who has worked since I turned 17 years old. Does anyone realize how hard it is to get by these days? It's so scary when there is no second income to help. I'm so tired all the time plus I struggle with a lot of pain. I have tried to manage without applying for disability. People need help today to make ends meet. I will pray this basic income will happen. So many people are struggling with similar circumstances. People need the help of basic income today. Please, let's get this going. Thanks for your time.

Anonymous (Burnaby, BC, September 11, 2017)

I live in senior's housing in Burnaby. Often, I see people going to garbage bins and looking for empty cans or bottles so they can buy basic groceries. Once in a while we get donation of baskets with bread and it is gone in few minutes. Every one of us have to watch every penny we spend. We have a roof over our heads, but there is no one to fix anything in the suites. Do we deserve to live our seniors' days in safety and clean places? Carpets in some units are so bad (20 years old or more): broken counter tops, leaky faucets, ants, mice... just to name a few of the problems. Management try their best but there is no funding for what has to be done. Our government is spending money all over the world. What about their own people? Are we forgotten? The income supplement does not meet the standard of living. Most of us live below the poverty line. What is wrong with Ottawa? We can't afford

medication, hearing aids, optical glasses, dental or dentures...the list goes on and on. For once it will be nice if somebody would look closely at our lives and try to help those who need the most.

Anonymous (Calgary, AB, September 7, 2017)

As a new accounting graduate, I was told I would have a job. I chose a lucrative career. I have a high GPA, I worked in accounting and volunteered while networking for 4 straight years. I don't have a job. Does that mean I am lazy? No. It saddens me to know that I don't qualify for any sort of financial help while on this journey to become a productive adult. Many potentially productive students don't have the financial resources to look for a good job anymore. Our money has run out. Loans kick in. We are the future of Canada: the tech-savvy tax expert, the outgoing auditor. With Universal Basic Income, we will achieve those dreams. Take it from me, a new grad who has experienced it firsthand- right here, and now. If our Homeland doesn't invest in good talent...who will?

Anonymous (Calgary, AB, September 11, 2017)

I am a senior living in Calgary who actually has a basic income in the form of a pension and Old Age Security. A national program of a guaranteed basic income, adequate to secure a modest life style for everyone, would go a long way to reduce poverty in my country. I would be proud to pay more taxes to know that in my Canada there are no hungry and food insecure folks, or homelessness. The full potential of all our citizens could be realized. The critical caring work, now mostly unpaid, could be valued and increased. My community would blossom, and we would all be happier.

Anonymous (Clementsport, NS, September 3, 2017)

I've thought for a long time – and I'm 84 years old – that a Basic Income Guarantee (BIG) is the best way to go for so many people who don't have a decent job. I believe everyone should be free to do the work they believe in and are capable of – something socially useful and not damaging to others or to the environment. I was trained as an elementary school teacher and worked in that field for nine years. Then the Quebec government increased the class size and reduced the number of teachers. If I'd had a BIG, I would have felt more appreciated in my later role as an unpaid homemaker and community volunteer, which I did to allow my husband to continue in his chosen career which he enjoyed. Without the BIG, many people don't have the option of staying home as I did in that situation.

Anonymous (Cobourg, ON, September 11, 2017)

I'm sending this letter in answer to what it's like to be living on the income that ODSP currently pays. I have been a single father of a now 18-year old. I was also at a disadvantage as I was not getting child support for the 10 years that he's been in my care, but even if I did receive child support, ODSP would have taken it all anyway. (A practice they have since changed). As you may imagine the difficulty living on ODSP is very difficult (food banks and many others). I felt I was advantaged a little because of the Canada Child Tax Benefit I was receiving until he turned 18. I always had a couple of weeks hardship even with the extra CCTB entitlement. However, my son is not working at the moment he continues to pursue work to help make ends meet. The extra stress of having less money in already difficult times isn't good for anyone's health. I expect more down times with no money for possibly a long time. Its only obvious that a basic income guarantee would allow us to be happier, healthier, productive members in our community.

Anonymous (Edmonton, AB, September 4, 2017)

Basic income will alleviate the stress of not being able to pay for monthly bills such as rent/mortgage, utilities and food. I was on EI for a year and it helped me focus my efforts on finding a new job and contributing to my community instead of juggling multiple jobs just to be able to feed ourselves. I have some friends whose EI has run out and are still unemployed due to the economy. They are struggling and fighting depression at the same time. As their friends, we are emotionally supporting them but we don't have the finances to help them out. Basic income will be a godsend to them and society as a whole will benefit. Being able to have the basic living necessities is wonderful and if people want more,

they can choose occupations or professions that they enjoy doing, instead of being a slave to money in order to live.

Anonymous (Etobicoke, September 3, 2017)

Basic income would greatly affect my life and standard of living. I'm on ODSP which only provides \$498 for basic shelter. I live in Etobicoke, Ontario and you can't even get a room for that amount. Apartments start at the lowest \$800/month. This is not fair because it is not my fault I am disabled and can't work. I have worked since I was 17 yrs of age until I became disabled at 50 yrs of age. Although I have contributed greatly to this country, they are not taking care of me. I feel that we in Canada should clean up our own backyard first by taking care of our SENIORS, VETS and people on ODSP. We should be eliminating poverty in Canada before providing funds to other countries and taking in refugees.

Anonymous (Etobicoke, September 4, 2017)

Enough money is my #1 concern for my adult daughter's future. This security would bring her great relief and freedom from fear. It would take away the stress, anxiety and pressures. It would make me happy to see her smile and feel joyous and peaceful. Also, I would no longer need worry about her surviving when I'm gone since she does not qualify for assistance. I totally agree with this concept for everyone.

Anonymous (Gatineau, QC, September 3, 2017)

Hi. From my own personal perspective (in the system we live in) I more than welcome UBI. Many people nowadays feel great insecurity and experience big stress when they think about their future and future of their children. Many people don't know what to do. Many suffer from structural unemployment and feel that they are left behind, outdated, obsolete. They agree to any job there still is. However, I believe that situation will get worse. Labor market is squeezing at a very high speed. Less and less people can find a job, any job. Jobs are lost primarily to automation and from what I read more than 30% of jobs more will be lost in the next 5 years in Canada. Because of that, we will see more violent crimes, more suicides, more riots. That is why UBI is very, very important. It will remove constant stress people live in today. People will be able to work on the meaningful and important projects. People will be liberated from monotonous jobs that they have and start thinking about oceans, space, nature, spend more time with their children. The society will be healthier both physically and mentally.

Therefore, UBI at this point in time is very important and I believe it can save the world for now. I actually think that anyone, not only the poorest people should be granted with UBI. And I hope that someday in the future I myself will be recipient of UBI, who knows. It would definitely change the life of my family for the better. We will spend more time with our children. My wife was thinking about writing books, she is too stressed now to really devote herself to it. I might start doing volunteer work. It would be very satisfactory to help other people while knowing that your own family is also doing well. It is in nature of people to care for each other and I think that UBI guarantee will let people find this kindness and love in themselves and open to other people and not step over other people heads to survive. Thank you for your attention.

Anonymous (Georgetown, ON, September 4, 2017)

I am out of work for two years. Businesses became a tough arena of battlefields where humanity and respect for anyone's contribution to society and nation is absent. People has been replaced with computers and now with robots. I know because I worked before. I have parents to take care of, and bills to pay. The Basic Income Guarantee will help me a lot to deal with that. Then, I do not have to think about leaving Canada for better pastures. It means I can do something to make my life better. I can start investing in myself, look for self-employment and regular employment opportunities at the same time. Because work builds human's character. Having taking care of basic necessities like food,

health care and place to sleep under roof, I can focus on pursuing things that I am passionate about and make life better if possible.

Anonymous (Hamilton, ON, September 4, 2017)

In these days economy it is not easy to achieve our goal. Price of everything increase everyday. What about work wages not that much anyway. That basic income if it is provided to anyone especially the one who pay their tax elderly disable people etc. that will be great. Please find a way to start filling these gaps financially among Canadian and people living on this wonderful land. Struggling I need that little extra money.

Anonymous (Hamilton, ON, September 6, 2017)

First thing I do, I try to sell my condo and try to get a loan from a bank to buy a 3-bedroom bungalow because we are 4 people living in a 2-bedroom apartment. I am on ODSP and with my CPPD barely make \$1200 a month. No bank can give me a \$100,000 loan. Keep the good job you are doing.

Anonymous (Hamilton, ON, September 6, 2017)

As someone who is on ODSP with generalized anxiety and panic disorder my life daily is a struggle. I currently work part-time. I have no choice because I cannot live on ODSP income alone: it is not enough. I have very little help and family. Most of the time I feel unsure of my future and daily living because I don't have very much money and forced to stay in my apartment that I've lived in for 10 years because I could not afford the rent to move out. ODSP only gives you under \$500 in rent a month. The cost of living has increased over many years and we are not up to par with it. It would be nice not to have to sacrifice everything else in order to get a basic income like drug and dental and to be able to live like a lot of people who are living Better Lives. People who are able to work and function properly everyday: we should not be left behind or in the cold just because we have problems or were born a certain way and have to deal with it in life. Therefore, I think a decent basic income would benefit everyone including myself. Perhaps we could have a brighter future, a better day, a better life and not be punished for our problems or issues. We need more Income for food, basic needs instead of relying on food banks. Its demoralizing and does not make for a happy life.

Anonymous (Kelowna, BC, September 5, 2017)

Here's my answer to your question. Thanks for your work in supporting people in financial distress. It is hard enough healing oneself of an "incurable" illness that has strong connections to deeply rooted stressors without having to report to a crazy, confused, complicated, and mistrusting organization every month. In BC, it is called "Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation". In order to keep my sanity and sense of humour, I covertly call it "Ministry of Social Disaster and Social Insanity". It fits! It also helps me reduce my fear and my stress. It would help if I could get out from underneath the threat of a ministry that seems to see people who have lost their ability to work for health reasons beyond their immediate control as a burden on society and guilty of fraud even if proven innocent. Perhaps a Basic Income Guarantee would help this way. It might help me recover my health and my ability to work again more rapidly.

Anonymous (Kelvington, SK, September 15, 2017)

I'm a person with a disability that prevents me from earning a living. Because I was disabled at a young age, I did not have time to accumulate much towards CPP Disability. A basic income sufficient for my needs would mean that I could live independently, and afford to pay for help, instead of living with and relying on aging family members. It would mean I could afford medicines, medical treatments, and good nutrition. It would mean an application process connected to filing income tax, something I already do, rather than multiple, complicated program applications which are physically hard to complete. It would mean feeling respected, responsible for managing my basic income without supervision. It would mean consistency no matter which province I lived in. It would mean less stress. It would restore my faith that

Canada is a country that takes care of its citizens. Thank you.

Anonymous (Kingston, ON, September 10, 2017)

The implementation of a Basic Income Guarantee will affect my life and my loved ones by benefiting the overall social structure in following ways:

- Removes the burden off expensive provincial social assistance programs with a myriad of bureaucratic procedures for qualifications and allows departments to focus on local job/business creation for people who wish earn more than the basic income.
- Allows citizens to maintain purchasing power in the economy as the private sector continues cut labour costs and automate manufacturing/service sectors.
- Provides a stable funding for refugees and immigrants settling into the country and overwhelming current assistance programs.
- Will prevent various stresses from manifesting in an overburdened public health system.
- Can serve as a catalyst for other countries to adopt a similar system to maintain its citizens well-being and allow the time for citizens to restructure their lives to the realities of a new economy.

A Basic Income Guarantee is imperative for the short-term and long-term well-being of Canadians.

Anonymous (London, ON, September 11, 2017)

I think a basic income will benefit me and others on ODSP. It will let people not have to choose between good rent or hydro and let people make healthier choices in what they eat. As a person on ODSP I know how hard it can be to eat fresh fruits and vegetables. So, a basic income can benefit me and other people with low incomes. It will probably problem reduce hospital visits for many people.

Anonymous (Montreal, QC, September 6, 2017)

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau. There are two primary reasons I support a basic income. As a young Canadian theatre artist, I feel strongly that a basic income would improve my life measurably by providing a sturdy foundation from which to create my work. Artists are constantly struggling to maintain a sustainable income and must make big sacrifices to their dreams and ambitions in order to pay for basic necessities such as food and housing. I believe that in today's world, art is more important than even to return a sense of wonder to a world starved of it. Art has the power to heal, to bind communities together, and to imagine new worlds. A basic income for artists would mean the chance to continue to pursue this ambition without constant stress and without having to sacrifice a decent lifestyle.

Secondly, I believe that the technological future demands a basic income. The advancement of automated robotic technologies and artificial intelligence means that many jobs in the service, manufacturing, and data analysis industries (to name a few) will be radically reimagined without the need of human beings. A basic income prepares Canada for this inevitable economic revolution.

I've read that a significant portion of government aid funding doesn't even reach its target demographic because of 'red tape.' People who need help are not always able to reach out for help, or are not always aware that help is available. A guaranteed income would alleviate this issue and make for a more fair and happy Canada. Thank you for your consideration.

Anonymous (Montreal, QC, September 6, 2017)

I would like to be given the permission to earn money through my art. I am a gifted professional artist. But I am stuck with rules you have for pensioners. I am not your typical pensioner. I could earn money for the next twenty years. But since you penalize the pensioner who makes money by cancelling the guaranteed allowance of \$500, I am dissuaded to earn. Would it not be fruitful to allow an artist pensioner to make money without cessation of guaranteed allowance? This would allow her to contribute to society while increasing her output. There is uncertainty in sales which might be sporadic and sparse, there is no telling. Thus, one should not be having the tax collector breathing down one's neck. If I become famous and make more than enough, I would be happy to pay taxes to make a monetary contribution.

Anonymous (New Glasgow, NS, September 3, 2017)

Having a guaranteed basic income would allow me to live peacefully. I am mentally ill and have been unable to keep a job for very long. I am on welfare. I always feel down on myself because people have no respect for those on welfare. I feel like if everyone got basic income, I wouldn't have to worry about this stigma, which would increase my mood and quality of life. As the world faces widespread automation and job losses, I believe guaranteed basic income is a viable economic solution.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, ON, September 3, 2017)

I believe that a Basic Income for everybody would be beneficial to people's well-being and the overall economy. If people had a minimum amount of money to provide at least the basics it could improve their health, potentially have less impact on the health care system, and potentially stimulate the economy as people spend their money. It seems like a big cost however there are probably studies that could be done to show the benefits outweigh the costs to society and people potentially become healthier and happier as a result of a Basic Income. I am just a 55-year old male in Ontario and I support the concept and implementation of a Basic Income for all Canadians.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, ON, September 4, 2017)

I am disabled with several illnesses that I need a proper diet for, heart disease and diabetes. Even with the extra allowed on ODSP for diet I still do not have enough to eat properly all month. Being so poor isolates us from society. Depression is high. We are a beaten down part of society.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, ON, September 7, 2017)

As a person on disability with only a limited ODSP amount of \$1198, this amount doesn't give me enough to actually afford my own place unless I want to live in a dump. So, I have to rent rooms. If I got the basic income it would allow me to have more money to eat healthy and live in safer places as well as get the help I need to pay for things like chiropractic massage therapy and other things I cannot afford to pay for. I have many allergies with food now and am forced to buy more expensive food as a result of this. So, my health would benefit hugely by the set income that would be \$500 more than I receive now. Also gives me more money to travel by bus to try and volunteer somewhere. Thank you.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, ON, September 11, 2017)

As a student, a basic income would greatly affect my life. I would be able to pay for my tuition without relying on OSAP as well as pay for any school supplies or books that I may need for my courses. Bottom line is that minimum wage with minimal hours doesn't cut it. I find myself praying I have enough money to pay for my existing bills and have enough money left over to pay for groceries and gas. With a basic income, I would be able to better budget myself with the necessities that I require to maintain a reasonable life, especially given how few hours I get at work as it stands thanks to school.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, ON, September 11, 2017)

I am desperate to live. I drive a school bus and have for 12 years on part time minimum wage. I am also topped up from ODSP. For 2 months a year I live on nothing since EI doesn't usually help me. I cannot live on my own financially so I am forced to live under a controlled man. I live with depression, anxiety and fear of people. No teeth cause could never afford dental. I have 3 dependants who also struggle in hell thanks to poverty and never having enough. So many times, suicide crossed my mind. But was not raised selfish.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, ON, September 11, 2017)

Currently I must decide food or clothes that fit, to saving and fixing my car, a 14 yr old car that allows me to work at a job to help keep me from losing my apartment. A study to find out how people would improve their life is ridiculous. I will be dead by the time this is given to ODSP recipients. As a person who has no choice but to live well below the poverty line, my income is about \$16,000, approximately what you pay in taxes. Forget studies and just give us all an income to improve our life and dignity!! Let me have a budget with enough for ALL of my needs. I need new glasses but won't be able to afford them this year. Think about the people, not your studies...NOW PLEASE! More money, better food, better health, less government spending.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, ON, September 11, 2017)

It would help me get out of this abuse environment and live on my own. Am on ODSP and cannot afford to move or live on my own. I can only hope.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, ON, September 11, 2017)

The honest answer is I won't be stressed out anymore. I have nine people in my house because four extended family members cannot support themselves. They all have minimum wage jobs. I am off work because of health reasons but don't qualify for any sort of assistance, not sick enough for disability. My family members helping with rent means I'm getting income, even if after rent is paid there's nothing left. Ontario Works says my rent is too high to receive any help and even if I got help, helping my family not be homeless disqualifies me anyway. My wife suffers from PTSD and anxiety; my eight-year old daughter is starting to show signs of severe anxiety; my three-year old is autistic; a friend of ours moved in to help with the three-year old but doesn't work because of borderline personality disorder, yet can't get disability as they have been denied several times.

My family has existed in this grey area between getting support and doing well enough to disqualify ourselves for years. The stress of juggling everything the last decade has ruined my body and mind...I can barely take care of myself let alone my family anymore. I watched a co-worker of mine happily collect a full welfare cheque while holding two full time jobs because they were committing fraud and wanted to do it myself but of course I have morals and ethics and thus get nothing.

Universal Basic Income would take me from a useless lump, stressed out about every dollar coming in and out of our life, to someone who can do the physical therapy needed to actually rejoin life again. It's nowhere near as short as you needed...sorry. My situation cannot be summed up in 150 words any more than my situation exists in a bubble. I'm sure there are others with worse stories and those who need more help. There are also detractors who don't want to give me help "because I'm not working hard"...those people can come live in my shoes for two days and tell me I'm not working hard. The selfish elements of society need to be shamed until they remember their humanity.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, ON, September 11, 2017)

Basic income, along with the new minimum wage expected in January, in Ontario, may for a temporary time alleviate the basic everyday worries about making ends meet. For those of us who are already

earning above the current minimum wage, but below the newly expected rate, we are not even living paycheck to paycheck. Many of us are putting in an excess of 50-hour weeks and not only do we get nailed on deductions but also get nailed with paying extra taxes at year's end. People that earn under \$17 per hour with a 40-hour work week can barely get by. We all need (not just want) to replace our cars. Most people I own very little that is new, and I mean something under 2 years old. This is why the economy has turned to crap – the broad base has no money to buy necessities much less anything for luxury.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, ON, September 11, 2017)

If we were to be chosen, we would be able to maintain affordable housing, have adequate, and healthy foods to eat, with less dependence upon the food banks, and we would be able to pursue sustainable employment, to make our lives much better, instead of depending upon the Ontario Works System, which was a hand up when we needed it, but we need to be able to move forward, not stay stuck in the system. I could also get my pardon, which would also open doors for employment. I believe we would be ideal candidates for the Basic Income Canada Pilot Project. We look forward to hearing from you, and thank you for your time.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, ON, September 11, 2017)

The new minimum wage and this Guaranteed Basic Income will not make a difference within the next year simply due to the practices of Predatory Capitalism. We may not need constant increases in the minimum wage or the basic income guarantee if the government would stop bowing to the whims of banks and corporations and start controlling the constant increase in prices through legislation and also start taxing fair and equal regardless of income level. There should be NO tax exemptions for anyone, even churches and charities. The economic burden on the average citizen is just too much and we all deserve a break.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, ON, September 11, 2017)

I am 33 years old and have keratoconus. This is a progressive disease which can lead to blindness and the need for a corneal transplant. There is a surgery which can halt the progression of the disease preventing the need for a transplant called corneal crosslinking, but it is not covered by OHIP. I have been trying to save for this surgery for 4 years, unfortunately as my husband and I are living paycheck to paycheck I am not sure how much longer it will take. Every time we have to take a sick day or miss work because our daughter is sick and needs to stay home from daycare we struggle to even pay our bills for the month. And of course, the longer I wait the further the disease progresses. Basic income would allow us to continue to save towards the surgery, even if we had to miss a day of work.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, ON, September 11, 2017)

I believe that the Basic Income Guarantee would change my life. I'm living on Ontario Works and applying for Disability due to my illness. I don't even have enough money to pay my rent let alone eat anything that's healthy. It has caused me severe depression! If I had a basic income guarantee then I would be able to pay my rent and eat healthy and hopefully not feel so depressed all the time. Living with a chronic illness is depressing enough. PLEASE Mr. Trudeau, make this happen! Thank you for listening.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, ON, September 11, 2017)

BI would not affect me directly because I am beyond the 18-64 age bracket, and I currently receive CPP & OAS benefits. However, I am generally in favour of the project and have developed a revenue generating program to assist the province in providing partial long-term funding to cities, municipalities and Indigenous people. I have spoken to Assistant Deputy Minister Karen Glass and have written to the Minister of Labour about it. I am awaiting a response.

Anonymous (place of residence withheld, ON, September 13, 2017)

I could really use this. I am a single mom from an abusive relationship for 15 years. I'm on Ontario Works. It's hard for me to find work so I am at an adult learning school to upgrade.

Anonymous (Ottawa, ON, September 4, 2017)

I am originally from New Brunswick. I had to leave there 6 times since age 25 due to a poor economy and the lowest 1960s-level welfare in Canada that keeps people hungry. I presently am below the poverty line in Ottawa. I used to make \$24 an hour – top of my field in medical transcription, but the field was automated. Due to diversity, bilingualism and only having a college education, I was pushed to the bottom in my country, a country that should be hiring me FIRST. Programs to retrain Canadians here for centuries have been cut out. This income would allow me to live in dignity. 16th generation Canadian.

Anonymous (Ottawa, ON, September 11, 2017)

As a single, older woman with limited resources, no family and no workplace pension, I am feeling extremely vulnerable. A guaranteed annual income at the poverty line could be a lifesaver for people like me. On a less personal note, it seems clear that the old wage-labour economic model will soon need to be replaced. A guaranteed annual income should be part of any new model.

Anonymous (Penticton, BC, September 3, 2017)

A Basic Income would allow me to buy shoes and clothing, stop worrying about money, and regain a measure of trust. I would have more creative energy to write my fantasy trilogy that is already fully outlined. My total income is less than \$400 per month. It all goes to food. My recently retired husband pays for everything else on his meager pension. I have been unemployed since being denied Workers Compensation for PTSD caused by understaffing at the hospital where I worked for 13 years in front line patient care. A Basic Income would allow me to feel alive again instead of feeling like a disposable object discarded onto the garbage heap of society. People like me would immediately buy stuff we need, which would stimulate the economy very quickly and efficiently. Please institute a Basic Income for Canada now.

Anonymous (Powell River, BC, September 13, 2017)

I am a 68 woman who has been retired for 3 years. This means that I am subsisting on OAS and CPP and a bit of savings that will soon run out if I don't stop using it to fill in the gaps that my pensions do not cover. Having the basic income would mean a lot of good things for me (and many others), such as paying my mortgage without me having to give up paying other debts, etc.; allowing me to go to events that interest me (concerts, art shows, and other cultural and fun happenings in my community); being able to afford seniors' housing in the not-too-distant future and being able to afford long-term care when the time comes; continuing to pay for electricity, telephone, Internet, and other utilities; stop worrying about my financial situation and how it will affect me as I age.

Anonymous (Red Deer, AB, September 3, 2017)

I think Introducing a universal basic income to Canada would be a great idea, not only would it help with reducing poverty it would help stop it from ever happening again. In the Alberta oil and gas industry we don't have consistent work, a lot of it can be seasonal and when that slow time comes around a lot of people are put in stressful positions to keep a roof over their head or food on the table. It's painful to go through considering our geographic location. We have pretty harsh winters and it really takes a toll on people. A lot of people suffer from anxieties and depression that are due to the environment we're living in, the situation of our economy etc. It can be really hard to see that happen to friends and family but providing a universal basic income would be a crutch for when people need it the most.

Anonymous (Scarborough, ON, September 11, 2017)

I went back to school a few years ago as a mature student to improve my economic situation. The idea was to not only get a better job but to build a career. However, the economy has changed and I continue

to struggle with finding work in my field, although it has been five years since I completed my studies. A Basic income would provide me and those that I love with more security and options. Security and peace of mind in knowing that our basic monthly and daily expenses are covered. Further, those of us who are struggling in this economy feel that we have little recourse or choices. A basic income guarantee would give us more alternatives. For instance, I would like to open my own business one day. A basic income would provide the opportunity to further develop and achieve this goal.

Anonymous (Springhill, NS, September 4, 2017)

A Basic Income Guarantee would greatly affect the quality of my life and that of my loved ones. Every month I and others I know struggle because we are living paycheck to paycheck and the money runs out long before our next payday. And the noose keeps tightening with increasing costs for almost everything. I haven't been able to eat properly for a long time, house repairs have become a thing of the past, I can't afford to keep my vehicle repaired, and as for helping any family member in need, this is impossible. There is never enough money. More of our tax dollars need to go to Canadians to ensure food, housing, and heat; the hunger and homelessness problem is terrible. Having more income each month would transform my life. It would remove the constant strain of trying to live on pennies, struggling to scrape by each month.

Anonymous (St. Catharines, ON, September 11, 2017)

Dear Prime Minister. Basic income would help me and my growing family stop worrying about diapers and baby formula, and begin saving for my children's future. With minimum wage going up to \$14 here in Ontario, the cost of living is going right up with it. With basic income, we could guarantee my kids a future where they will be financially secure and can pursue higher education.

Anonymous (Stratford, ON, September 3, 2017)

I truly believe that a basic income guarantee would vastly improve the quality of my life as well as my physical health. I am a young woman on ODSP, fighting every day to recover from severe PTSD due to horrific abuse in my childhood that continued into adulthood. Children's Aid never found me, and I was not able to escape and get safe until I was 25 years old. I have no family and am quite alone. I struggle every month to make ends meet, and must always choose between eating 3 square meals a day, medications not covered by the drug plan, or transportation to get to medical appointments and trauma recovery programs. Because I am very committed to my recovery, I usually go without adequate food because it seems like the best way to move forward with my life is to get as much professional therapy and support as I am able to access.

I am very socially isolated, and part of the reason is that I do not have money to pay for activities and things in the community that I would enjoy getting involved with. I cannot buy clothes or other things that most young women consider part of normal life. Living in deep poverty is a huge barrier to becoming integrated in a normal and safe society. I am very interested in the idea of getting a PTSD service dog, as my professional supports feel it would be very beneficial for me. However, that is also out of the question due to financial costs.

I have been following the Basic Income project for a number of years. I truly believe it would be a much wiser use of government resources. It is very demoralizing and stressful to continually deal with all the hassle and red tape of social assistance. While I am very grateful for the assistance I do receive, it is not enough to provide decent shelter, food and clothing and other basic living costs. The process is very stigmatizing and demoralizing. It often feels like social assistance is a punishment for having survived my life up until this point. Having a Basic Guaranteed Income would allow me to focus my energy more on recovery and building a good life for myself. It would allow me to integrate much more into society and become a contributing member of this beautiful country of Canada. Thank you!

Anonymous (Sudbury, ON, September 11, 2017)

As my EI runs out, and no job prospects I am terrified of becoming homeless. Welfare pays \$600 a month, my rent is \$700 plus phone and internet is another \$75, medication is another \$90. Now how can I afford to live off of \$600.00 a month? You can't find an apartment for \$600 and what about food? Guess it is either starve to death or freeze to death, take your pick. I am a single 57-year old woman from Sudbury, ON. I did my duty of having 2 children, both doing well. I have been working since I was 15 years old. I guess I am not useful anymore and get what I deserve. Sorry, but that's the way I feel. If the Guaranteed Income was implemented it would take a lot of stress off of me and I wouldn't be so stressed out about having to worry about staying alive. I have even thought about going to the USA and crossing into Canada just to get housing. I wonder if that would work? The waiting list for Geared to Income housing in Sudbury is 5 years. I will probably be dead by then and it wouldn't matter anyways.

Anonymous (Toronto, ON, September 3, 2017)

The things that I'm most passionate about and talented at aren't professional careers. Instead I work "day jobs" as a software developer, either part-time or full-time with periods between when I live off savings to pursue my dreams. This lifestyle has always meant that I'll have a harder time when I retire, but to wait until I'm 60 before I pursue my dreams seems torturous. For the past 8 years my day job was web development for a start-up as a contractor until I was unfairly laid off without notice and no compensation. The financial stress is considerable, leaving me digging into my already stretched retirement savings. A basic income would better allow me pursue what I love without destroying my future financial stability. For me and many others, the good that we can create is vastly limited by an economy that prioritizes a return on investment instead of generated social good.

Anonymous (Toronto, ON, September 4, 2017)

Financial security is something I think about every minute of every day. This would be a huge burden off my heart. Freedom from fear, stress and anxiety. I would feel such joy just to be able to live my life no longer constantly worrying.

Anonymous (Toronto, ON, September 4, 2017)

How might a Basic Income Guarantee affect my life? I am an emerging writer and filmmaker (I got my B.A. at an Ivy League University, then got my MFA from a top film school in screenwriting). I pay my bills by freelancing as a script reader and copy editor, while also teaching screenwriting and directing to undergraduates at a university. It's a lot of stress and hustle just to be able to make rent – if I even make enough – and by the time I get to that point, I don't have much time left over for a social life, let alone my own work as a writer and filmmaker. If I had a Basic Income Guarantee, I could devote my time to my filmmaking, while perhaps occasionally teaching (since it's something I enjoy). I would no longer have to deal with the anxiety of freelancing, and that would be a HUGE weight off my shoulders.

Anonymous (Toronto, ON, September 5, 2017)

Prime Minister Trudeau. The basic income would help me so much. I can eat and not have to worry do I pay rent or buy food as rent is very high in Toronto. I haven't been able to buy clothes or shoes in years due to the fact I don't have the money. I'm sleeping on a broken bed that the springs are coming out of. If I get more money I can get these items I need. Christmas this year is going to be very bad. Can't even buy Christmas gifts for my grandkids: that's very sad to me. If the basic income comes into effect I can buy food, pay rent, maybe have a Christmas for once without having to worry where my next meal is coming from. Going to food banks every month for food that only last for 3 days. I have to walk to my doctors' appointments because I don't have the money. I'm getting too old to be walking miles for an appointment when I'm sick. I have COPD/asthma which makes it harder for me. I just know if I get extra money to help me out for food, rent etc., it would help me so much. Wouldn't have to worry if I'll be living on streets every month. I would have to throw all my stuff away. I would love to sit down and have a meal with real food. Sorry to say, I have eaten cat food because I was so hungry. That's how bad it is. I know the basic income would help me out so much. Thank you. PLEASE HELP US!

Anonymous (Victoria, BC, September 4, 2017)

I suffer from a neurological pain disorder that makes it impossible to work, but my CPP-D [Canada Pension Plan – Disability] was denied. Money is always a stress for me, and my health problems are worsened by stress. With Basic Income, my life would change. Beyond being able to afford to live, I could get the physiotherapy and other supportive therapies I need to improve my health. It would mean independence and stability. It would mean actually being able to take care of myself.

Anonymous (Waterloo, ON, September 7, 2017)

A basic income represents stability and independence. It would mean that as a disabled young person, I would not have to panic about being unable to work full-time when I leave school in a few years, and thus be unable to financially support myself. I would not have to be terrified of the horrible paradox of having a higher cost of living than the non-disabled population, but being far more likely to end up in poverty. It means not having to worry about struggling to find any job at all, as the job market is tough and my options are far more limited than most people's. It means never having to navigate the ridiculous hurdles to qualify for social assistance, and being forced to live on a paltry sum that wouldn't be enough for a non-disabled person even if I qualified. For me, a basic income is life itself.

Anonymous (White Rock, BC, September 3, 2017)

How Would Basic Universal Income Affect My Life? I am turning 55 years of age this year. I have not had a Full Time Job since January 2, 2009. Simply Put, Basic Universal Income would at the very least hopefully help me keep a Roof Over My Head into my Old Age. I am Single and have No Children or Family. Canadian Human Right Commission File Number: 2010-0504 (DENIED). After 20 years of working within a Federal Government Crown Corporation I was Maliciously Terminated on January 2, 2009. Submitted an initial Canadian Human Rights Commission complaint which was refused because the Commissions Representative DID NOT LIKE THE WORDING of my Complaint. After waiting almost 1 year, the Canadian Human Rights Commission sent me a Form Outlining specific Questions to answer regarding my Complaint. I feel it was designed to ensure my complaint would be Refused and Denied.... and it was. No Lawyer would help me. I have lost Faith in anything related to the Government of Canada which includes ALL of its independent agencies acting on its behalf. I have not voted in any election since 2006.

Anonymous (Williams Lake, BC, September 3, 2017)

At the moment, I'm working part time making around \$1200 a month, on a strict budget. A guaranteed basic income would need to be flexible to increase with the expenses of increased living. Ironically if basic income was to be made available to people, I fear that rentals, which are already too high, would increase in proportion to what the level of basic income would be. As it is now a single person on Social Assistance gets around \$625 a month, most places that are for rent start at \$600 + a month for rent. If basic income was \$1500 then I would expect rent to jump to over \$1000 a month rent. I would much rather have a low-income housing at \$500 or less, with utilities included, than a guaranteed basic income. But they are extremely rare or nonexistent for a single person like me to find. If the government would like to help me, please help me get into some affordable housing. Thanks.

P.S. There is a lot more that could be done besides basic income that would help people. I know the system and I know the cracks people fall through, and I know what could improve it. If you want to know about that let me know.

Anonymous (Winnipeg, September 12, 2017)

Basic Income would be a boon for me and my family. We currently provide support for our FASD-affected adult daughter, who gets a monthly disability payment from EIA that she's supposed to live on. What a joke! We bought a house for her to live in so she wouldn't be on the street, and she pays us lower-than-market rent, which doesn't cover the mortgage payments. We also provide cash plus groceries, clothing, etc. for a total of \$1000-\$1500 a month or more. Basic income would mean we

wouldn't have to cover these costs. She could participate in the economy with dignity and have the power to make choices. Basic income would mean we could retire as well.

Anonymous (York, ON, September 7, 2017)

The Basic Income Guarantee would affect my life positively in many ways. I am unemployed since 2009. I have struggled with depression and other health related problems for several years. Unable to work and not eligible for government financial help. The cost of living in Toronto is almost impossible. Having this extra income would help us a great deal and somehow lift the burden of my husband's financial obligations since we have been living on a solo income. Once again it will be great help and very much appreciated by my family and I.

Ansaar (Dorchester, ON, September 8, 2017)

As an individual who is the primary care giver for an elderly parent (my 90 year old mother), if I had a Basic Income Guarantee I would be able to provide a better level of care for her right at home, where she would also be safe and protected from abuse (this is something that happened to her in a hospital setting two years ago despite me spending all of my spare time with her because I was juggling my job and looking after her.) As stated above with a Basic Income Guarantee it would have been possible for me to take a leave of absence from work and focus on her well-being. Instead we sold our home and moved to an area where I can afford to stay off work for a little while to care for her. Thank you.

Armand (Grande-Digue, NB, September 15, 2017)

I am an octogenarian fortunate to be living in Canada. Every citizen who reaches 65 years of age is given a "Basic Income" in the form of "Old Age Security", a pension paid monthly for the rest of our life. In addition, if at any time after reaching 65 one's revenue falls short, an additional "Guaranteed Income Supplement" is paid to a maximum of some \$1500 per month (OAS at \$600 and GIS at up to \$900). Therefore, seniors from 65 years on are guaranteed a Basic Income from the Canadian Government. A similar Basic Income is guaranteed to all children from birth to 17 years of age called the Canada Child Benefit (non-taxable).

Still, many seniors and young children are known to go hungry and continue to live without the basics of life. Needless to say, many more Canadians between 18 years and 65 live in poverty, and of these, most are in abject or absolute poverty. The working poor, many in precarious or dead-end jobs, are without benefits and without hope. Opportunities, advancement, freedom, power and belonging would finally be addressed with Basic Income.

Poverty is known to retard development, both physically and mentally. Hope for the future of Canada and the World depends on healthy and fully developed citizens. Poverty prevents many from fully developing into complete human beings.

Canada and most countries on the world spend vast amounts on armaments, and on other negative undertakings. Governments must realize that income disparity is unacceptable, that wealth is now concentrated in the very few, that technology and artificial intelligence will soon render human labour worthless, and, that this will result in limited markets for those with products and services to offer.

Basic Income would finally be the recognition that all humans must be assured the very necessities of life as envisioned in the 1948 United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

Art (place of residence withheld, September 10, 2017)

Well, last year (at the age of 53) I lost almost all of my income from working as a teacher overseas for many years. But I am afraid to return to Canada (yes, I am a Canadian citizen) since real estate is so

expensive there and I am not sure I would get a job. I do not want to start from scratch again. Basic income would make a big difference for me in this situation.

Ashley (Toronto, ON, September 4, 2017)

I am a professional artist who immigrated to Canada. My studio is in Toronto because artists need to be in a major city to succeed. The average monthly cost of living is \$2000. Artists require galleries to promote and support their work. Resources are extremely scarce and most artists live below the poverty line. Buyers are few and it is imperative to market art internationally. Artists do menial part-time work just to survive, so it becomes impossible to make art. In the long term this affects the country as a whole because artists can't contribute effectively to the tax base and become a burden to the state. The Basic Income Guarantee would set me free. I would still have to take on some work to generate income but I would be able to afford art materials to create bodies of work that could be disseminated to galleries here and abroad.

Ashley (Keswick, ON, September 3, 2017)

I am a single mother raising 2 kids on my own. I currently only receive \$521 a month from Ontario Works for me and my 2 kids. It's impossible to provide for my kids on such a small amount. The guaranteed basic amount would do so much for my family. We would not have to use food banks or beg for help from churches to make sure there was food on the table for my children. I would have that extra money to get them new clothes and pay for their medications and school supplies without taking it out of my bill money. Please, Ontario is struggling and we need more help, more resources.

Bahram (place of residence withheld, September 14, 2017)

For my wife and I, the minimum income to live happily is at least \$2000 per month. We are 59 and 63 years old, having 2 daughters and 2 grandsons. We cannot find an appropriate job these days. We need a constant/guaranteed income to be able to reside in Canada. We don't have a home/apartment so we have rented always (from 2006). It will be very appreciated if The Prime Minister Mr. Trudeau and the Government of Canada help us and the others like us to live better in peace and health with happiness and love.

Barbara (place of residence withheld, September 3, 2017)

Basic income would change my life. I struggle every day. Now that my son has finished college and makes too much I was kicked off geared to income. I have to work part-time so I can cover my part of the bills. What am I going to do when he moves out? I have no idea. I can't live with anyone or they are forced to support me. Basic income would change everything.

Becka (place of residence withheld, ON, September 11, 2017)

To start I'm of the opinion that it should have been done long ago. I am a recently divorced mom of 3 teens and believe me that they get more expensive now than they were when they are babies. I was a stay at home mom for 14 years so when I had to become single mom I had no income cause I came from an abusive relationship and he controlled the income etc. Now I drive school bus and get very little from him in child support. My bills and just living expenses are a lot. I've become in in debt in order to just survive. So, if I had the basic income I'd be doing a lot better.

Becky (Picton, ON, September 14, 2017)

I'm a single parent who receives no support or alimony. I've graduated college and work as a casual E.A. Unfortunately, this does not cover all costs it takes to raise a family. There are several health care costs that are not covered by the government, such as buying glasses and dental care. Parents have other things to pay for such as school trips and athletic fees or clothing for specific sports plus a lot more. Some single parents find it tough to come up with these things. I can usually afford rent and food but not always the bills. The basic income will help a lot of parents get ahead and give their family the basic needs in life. This is very important. Once we can do this then the next step in the hierarchy of needs

can be met.

Ben (Siksika First Nation, Alberta, September 4, 2017)

First nation basic income is different on the Siksika reservation. Aboriginal affairs misappropriates our basic income funding. Aboriginal Minister Carolyn Bennett and PM Trudeau refuses to address the problem. We've been protesting for 670 days. Sent in Petitions, Letters, Emails. Still no response! How can the problem be fixed? Aboriginal affairs resolution to fix the problem – was to pay Law firm (MLT) WITH Siksika's Funding to sue own registered first nation members for \$1/2 million and get a court injunctions to stop protest. While at the same time Aboriginal affairs signs a resolution to support Standing Rock, U.S.A. protesters! We did a Freedom of Information Request, so we have evidence of all wrong doings. PM Trudeau and Aboriginal Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett still refuse to meet with us (registered first nation members). We have Solutions! 150 year's of Aboriginal affairs policies and procedures aren't Working! Just listen to the People!

Bill (Ottawa, ON, September 11, 2017)

A Basic Income would have little direct effect on me. I am retired with a good pension, and have never had to miss a meal. I have also simply been lucky: study and hard work are important, but luck counts for much more. If a Basic Income were to be an improvement on current Social Assistance, it would have an indirect effect on me: I would feel that I was a member of a society which had done something serious to improve the lives of my fellow citizens who are poor. When Mike Harris cut Social Assistance [in Ontario] by 22% in 1995 and simultaneously reduced my taxes, I was ashamed. I want to be proud of my province's and my country's government. I am willing to pay more taxes to help fund a Basic Income scheme.

Bonnie (Red Deer, AB, September 4, 2017)

As an 81-year-old housewife who has not ever "worked" outside the home long enough to collect CPP, I still do have a "basic income" now in the form of OAS. This is not in any way a part of my husband's or my own necessary income – we are fine without it! However, it does give me an opportunity to have some funds in an independent bank account in my own name, to use as I see fit. Therefore, I see the real benefit of a basic, independent income for anyone, with no strings attached, available on a regular basis. Would this be squandered in some cases? Quite possibly. Would it provide small necessities that would otherwise have to be given up? Very likely. Could it be the basis for actually having enough groceries, or topping up the rent, or paying the utilities bills? Very probably. Might it be the start of a small savings account for future emergencies? Quite possibly. That level of independence and confidence would make a huge difference for almost everyone in Canada. We can do it, and we must do it. Thank You.

Brandy (place of residence withheld, September 3 and 4, 2017)

A Basic Income Guarantee would completely transform my life. I left home at age 15, and I've had to work to survive ever since. I didn't have the inner or outer resources to achieve a higher education, so I've been forced to work in mainly frontline positions, which are highly taxing on a sensitive introvert. I'm a singer/songwriter, and my creativity has too often had to take a back seat to paying bills. I've also stayed in unhappy relationships longer than is healthy because of financial insecurity. A basic income would allow me to focus on creating music, and contribute what I'm truly meant to contribute to the world. It would also mean I'd never again be anyone's captive, at home or at work. Basic Income is freedom. Please enjoy a FREE DOWNLOAD of my song for Basic Income "Just Because I'm Alive" at www.brandymoore.ca/music.

Thank you for the opportunity to put what a BI would mean to me into words. It was hard to keep it to 150 words :) I also wanted to write about how Basic Income would help all of humanity and the planet we call home. Basic Income feels like a viable solution to so many of the issues we face. I hope that you will download my song for free at www.brandymoore.ca/music. I just performed it live in New York at

NABIG 2017 this past June, and I'll be singing it again at the World Basic Income Congress in Lisbon, Portugal on Sept 25/26/27. I want to explain that when I wrote "I didn't have the inner or outer resources to achieve a higher education", I meant then, not now. My family home was very dysfunctional and I was a child in pain then. I've since considered the idea of applying for student loans and going back to school many times (I'm now 47). If I did, I would start with a liberal arts degree, and then majoring in human justice, social justice, human rights and/or social work, etc...But then, when I look at the personal and financial cost of undertaking such a lengthy endeavour, I realize that what I really want to do is to focus 100% of my time, heart and soul on music. And I am already doing social justice work through my music. I will reach more hearts and minds with lyrics and melody over the next several years than I ever could by studying and writing papers :)

Brenda (place of residence withheld, September 12, 2017)

Well, personally, it wouldn't affect my life much at all. But it is totally the right thing to do for our citizens. They need a floor, and do not need to be scrutinized and demeaned by old fashioned qualifying standards. Qualifying as poor? Terrible concept. Free people to be confident, secure and more productive. Also, this streamlines government, which is important to me.

Brenda (place of residence withheld, ON, September 12, 2017)

I was so happy when they came up with the idea of Basic Income which is desperately needed for people like me and my husband. We have been Foster Parents for 35 years and have never regretted our choice. We do receive some money to help with the cost of these kids during the times when one or two kids go home until the next one comes in. We are literally doing everything we can to stay afloat. We live in an old farmhouse that needs repairs that we cannot afford to do. Hydro One is killing us with the high electrical bills. We have a special needs adult living with us because she cannot afford to move out. My husband and I will never be able to retire because we cannot afford it. To say the least it would be really great not to have to worry about where the money is going to come from to pay the bills.

Brian (Ottawa, ON, September 4, 2017)

Actually, I am receiving a basic income now since I am getting the OAS and CPP. But a few years earlier if I could have received the basic income my life may have taken a different turn. I know I would have been less stressed about money and may have made better decisions with regard to my work and health. I've always felt that everyone should be allowed to live with some degree of dignity and be able to survive without taking on work that may be harmful to them and their health and should be able to make choices in their life that advances their well-being rather than needing to scratch and claw their way through life trying to survive. Prices are truly getting expensive, especially for GOOD food, that is fresh fruits and vegetables. Quite often I end up buying cheaper because I need to save money and that's just one more way that life wears you down. It's pretty clear to me that a lot of health care dollars could be saved if people like myself had the means to live at a decent standard of living. Thanks for listening.

Brian (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

Basic Income Guarantee would first of all reduce overall stress of young families trying to gain some financial traction. Reduced stress would increase our overall health and reduce the stress on the health care system. A Basic Income Guarantee would allow people the opportunity to find a job best suited for them and not take the first job due to financial stress. This would also help the employer since it would get people into better suited jobs and help to reduce the churn and cost involved with recruiting and training new employees. Basic Income Guarantee would help people purchase a house or take a vacation sooner without having to save almost every penny to get the cash needed. This would also help the economy since people would be spending more as they prepare to own a house or take a vacation and not just saving and spending on the very basics to meet their dreams and basic needs.

Cal & Theresa(Winnipeg, MB, September 15, 2017)

As far as I'm concerned, putting more money into the hands of ordinary Canadian citizens just makes good economic sense. These people will spend the money locally, thus boosting local economies which is good for Canada overall. Putting more money into the hands of the wealthy and they will just put into offshore accounts.

Carol (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

Basic Income would be a miracle in my life so I would not have to worry all the time about how am I going to pay for my bills, my prescriptions that aren't covered, my unexpected car and home repairs, my winter heating bill and many others. The stress is relentless and debilitating. I know there are many others like me. Every human deserves to have a place to stay, shelter and food and warmth. Thanks.

Carol (Stratford, ON, September 5, 2017)

Basic Monthly Income would make our lives less stressful and complicated. It is my youngest daughter, Katie, who is on ODSP. She is 29 years old and married. When she got married her ODSP counsellor told her she doesn't care if Katie got the odd toaster or blender but she would need to know how much money she received as gifts. Zero dignity for the newlyweds. It seems every other month Katie gets a letter cutting her off her benefits. Yet another phone call to make to remedy it. I certainly hope BMI [basic income] goes through!

Carrie (Sudbury, ON, September 3, 2017)

If we had basic income guarantee it would help to ensure I have the monthly finances to feed and clothe my child without a problem and I would not have to run around in a sweater in the winter because I can't afford a jacket for myself and winter clothing for my son. It would also allow me to live in a safe neighborhood instead of where I'm living where we constantly see drug needles outside our building because it's all I can afford on ODSP with \$1210 a month. I would be so happy to just have enough money a month to get the proper healthy balanced food to eat so my son and I could be healthy instead of unhealthy and still hungry. And I could have winter boots and jacket instead of having pneumonia every winter. I feel everyone should have this benefit because what makes one person or one town more worthy or in need than another. We're supposed to be treated as equals. This [Ontario basic income pilot project money] only going to some people isn't right or fair as many live in poverty in all towns and cities in Ontario.

Catherine (Lindsay, ON, September 4, 2017)

The Basic Income would help us (my husband & I) financially with our day to day living expenses for medical, special diet, rent, relieve some of the stress and hardships that we go through. I am a married sixty-year old female, who has been living in poverty for the past 14 years, living with Type 2 Diabetes, Insulin dependent and Chronic Pain. I had Spousal Support of \$1500 per month up until 2.5 years ago, at which time I lost all of my medical benefits as well as a reduction in my monthly income to a part of my divorce settlement pension split of \$1161 per month, plus CPP of \$296.94 monthly and a deductible through Trillium for more than a \$1000 yearly for my medication and \$1075 a month for rent. I do have a Non- Refundable Disability Tax Credit. We have been on the City of Kawartha Lakes Housing list for the past 2.5 years and registered with two FOOD BANKS that we can only use once per month and only enough food for 2 days. Yes, the Basic Income would financially help us in so many ways with getting us out of POVERTY and not having to worry about where the money is coming from for my deductible on medication, food and housing costs on the rise. Thank you.

Chad (place of residence withheld, September 3, 2017)

If I was to be given a basic income, I'd regain my feeling of dignity and be allowed to finally live life on my own terms. I'd be able to spend my time doing what matters to me most: with my 8-year old daughter, helping her develop and being there for her; developing myself and studying what most interests me; and being in my community (with friends and family). I have fought against chronic illness all my life and don't have the energy to work 40 hours a week reliably – but society has thus far demanded that I do so in order to put a roof over my head and food on my plate. As a minimalist, I don't need much but, so far, I've spent way too much time away from those who matter most and have suffered for it in many ways! I want this gift so that I may be of more use to the world – and especially MY world.

Charlet (place of residence withheld, ON, September 5, 2017)

Hi I a single woman on ODSP. Which I'm grateful to have. But it's way below the cost of living. This basic income would be great. It would make things so much easier to live with everything. Bills rent hydro etc. After I pay rent now which is \$200 more than ODSP allows. I live in a one-bedroom basement shared laundry. It's a dump but clean and a place to live. I have \$400 left that's another \$100 for hydro and water a month then a phone. Then bus tickets, then food. It's so hard to budget on what I get. I'm struggling every day. I haven't bought anything new in years. All second hand. From shoes to clothes. I don't have winter boots or coat. The stress of not having money to buy stuff is crazy. I look like a homeless person. My clothes are outdated. I don't like going out in public. People talk and stare and laugh. Please someone needs to help us people. It's all been shit since Mike Harris took over and this Liberal Party now is just unreal. It's a choice or paying hydro or buying food. Please, please, help.

Cheryle (Hanover, ON, September 4, 2017)

Basic Income should be for all, and not just a certain region. My family are in need of financial help, as I am working part time and struggling to survive after my bills are paid. My community I live in, mostly are low income people, who are just getting by. Our government should have been including everyone from the start of the implementation of Universal Basic Income. I personally have been sending emails wanting information as to when the benefits would start. Then in the Spring the report came out that only specific areas were getting help in a three-year trial. That was disappointing to hear. I live in midwestern Ontario, Hanover Ontario. It's a small town of 7,500 people. Please, it would give the people near me and so many people in Canada such a better quality of life to be able to benefit from this program. Please include all the people who need it and not just the chosen few. Thank you.

Chris (place of residence withheld, September 4, 2017)

It would drastically reduce my stress first and foremost! Would I stop working? NO. I would, however, take that extra money and invest it for my kid's education, help build my savings for retirement which would allow me to catch up on many years of savings neglect, and it would give me the peace of mind that my children will have a much better safety net. I also believe that Universal Basic Income will become necessary as jobs are lost to technological unemployment. It's an idea whose time has come. Life should not be about survival in the 21st century, it should be guaranteed! I might add that I am not a supporter of any government party but if the Liberals want my vote, then making Universal Basic Income a reality in Canada is a good start!

Chris (Surrey, BC, September 3, 2017)

I just have a constitutional aversion to work, I feel it to be degrading and depressing to the human spirit. I do not feel like I have a calling despite ample ability, education, and intelligence. Basic income appears to be about the only plausible route by which I might enjoy some semblance of economic autonomy. Without it, I really don't see any way that my life will be anything other than a dead end and a waste.

Chris (Windsor, ON, September 5, 2017)

I have been given the news by my doctor that I will very likely be disabled prior to reaching the magic age of 65 and qualifying for GIS/OAS. I don't look forward to applying for a means-tested income program that politicians are afraid to make adequate. Simply put, with a Basic Income, I could avoid an economic disaster that I am doing nothing to deserve. I would not need to move into some subsidized housing ghetto in order to obtain food security and put a strain on another program. I could potentially work part-time to the extent of my abilities without worrying about being disqualified for benefits. Many employers today start everyone part-time and I could take the job offer that I previously didn't take because I needed a full-time income and finally do something I would enjoy doing.

Christian (Montréal, QC, September 14, 2017)

A basic income would spare me the indignities and constant insecurity of my freelance livelihood as a translator, art critic and (unpaid) independent scholar. I believe I make real contributions to society, culture and the economy in these different capacities, and yet, I am never sure I'll be able to pay the bills at the end of each month: anything can go wrong when you depend on irregular payments from occasional contractors, and it often does. As a result, I have to manage maxed credit card debt and often end up "borrowing" money from my parents on pension that I can never repay. I have a Ph.D. and an impressive c.v., and yet am always a hair's breadth away from homelessness. A mere \$1000 a month with no strings attached would allow me to live with security and dignity at the modest level of this common freelance cultural worker lifestyle.

Christine (Stratford, ON, September 12, 2017)

I think the Basic Income Canada is a good idea. I have worked on minimum wage my whole life. I am now going to be 60 years old. I have struggled and struggled from paycheck to paycheck. And also, sometimes, job to job. At one point in my life I had 3 jobs. At that same time, I was raising a child. Between jobs and OW my income was up and down a lot of the time. I am now on ODSP for depression. If I didn't work part time I don't know how I would make ends meet. If I had a basic income I would be at least close to the poverty line in this country. I could afford my own apartment, get my teeth cleaned at least once a year and my denture fixed and possibly get a regular haircut and a bus pass for transportation. I would not have to rely on the food bank to eat. It would be nice to be able to go for a coffee with friends and not depressed them with my woes. As it is, whatever I bring home ODSP lets me keep \$200 and they take 50% of the rest. So, I cannot even say that I make the same amount. I rent a room from a friend and there is also another person there as well. There is not privacy except in my 10 by 10 room. It would also be nice that ODSP would not take the little money I make. I work because it

helps me with depression and gives me a little more freedom in that month. Thank you for listening to me.

Christine (Hamilton, ON, September 3, 2017)

Basic income would provide a stable home for my daughter and I, since I am a single mother, and finding appropriate safe housing, within our budget in these high rent times, what she requires for school, and home bills, and food, very rarely I am also able to show her the world outside of our home, as transportation on top of what we need to just survive is more of a frivolous thing. Since it is just my daughter and myself, with few supports, I just want her to have the best life as possible, and have the tools to be able to flourish in society when she becomes an adult. That stems from a proper upbringing which in these times does need a certain amount of funds to help.

Christine (Cornwall, ON, September 6, 2017)

My family actually supports the basic income, as it would greatly benefit so many people who are truly having a hard time raising a family, & trying to keep a household running. The working poor as we call ourselves seem to be left behind, & have no help like people on Ontario Works when it comes to medications & dental care! Yes, I know the new program for 25 and under starts soon, which is great and we appreciate for our 6 children...but what about my husband and I when we've needed dental care, & we're turned away until we had the money! Then you throw in higher food prices and higher electric bill's and we just don't seem to get ahead!! We can drive 19 minutes away across the border and buy eggs for \$0.88 and milk for \$1.79 a gallon!! It's ridiculous how in Canada we are struggling, & have to choose between keeping our family warm in the winter months...to eating, & paying our mortgage...which our electric bills have been higher than our mortgage and that's just ridiculous!!

So yes, we support this, & it would go towards our heating bill, & food which both seem to be getting outta control here in Ontario! I truly hope you implement this program sooner than later as many Canadians, friends, & family live pay check to pay check even with minimum wage going up prices are going up...example, we just signed up 4 of our girls back up for dance...and the monthly prices went up \$10...the reasoning...minimum wage went up we have to increase our rates! It's a losing battle...from one frustrated Ontario mom!!!

Christopher (LaSalle, ON, September 12, 2017)

I am a person with a learning disability being pushed through the school system without really being taught much of anything; receiving a Certificate at the end of my 5 years at Western Secondary School.

I am unable to find employment because of it. I am unable to obtain ODSP because a learning disability does not qualify. I apply for employment but no one wants an inexperienced person with a learning disability. I am now 27 years old, living with my father, no income, no job experience and not much hope. The Basic Income Guarantee would dramatically improve my life.

Cindy (place of residence withheld, September 7, 2017)

I am an insulin diabetic with no medical coverage. I have had to pay for my own, and don't know how much longer I can keep up with the payments. There have been times food has been challenging to provide for myself. This past year has been scary. I'm sitting here with tears in my eyes as I'm writing this. There is so much shame around poverty. I feel isolated from my friends who can afford to engage in activities. I had a stroke in January. As much as I'm trying to take care of my health, the fear is real of another stroke. I'm not being pessimistic but if I can't afford the food, it definitely puts me at higher risk. So basic income would allow as I understand the basic necessities which would reduce fears and worries and certainly reduce stress. I'm really trying the best I can to be hopeful, and things will get better I know but I just wanted to share that people are struggling. In strength and solidarity.

Clayton (Brantford, ON, September 5, 2017)

A basic income would benefit me in my life right now to help deal with personal issues and health issues as they can be expensive w/o job benefits.

Coady (Ottawa, ON, September 11, 2017)

Due to my social anxiety disorder, getting a job is almost impossible and the ODSP has already denied me for income support. Having basic income would literally save my life. Thank you.

Craig (Edmonton, AB, September 11, 2017)

I Believe a basic income would change the world. If the goal for society is to be inclusive, then a basic income can help achieve this goal. People who do not have an income, due to various reasons, are not included in society, but demonized. Having a basic income will allow more entrepreneurs (just imagine what would happen if we doubled the amount of businesses we create), more empathy, more creativity and art and science. A basic income seems to be a policy that enhances all the values we want as humans (empathy, health, love, creativity, art, science, community, entrepreneurial spirit etc.). It seems irresponsible to not put forth serious conversations on this policy. I want to help create a world that is as amazing as possible, and UBI is one step to that.

It was very difficult to do 150 words on a policy that I think is the most important policy of our time. I did not write on my loved ones, because everyone would get the same benefit, and everyone has different family issues. Thank you for asking my opinion.

D. (Kingston, ON, September 11, 2017)

Basic income means exactly that. I wonder what Mr. Trudeau would have become if he didn't have decent food and shelter and perhaps access to participate like a phone and internet. What would basic income do? Give hope and access to basic human dignity. Everybody benefits when its citizens are given a chance to look past the fear and horror of not meeting their basic primary needs. How can we still need to explain the value of being able to at least not have to beg and be ashamed of ourselves? We don't really need to convince anyone do we? Their answer is No!

D. (Toronto, ON September 12, 2017)

Implementing guaranteed income would affect my family in many ways and for many reasons. First and foremost, ours is a profit-based society. Profit generates wealth. To that end, everything – including human labour – must be turned into product or service and sold in the marketplace. Increased demand drives down the prices and boosts competition, which explains why labour is becoming increasingly undervalued and automated. Automated labour is inexpensive, reliable and unlikely to make mistakes. Human labour falls short in comparison. As a result, work is becoming ever more precarious and more and more people are driven out of the economy. Universal basic income can fix that. It would empower everyone to participate in the economy, which would make for a less dehumanizing and more inclusive economy and for a more stable and equitable society. That is how guaranteed income would benefit not only my family but society as a whole.

Dale (place of residence withheld, September 15, 2017)

Basic income has benefitted me as I am a returning mature student at the age of 45 going back to attain a career in the social service sector. I am attending school full-time and don't have a full-time job to support for bachelor life: rent, car insurance, phone bill, food etc. But with the allowance qualified for has given me the support I need to further my education. I have secured a part-time job within my area of study to help support myself and also to stay in touch with the circle of professionals that I hope to work with when I graduate. Basic Income also somehow gives me a sense of security that my government has a vested interest in my life and career and so, I work hard to show myself approved. With basic income I have a better chance of success and I look forward to a brighter future.

Dale (White Rock, BC, September 11, 2017)

Past 60, and in forced unemployment for the last 3 years. I have taken note each time I hear about 'Basic Income Guarantee'. Naturally, my blood pressure would be down without the anxiety of rent/bills/food. The job I had I did exceptionally well, and I enjoyed working hard at it. It never crossed my mind that it would disappear before I would retire from it. Ten years there was not enough to get a company pension, so relied on my good 'line-of-credit', a provincial housing assistance program, and friends. I'm a giving senior, and I'm often asked for help, which would be easier if given time, freed from looking for work, or fighting for my 'E.I.' for 3 years. With 'Basic Income' I could have a small job as a handyman, and not having to charge extreme monies, thereby helping the average homeowner. This IS a HUGE issue for Canada.

Dan (Toronto, ON, September 4, 2017)

As a proud Canadian who has left a steady job as an engineer to pursue my passion and dream of writing and publishing fiction, a Basic Income Guarantee would give me more security and reduce stress as I create work for others to enjoy. But this isn't about me. I was very lucky and privileged to grow up in a middle-class family and have the means to get an education and find a well-paying job in the first place. If I hadn't had that crutch, I couldn't have saved the money to make this change a reality. A Basic Income Guarantee would allow all Canadians to reach their true potential without being held back by the need to put food on the table. This is about equality at its most basic level, and it will only become more important as jobs are lost to automation over the next few years. We need to lay the groundwork now so that all of our society can benefit and embrace the future together.

Danny (Toronto, ON, September 12, 2017)

It would help tremendously because I am a self-employed artist doing what I love and have passion for regardless of money. However, I have a wife and young boy that rely on my earnings to live a happy and stable lifestyle, so there are stress and fears that plague me. Since moving back home to Toronto from Japan, we must dip into our savings and live with my aging parents. It has truly been a blessing these two and a half years with their help and Canadian Child Benefits.

As an artist and citizen of Canada, I believe there is no higher honor than knowing my country and government invests in me and my talent as opposed to a private corporation. I ask, why are Olympic athletes so proud, humble and positive? Because they have the support, belief and sponsorship of their respected countries. That respect and coexistence between government and citizen seems to be the most logical and natural way because the government's investment in each man and woman will likely grow into one happier, healthier, productive and proud society; one who is deeply proud of Canada and genuinely proud of its government. How could it not be?

Lastly, the ultimate scenario that plays often in my head is upon receiving basic income, I would be able to hire more than one tutor for my son who is homeschooled, take a family vacation more than once a year and employ an assistant to help me with my work. An opportunity to provide another Canadian with employment is a privilege and duty as a citizen, and I believe that would be the case for many entrepreneurs and business minded citizens if Basic Income Guarantee becomes a reality. Thank you.

Dawn (Cambridge, ON, September 15, 2017)

I have seen and dealt with living in poverty. My thoughts on Basic Income are this. In this city alone the homelessness is incredible. In our local shelter, Bridges, people are being bussed in from different regions to Cambridge. This is ridiculous. Obviously, there is a need for housing for these people do not receive enough from Ontario Works or Ontario Disability to pay market rent so they have no choice but to stay at shelters. Cambridge Ontario needs Basic Income definitely. I could on and on but had to write this in 150 words or less.

Deanna (Winnipeg, MB, September 4, 2017)

A basic income would help me tremendously, as I have disabilities preventing me from finding and maintaining employment. I go through long periods of unemployment, struggling, applying for jobs and being rejected. Poverty adds to a lot of conflict with those close to me due to there not being enough to live the lifestyle I choose. I would like to be able to eat properly, afford my medications, have decent clothes, live in a more adequate apartment, and have enough to go home to support my family. I plan to go to school and take Creative Communications at Red River College. I have wanted to do this for a while, but all sources of funding have been used for studies in fields that I struggle to find work in. Writing, media and storytelling, are my passions. I want to give back to my community, support events, causes, or help others. Thanks for hearing our stories.

Debby (Aurora, ON, September 3, 2017)

I'm one of a couple that both work and find it hard each and every week struggle to make ends meet. With this basic income, each week will help in paying rent, bills, and food for our family. I know many seniors and low-income families that are in need of extra help in buying food. With rents in Ontario being so high this would help many people from becoming homeless and many single families to become more independent. The middle class and low-income people/families are always the ones that do without. We can't buy food or even pay our rent or bills on time because there isn't enough money every week to do everything we need to do. Many families depend on food banks but that is once a month and the other 3 weeks they go hungry. ALL MIDDLE AND LOW-CLASS INCOMES NO MATTER HOW MUCH PER YEAR THEY MAKE SHOULD FALL INTO THIS BASIC INCOME CANADA.

Deborah (Woodstock, ON, September 3, 2017)

I'm on disability for fibromyalgia. I would be able to afford alternate therapies and orthotics! Healthy food would be first on my list. Oral surgery that I can't afford now. It would be such a blessing...you have no idea!! I didn't ask for this. I worked hard for many years. I live in Ontario Housing. I can't afford to buy new comfortable furniture or make my apartment look nice. I pray this happens. So many of us would benefit.

Debra (Ottawa, ON, September 11, 2017)

Hello, thank you for the opportunity to share my opinion. I personally am suffering from poverty. I am a 57-year old woman with no home. The basic income would allow me to rent an apartment as the waiting list for low income housing in Ottawa is extremely long. Thus far I have been waiting 5.5 years and see no hope in the near future. It is sad in a city full of resources. A basic income would ensure me safety and a chance to work again part time. It is difficult to have your life put on hold because you are homeless. Once again thank you.

Delphine (place of residence withheld, BC, September 11, 2017)

Dear Mr. Prime Minister. Well, there are certainly more than 150 ways that the basic income would help us, especially as seniors. Here are a few. Having gone through breast and liver cancer and still working through liver cancer it has been a horrendous 7 years and counting. An old age pension of \$1,100 does not go very far each month even if you don't have medical issues. But for those like ourselves where illness strikes with no discrimination it has been absolutely devastating, trying to maintain our home base on Vancouver Island and living out of a suitcase around the Vancouver General hospital for three months at a time for a total of six months. My husband was fortunate to have a liver transplant not once but twice but it has totally used up our meagre savings and left us struggling as to whether we should buy groceries or pay our basic bills, electric, water etc. We have had to defer our property taxes, though don't know yet whether we qualify or not. A basic guaranteed income would absolutely help us to get our heads above water and also enjoy the time we have left here.

Mr. Prime Minister, besides a basic income it would be fabulous if seniors are honoured after having worked all their lives not to have to pay taxes. I think we do deserve that consideration. Having lived in

Alberta for many years, I believe that seniors pay little to no property taxes. Wow, how fantastic! Maybe that could be arranged as well? Thank you for your consideration.

Denita (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

A basic income guarantee would affect my life in a very positive way. I believe I would have less stress if I was able to pay my bills and have some money left over at the end of the month. I would be able to buy a vehicle to get around in (back and forth to work, to buy groceries, etc.) At present, I only purchase what I need for the day as it is too difficult to travel with groceries and no vehicle. The only family I have is a dog, and the quality of both of our lives would improve with the use of a vehicle. I also wish to upgrade my education but find it very hard to come up with the money for the courses. Also, I would be able to give gifts on special occasions to friends and family, which would have a positive effect on my self-esteem. I believe everyone deserves a change to get ahead, and the min wage we have now is setting us up for failure. Thanks for listening.

Derek (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

I truly believe that a UBI would benefit the lives of so many people. Capitalism continues to have a strangle hold on EVERYTHING, including our labour force, and there is no way around this horror at the present time it seems. I'm honestly sick of living in a world where humanity coercively places profits above people. I, personally, having access to a UBI, would take time from work to better myself by studying or pursuing a better job opportunity, as a UBI would help me do such. There are many more benefits, however, with 150 words, I believe I can only point out the benefit I believe that would be best for all of us. Thanks for asking.

Derick (Mississauga, ON, September 12, 2017)

Hello and thank you for all of your efforts now and in the future. Most humans would have to agree that having a basic income would without a doubt have a positive and liberating effect on the lives of those who would benefit most, and less of an impact on those who have more money than they can spend. For me in my current stage in life, it would ease the financial burden of just barely having enough to pay the bills and put food on the table. I am currently studying economics and finance to help me learn to trade the markets, while working part-time. Having a basic income would allow me to focus more on my studies and worry less about money. I believe that having a basic income would make it less stressful to allow people to follow their dreams and passions that they have in life.

Diane (Cobourg, ON, September 4, 2017)

How would a Basic Income Help my Life? I am currently on a CPP and ODSP disability pension. It's like I am wishing my life away. Once I receive my monthly payment and pay my bills, and try to have enough left over to eat, I am wishing for the next month to come to do it all over again. There is never any money for extras. I have had a double transplant (pancreas & kidney) which I am very grateful for but the daily stress of having to survive is putting a tremendous strain on my physical and mental health. After my transplant, I tried to work, but I was laid off from 3 jobs, 2 of which were sent overseas. I developed further health issues and applied for a disability. I have a son who is currently imprisoned in the US (who should not even be there) who also relies on me to send him a little money every month, so that he can eat, as they don't feed him enough. An extra \$500 a month would help me tremendously, it would take some of the physical and mental stress off of my mind and body. I receive just over \$200 from ODSP, and I am worried if I got a part time job I would lose my drug benefits (approximately \$7000 per year for my medication alone). So yes, a BASIC INCOME would definitely help my situation out, as well as probably cut down on costs to the health care system, because I know the daily stress of survival is going to cause me more and more health issues.

Dominic (place of residence withheld, September 4, 2017)

A UBI would not affect my life since both my wife & I have government pensions & are living a comfortable life in Canada. However, a UBI can & should be a transition for a great number of Canadians

living under or around the poverty line, to help them & their families achieve their basic human needs specifically aboriginals & natives. None of us know what will become of our children & our children's children, a mishap or calamity of any kind could quite easily & quickly set them on a path to poverty. We as a society need to come together to protect those who will come after us, to create an environment of abundance for all, to create a civilization of freedom from persecution for all, to create a country of peace & prosperity for all its citizens. That can only be done if we contribute together, a UBI can be the transition for those who have not, to having something & contributing to this society.

Don (Madoc, ON, September 12, 2017)

Hello. I am an ODSP client and if I were to receive the annual income amount as the test cases are I would be able to access more and better treatments for the injury that has sidelined me. I could afford to have a better diet. I would find it much easier to socialize with friends and family without feeling like a charity case or a mooch. I would be able to provide my own transportation to medical appointments and or shopping trips rather than depend on volunteers to drive me places. I might be able to have television or other sources of entertainment to help pass the time. In short, every facet of my life would be better. Thanks for the opportunity to participate.

Don (Walkerton, ON, September 3, 2017)

At the moment, I am receiving ODSP and living with my wife and son, my wife was working up until recently. ODSP would take back money based on her income (Tim Hortons so she wasn't a big earner still every dollar taken away made our life more difficult). Recently she had to quit as I was having more and more difficulties in life so now we live entirely off of my benefits (roughly \$1500). So not only do I feel trapped below the poverty line, but also as though I need to remain there quietly so as not to be punished. As one could imagine this builds a great deal of anxiety in a person. Having our finances monitored and adjusted to keep us at a low point created a sense that there was no point in trying, why bother if you lose either way. I feel like my wife and I aren't able to contribute for fear of further financial insecurity. I feel a basic income could remove such anxieties and restrictions, allowing us to better ourselves and not only that but it would better communities as a whole. I'm by no means a unique example, I see too many in the same position that I am in.

Donald (Thunder Bay, ON, September 5, 2017)

I live in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Currently on welfare and struggle with part time minimum wage work. I live paycheck to paycheck. I am constantly behind bills and paying extra fees. I fear becoming homeless all the time. The constant stress leads to depression and suicidal thoughts. I feel hopeless. All I want is a small room to live in, food on my table and a tiny bit of spending money every month. That's it. Basic Income could relieve this stress as finding a first job took me forever. Finding a second job just to survive sounds impossible. Rent is too expensive when we don't have enough housing. Food prices increase every year and Canada constantly creates new taxes to exploit us. I can't believe the "Carbon" tax even exists.

Donald (Waterdown, ON, September 11, 2017)

Though I am lucky enough to have an adequate income, I have always been in favour of a basic income for all. Here are some of my thoughts.

Values:

Challenges such age-old notions as:

"There is no excuse for anyone to be out of work".

"If you don't work, you don't eat".

the main justification for most economic endeavours that it will "create jobs"

Benefits for all to reach their potential:

Eliminate the demeaning necessity of surrogate buyers to acquire adequate wholesome food through "Food Banks".

Adequate resources to maintain decent shelter.

Access to educational opportunities.

Improvement in mental health.

Transportation.

Promotion of healthier lifestyles.

All other basic necessities.

Economic savings:

An adequate basic income is likely to reduce healthcare costs, legal fees, criminal activity, special needs education.

Cost of a Basic Income:

Instead of being a drain on our economy, the money circulated through this basic provision would mostly be spent locally and therefore enhance our local economies. Much would be taxed back to government through sales tax alone.

Social Responsibility

Who would not agree that those who enjoy the gift of Tax Free Savings Accounts never on their own would have expected such a gift, don't need it, and would find it hard to balk if it were used to fund relief for those in our society who, through no fault of their own are likely having to be treated for ill health, lack of education, more prone to committing crimes through lack of money for basic human needs?

Douglas (place of residence withheld, September 12, 2017)

Basic income would enable me to buy the proper groceries, provide me with better living conditions, and being able to afford the internet which every person needs nowadays even for talking to the governments. Enable me to afford a bus pass to get around more. The lists can go on and on. Quit talking about it and get it done.

Duncan (Rothesay, NB, September 5, 2017)

I am 82 and my wife is 81 years old. I believe we have adequate funds to live reasonably comfortable for the rest of our lives. However, a Basic Income Guarantee for all Canadians would have a positive effect on me directly and indirectly for many reasons. One of our three children is a single parent of three still in high school. With significant financial help from us she is able to clothe, house and feed this family and keep them in school. Also, we are able to establish a RESP for the children who otherwise would find it financially difficult to even consider continuing their education after high school graduation. A Basic Income Guarantee would have a tremendously positive effect in the lives of those four Canadians and therefore a positive effect in my life.

With respect to education, I note that when I graduated from high school grade 12 in 1953 that was adequate formal education for me to be recruited by a Canadian Bank and also a Chartered Accounting firm which eventually was my choice. Today, neither a Canadian Bank nor a Chartered Accounting firm would recruit anyone to enter those professions with less education than a university degree. In 1953 the community at large (our government) paid the full cost of my grade 12 high school education and sadly that is still the same today. A Basic Income Guarantee would provide a financial base for children and their parents to enable education beyond the high school level.

As shown by the experiment in Manitoba in the 1970's a Basic Income Guarantee improved the overall health of the community; health care costs were significantly reduced. A better educated, healthier, happier population would be a very positive influence in the community around me and therefore positive in the lives of me, my wife, our children and our grandchildren.

Elizabeth (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

Basic income would affect my life dramatically. I work in catering – most varying hours possible and last year I made just under \$10k. If nobody hires us for a catering job, there simply is no work. I have gone a month without a shift before. I am a single mom who is not receiving child support, by choice for the safety of my kids. Basic income would allow me to worry less about being able to provide for my children. Basic income would also greatly reduce my stress which has taken a very large toll on my health. When someone offers you \$20 to get lunch – it is an amazing feeling. With basic income, I would not have to worry about whether or not I can afford a lunch. Please provide basic income for low-income families. It would help more than you can imagine.

Elizabeth (place of residence withheld, ON, September 11, 2017)

Briefly my story is that having suffered as a victim of crime, I was unable to find the appropriate help for many years. I encountered those who believed it was another type of mental illness which was incorrect. Once the proper identification of the problem was being victimized by a predator, the healing has finally come. This unidentified and unresolved trauma affected all areas of my life including career and marriage. Suffice it to say that I lived a life of severe poverty by Canadian standards. I was unable to get the right treatment for the trauma and unable to get a decent paying job. My yearly income was less than 20,000 per year. Delivering newspapers paid at the most about \$800 per month and often much less. To live on Ontario Works was abysmal and created great distress. It is a grave error for the government to only provide Disability when so many of us are very capable in many areas and do not need to be set aside as if we are unable to work. A Guaranteed Income will restore human beings to live a life of Dignity and Integrity as they pursue the means to provide a more equitable lifestyle.

Emerita (Winnipeg, MB, September 12, 2017)

I am from Winnipeg, Manitoba and also from the majority of Canadians who are low income, struggling and hardly making ends meet. I think a basic income program would help a lot of people. That's all I would say, as I know it will provide me the necessity of life, not to mention few people.

Erika (Ottawa, ON, September 11, 2017)

A Basic Income Guarantee would have a great effect on my life. I have recently been diagnosed with Lyme Disease and am seeking treatment. This treatment is not covered by OHIP and is very costly. Due to my illness, I have not been able to work since February of this year. A Basic Income Guarantee would provide me with the financial support I need to continue treatments so I can heal and return to work. It would give me peace of mind during this difficult time in knowing that I will have the extra money to support myself. It would relieve many of the stresses of wondering if I will be able to afford to continue treatment. I would sincerely appreciate a Basic Income Guarantee and I am sure many others who are in the same kind of situation as I am would.

Erin (St. Catharines, ON, September 5, 2017)

Through working at a Community Health Centre, I continue to see the devastating impact poverty can have on one's health and wellbeing. The clients I work with are deprived of opportunities that would allow them to thrive and live up to their full potential, inevitably trapping them in a life of poverty. However, a BIG would allow them to escape these systemic barriers that are placed on them simply because of their socio-economic status. A BIG would allow people to live with dignity, as they could finally afford their basic necessities. They would no longer be forced to choose between essential costs such as visiting a dentist to deal with their ongoing tooth pain or to pay for their monthly bus pass to get to work. On a societal level, this would start the journey towards eliminating the social injustices and health inequities experienced by vulnerable groups in our communities.

Ernesto (Ottawa, ON, September 11, 2017)

I am not going to talk about the hunger, misery and desperation that most human beings are suffering in the whole world. The Basic Income Guarantee is about Canada, and I should focus on Canada in this little speech. Is Canada a rich country where everybody is happy and has no problems? The answer is no. This is why the Basic Income Guarantee could bring some happiness to the people here in Canada. Many philosophers have realized that capitalism and specifically money put a very harsh stress on people and create an extreme anxiety on everybody. Because of the need to obtain money to survive, most of the people on the planet Earth cannot develop their skills, artistic talents or any other particular knowledge that is innate to any human being. At the end, the need to obtain money turns people into robots, into tired and boring beings that do things in an automatic way and live a life with no meaning. A Basic Income Guarantee is not the solution to all the suffering of most of the human beings but could bring some hope for most of the people in this country. Suffering brings hatred, fear and among many other things racism. Hope brings happiness and with happiness comes the desire to live, to work and the need to protect this happiness. The Basic Income Guarantee could make Canadians to love more this country and to die for it. I am an artist. I was born in Cuba and have lived in Spain, Germany, England, USA, and Canada. I am now a Canadian Citizen. Throughout my travels I have worked as a lawyer, photographer, cook and many other things. I know and I have observed the suffering of human beings everywhere.

Eva (place of residence withheld, September 3, 2017)

The income would have to be calculated on the basis of costs of: housing (different in different places), clothing, nutritious food, education, and some money for recreation. (Did I leave anything out? Possibly). If we understand a guaranteed income as being at the level of welfare, then that is not a real income. Try living on that "income" with a family! I did. It isn't even survival with any dignity, not to mention health. I would suspect that a livable income would actually be a saving to governments, e.g., in terms of health care, and would create peace and happiness (check with Denmark, they are supposed to be the happiest people! And they pay for this happiness in higher taxes.)

If the worry of financial insecurity was removed, unemployed people could spend their time doing volunteer work in areas of interest to them. That would save money in terms of paying employees to operate various programs. There would be other savings, some would come about from the elimination of the CPP and the guaranteed income supplement. A program of this nature would be particularly helpful to seniors. The level of income should vary to consider the special needs of seniors. Their income should rise, with the rise in need of help in their homes. The help to seniors could be provided by the volunteers who themselves receive a guaranteed income. We have a new program like that in the Southern Interior – it is called "Better at Home." Currently it is geared to income.

Income above the guarantee income would simply be subject to a graduated income tax, as we used to have in the 1960s. These are some ideas for a guaranteed income program. It is going to be necessary, since we propose to have robots do more and more human work. Unless of course the super-rich expect 90% of the population to just roll over and die!

Florian (Ottawa, ON, September 4, 2017)

Le revenu garanti du Canada ne changera rien à ma situation, parce que mon revenu est trop élevé. Merci. Je suis totalement pour le revenu de base garanti pour le Canada.

Floyd (Toronto, ON, September 3, 2017)

How UBI would affect me/my loved ones: As a successful business owner, having a basic income would add another layer of peace of mind. Even if my business goes under, I know that I won't starve and have a means to live off. I also know that this is true of other entrepreneurs including people starting new businesses. This is priceless. I would probably donate more and give more as there would be less need to feel fear with giving what I have saved, since I know that basic needs will always be met.

G. (place of residence withheld, September 3, 2017)

There were so many things that people used to do in families, groups and in community to support the raising of children, the health of its members, to survive, to keep people connected. In a sense, those things involved TLC (tender loving care or nurturing) – tending to all life and the land under our care or that we share (cleaning up waterways and maintaining parks), volunteering, and taking care to prepare nutritious meals and look after ourselves and our loved ones. These activities are barely part of our culture anymore. Without TLC, more and more of us are getting depressed, sick and ending up on support payments. Many of us tend naturally to these TLC activities that don't pay. We are a resource that can be harvested! We want to be engaged, but we can't afford to or are spent from doing dead end jobs that leave nothing left of us in order to tend, as per above. Basic income would permit me to work for the common good – like access to nutritious food – work that would benefit individuals, public health and decreasing the cost of provincial health care. The return is enormous! I did this for awhile and it was rewarding work, but I became depleted and not able to afford nutritious food for myself. Now, due to support, I am fortunate to be able to retrain in the hopes of working for an underprivileged community, with regards to food sovereignty and empowering women, maybe in northern Canada. But somehow, I need to figure out a basic wage to do this work and how to look after myself better than I did before getting sick.

Gale (place of residence withheld, ON, September 3, 2017)

Hi, my name is Gale Spearing and I think the basic income guarantee would benefit my family and I tremendously. I feel a stigma attached to being on social assistance and having this different type of benefit would totally wipe that away. My family and I are barely getting by after paying our bills and that little extra income would allow us to experience more of a normal life and live like the people we're surrounded by every day. As it stands, I can't even afford the supplements and nourishment my body needs to be able to function in a healthy way and I feel like I could help my health so much more, but unfortunately I don't have the means to do it. I really hope this benefit comes to pass. Thank you.

George (Mississauga, ON, September 12, 2017)

I love the Basic Income concept based on what I have heard about the trial in Manitoba. My income as a professional counselor/therapist in private practice always involved low net income and that was a constant source of stress. Basic income would remove anxiety. I always knew what I was doing was my calling and was benefiting the people I served. My wife qualifies for disability support but was hesitant to claim or pursue that status. I am many years older than her and if I should die provision for her basic needs would immediately be in jeopardy without a basic income guarantee. One of my stepsons has been very successful in positions he filled at Best Buy but he could not survive on the income or get married. He needs to upgrade his education and Basic Income would be very helpful in allowing him to move ahead in his life.

Gillian (Lindsay, ON, September 11, 2017)

I am a low-income recipient on Ontario Works! I receive \$1300 to live off of. I own my house and have heat, hydro, water, mortgage payments and rent, that I'm responsible for, and a little girl to raise and feed. I look for employment on social media to try and compensate the money I lost when my daughter turned 18. I was a Personal Support Worker but sustained a back injury and I am currently applying for ODSP as advised by my current Ontario Works worker, and my Doctor. The basic income would help me with the rising utility costs, food costs and help me provide for my daughter. I struggle every month to make ends meet. I just wish I could say yes to my daughter instead of no because money is so tight! I could really use the extra support! I would be very grateful to be chosen for the basic income program!

Gina (Ridgeway, ON, September 15, 2017)

I believe that by giving everyone a Basic amount, we will not be forced into being slaves for food, shelter and clothing. Instead you would see people following their dreams, getting an education, using their gifts/talents to change the lives of the people around them. I believe by implementing this across Canada, will end the Generational Cycle of Poverty. What is there to lose?

Gladys (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

Being an independent filmmaker (B.A in English) and a home-based company owner taught me that accomplishing your dreams is almost impossible and making a living is hard nowadays in a highly competitive world. To live comfortably in today's society and economy is not easy but with a guaranteed basic income, I am certain that dreams can be realized. A bit faster, and a little easier. I, and my family (mom and two younger sisters) will certainly benefit from the guaranteed basic income. Just knowing the fact of having a possible guaranteed basic income monthly gives me the feeling of having a safety net where I can easily touch for an instant relief. Having it will make a huge difference in our lives to make ends meet comfortably. It will represent the essential tender hand to support us financially and give the needed push to go forward. It will be the helping hand to build a better future for me and my family. I believe it will also help the economy of our society in general. Basic income will become an important factor to accomplish all our personal and professional goals gradually. At last and not least, with guaranteed basic income we would have no fear to step in a zone called the unknown filled with endless possibilities.

Greg (Kitchener, ON, September 3, 2017)

Since becoming a recipient of Ontario's Disability Support Program, I've learned to live below the poverty line. A Basic Income Guarantee in addition to the O.D.S.P. budget would allow me the ability to better provide for my children, and emotional support animal. I have no coverage for chiropractic treatment, or medical marijuana (which has been difficult to obtain when transitioning through exemption programs), and as such, my treatment is very sporadic. I seem to break even every time I find short term employment. The cycle of poverty seems to be inescapable under the system which I've been navigating since 2012. A Basic Income Guarantee would put food in my fridge when I've exhausted my visits at the food bank of Waterloo Region and hampers at the Ray of Hope community center. Thank you for your willingness to consider the implementation of the Basic Income Guarantee.

Gregor (Ottawa, ON, September 15, 2017)

I do what I can to love all; it's difficult, but I try. My perspective of Society and Civilization is that All living within it have, to some degree, agreed to cooperate with one another and help provide at least the most basic survival needs for All within the group. The fact that there are people who do not have: easy, regular access to clean, healthy, nutritional Food; clean, purified, UNADULTERATED H2O Water; and safe, relatively permanent Shelter for sleep, relaxation and decompression – dictates that the collective group as a whole has and is failing to cooperate and provide these BASIC NEEDS to All within the group of this Society and Civilization.

A Universal Basic Income will provide these things for All people. Their needs will be fulfilled, worry and stress will be reduced, artistic expression, among many, MANY other areas will flourish. There will be downsides in the short term, there will be those who take advantage of this to a negative degree, but frankly, that is not something new; it has always, ALWAYS been the case when a large group of people are provided things for 'free'. It is not 'free' though: it is compensation for being born into a group and having no choice but to live with a Society and Civilization. Humanity has declared dominance and ownership over all land on this rock we call Earth, hurtling through a deep, dark, seemingly endless abyss. We must cooperate.

Heather (Kitchener, ON, September 12, 2017)

The basic income would help my family so much. I work part-time and support 4 family members, 2 children and 2 adults on my income. My husband is still at home with our 3-year old daughter because she doesn't go to school yet and we don't want her in daycare. It would help us put healthy food on the table, have more money to buy clothes, shoes and anything we need as a family. Also, it would take the stress out of our lives, knowing we have a guaranteed income every month. I think it is a very great idea to help families that are worried every month about food, bills and rent. Thank you so much for the opportunity to write this.

Heather (Halifax, NS, September 11, 2017)

I think everyone could use a guaranteed income. I know I would certainly appreciate it and I work every day and have a fulltime continuing job (hopefully until I decide to retire). But for someone like my sister a basic income guarantee would be life changing! My sister was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis approximately 20 years ago. She worked as long as she could after the diagnosis but about 8 years ago she ended up in the hospital and since then has not been able to return to work. My sister, collects Canada Pension Disability and lives off \$575 per month in her own little place. It's quite a financial strain on myself and my family trying to help her out so that she may remain in her own home. Department of Community Services says that because she owns her own home, she brings in too much money in order to qualify for help from them. I couldn't believe my ears when I heard that! It is such a vicious circle and so very frustrating!!!

I also know that a proper diet is important for everyone but especially for those who already have a debilitating disease. So, it would make quite a difference for my sister to be able to buy nutritious food and not have to worry about how much fresh fruit and vegetables cost. I truly hope that basic income happens for all but especially for those who are disabled so they may live with dignity and not have to choose between eating and paying for heat. I wonder if Mr Trudeau and his colleagues could survive on \$575 a month?

Heather (Vancouver, BC, September 3, 2017)

Basic income would allow me to choose healthier foods, fresh produce and meat, instead of dollar store foods like canned meat, pasta and stale bread. I have M.S, it would allow me to live in disability accessible housing, I live in a 2nd floor 2 room apartment with a roommate who is also on disability. No

independence as I need help to get up and down the stairs having to rely on others to help me. New clothes and bed instead of used. It is humiliating having to go to welfare for rental forms. Landlords pre-judge you. I could participate in life instead of watching it go by. On my income I can't live a normal decent life, always stressed out about paying bills.

Helge (Caroline, AB, September 4, 2017)

I can speak from experience in regards to the value of a basic income. At 75 years of age I receive the Old Age Pension, Canada Pension and the Guaranteed Income Supplement which brings my monthly income up to about \$1800. This enables me to participate actively in my community, even more so than during my working days, and also leaves time for helping an immigrant family with two boys to raise on a very minimal income to go shopping, keep medical appointments, etc. It also allows me to be a male role model for the boys.

Holly (Tyendinega Mohawk Territory, ON, September 3, 2017)

150 words I don't believe is anywhere near enough to explain the impact this guaranteed income would severely improve my family's situation. We wouldn't have to choose between bills or food. When my daughter asks to go to dance class or my son to karate I wouldn't have to make up an excuse as to why they can't participate. We would finally be able to make a difference in our debt. My anxiety levels are insane and usually attributed to financial strains. This program seemed like such a godsend when I first heard about it, and I was very optimistic about its initial start. Finding out that only certain communities would be chosen for the program was disappointing. I understand the logistic behind the trial run but I believe that 3 years is a long time to do it. Aside from just my family, I know many families that could finally feel reset, and able to strive for a better future for themselves and their families. Like I said, 150 words were not enough. This is why I have split my responses. Thank you for reaching out and actually taking the time to listen to those who would truly benefit from this program.

Hussein (Hamilton, ON, September 5, 2017)

Ten Reasons to Support Basic Income

- 1) Basic Income will help us rethink how & why we work: A basic income can help you do other work and reconsider old choices: It will enable you to retrain, safe in the knowledge that you'll have enough money to maintain a decent standard of living while you do. It will therefore help each of us to decide what it is we truly want to do.
- 2) Basic Income will contribute to better working conditions: With the insurance of having unconditional basic income as a safety net, workers can challenge their employers if they find their conditions of work unfair or degrading.
- 3) Basic Income will downsize bureaucracy: Because a basic income scheme is one of the most-simple tax/benefits models, it will reduce all the bureaucracy surrounding the welfare state thus making it less complex and costly, while being fairer and more emancipatory.
- 4) Basic income will make benefit fraud obsolete: As an extension of benefit fraud will vanish as a possibility because no one needs to commit fraud to get a basic income: it is granted automatically. Moreover, an unconditional basic income will fix the threshold and poverty trap effects induced by the current means-tested schemes.
- 5) Basic income will help reducing inequalities: A basic income is also a means for sharing out the wealth produced by a society to all people thereby reducing the growing inequalities across the world.
- 6) It will provide a more secure and substantial safety net for all people: Most existing means-tested anti-poverty schemes exclude people because of their complexity, or because people don't even know how to apply or whether they qualify. With a basic income, people currently excluded from benefit allowances will automatically have their rights guaranteed.
- 7) Basic Income will contribute to less working hours and better distribution of jobs: With a basic income, people will have the option to reduce their working hours without sacrificing their income. They will therefore be able to spend more time doing other things they find meaningful.

At the macroeconomic level, this will induce a better distribution of jobs because people reducing their hours will increase the jobs opportunities for those currently excluded from the labor market.

- 8) Basic Income will reward unpaid contributions: A huge number of unpaid activities are currently not recognized as economic contributions. Yet, our economy increasingly relies on these free contributions (think about Wikipedia as well as the work parents do). A Basic Income would recognize and reward these activities.
- 9) Basic Income will strengthen our Democracy: With a minimum level of security guaranteed to all citizens and less time in work or worrying about work, innovation in political, social, economic and technological terms would be made a more lively part of everyday life and its concerns.
- 10) Basic Income is a fair redistribution of technological advancement: Thanks to massive advancements in our technological and productive capacities the world of work is changing. Yet most of our wealth and technology is as a consequence of our 'standing on the shoulders of giants': We are wealthier not as a result of our own efforts and merits but those of our ancestors. Basic income is a way to civilize and redistribute the advantages of that on-going advancement.

Iris (place of residence withheld, September 4, 2017)

A B.I.G. [Basic Income Guarantee] would allow me to recover peace of mind. I am 68 years old, with no income at all. I bought my apartment with no mortgage in 2003. I just pay condo fees but I need money for daily living and I am running out of savings. I cannot work because of my fragile health. That B.I.G. would allow me to forget about extreme measures.

J. (Trent Hills, ON, September 5, 2017)

As someone with a severe disability and receiving less than \$1200 per month, Basic Income would help me be more independent by being able to live on my own and afford to pay for rent, hydro, and utilities. The hardest thing about not being able to afford groceries, clothes, and medical supplies, is that it has a devastating impact on my mental health and emotional well-being. It hurts me on a soul level when I cannot afford to look after myself or my pets who provide unconditional love for me. My pets give me a reason to be there for them and I want to be able to help them too. There is nothing worse than wanting to be a part of the society and unable to participate due to lack of access to funds. More than anything, I want to feel like a valued human being.

J. (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

A basic income would allow me to provide a decent home without the stress of basic necessities being not affordable. It would allow me to pursue my dreams of starting a small painting and renovation company. It would eliminate the desperation that poverty breeds. Allowing the recipient to improve their lot in life without a cash penalty would let honest people be honest again. I think the benefits of the program greatly outweigh any negatives. I believe the program will make people more productive not lazy. Sure, a percentage of lazy people may continue to be lazy but even they will be healthier and at least saving money on health care services. Why would any advanced country want any of its people living in poverty anyway?

Jack (place of residence withheld, September 12, 2017)

On the topic of basic income, people often ask: "who's going to pay for it?" And the simple answer is: it will pay for itself. By lifting people out of poverty, we can eliminate the hardships that are brought by poverty. Thus, the costs (healthcare, crime etc.) those hardships impose on society can be greatly reduced, freeing up the revenue to then pay for the system, and consequently allowing a greater proportion of society to productively take part in their community and the economy, with dignity. This would then create a positive upward spiral where every individual in society benefits. That is the effect that a properly implemented basic income would have, and I believe that it is within reach. We just need to make it happen.

Jamie (Kingston, ON, September 11, 2017)

On an *individual* level, a guaranteed income would mean very little to me. That's because I've been lucky in life. Lucky because of my class, race and gender. Lucky because I was born at just the right time, at the beginning of the baby boom years. In a rich country. But on a *personal* level, the knowledge that I'd be living in a country that cared enough about my less lucky fellow citizens to ensure a decent standard of living for everyone? That we'd all get a fair share? That would mean a lot. That fits with the way I see the world. We're all entitled to live with dignity. To security. To have the opportunity to participate fully. That's democracy. And that should not be a matter of luck.

Jane and David (Halifax, NS, September 11, 2017)

What would a basic income do for someone like me and my partner? Well, first of all a little context. I'm 45 and tired of working such a short season just to make enough money to subsist on E.I. for the rest of the winter. This puts us both in a precarious situation. Last season, in order to get by for the year we endured having rights taken from us (no time off nearly the whole summer) and at the end having our pays withheld due to the employer misconstruing events. This behaviour has led us to our current situation and you may have guessed that we didn't return to this job this year.

My partner has non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. We had to stay in Halifax while he had treatments. It wasn't the only reason we have been looking for a place to rent since May. We thought that we could find a place in the country with land to rent and made plans to make our own business with organic market gardening and I make organic beauty purists. Our attempts have been surprisingly fruitless all this time simply because of the scarcity of such a place. If it does become available, it's gone to the highest bidder or the price is just almost laughable. My E.I. has run out and my partner is now on disability. We have been very fortunate to have been able to stay at his brother's place until mid-October.

Now to the point of why a basic income would be the best, decent thing for a mature couple like us who do have potential to give back to the community. Firstly, I cannot secure a loan to get us into a home out in the country with land because we aren't working and my partner's disability (cancer) means he can't work hence while he's on disability. Secondly, I cannot get help for a start-up business as the rules are I'd have to be functioning as a business for over a year. As you can now imagine it's a catch 22. Then soon I'm going to have to seek income assistance while we find a winter residence which so far will just put us in survival mode.

What difference would a basic income make for us? Well the income assistance I may get will not stretch to cover rent, food (we have to eat well with his cancer that's our belief) and heat so we have to rely on family charity. As you can imagine that's not very empowering nor is it getting us to our goal. So, the basic income would push us towards finding the appropriate home and business opportunity while we can continue to eat and live well while my partner fights his illness. It would keep me motivated and empowered and not have to keep relying on charity while living in the community that we would prefer to participate in. Currently, my partner's morale has gone down because he is concerned about our future. At our time of life, this would give him hope and motivation to move forward in our plans. We would contribute rather than hold our hands out for handouts. Basically, I see it as the only way forward while starting up our business. I see it as hope out of our hopeless situation. Thanks for reading.

Jarett (place of residence withheld, September 13, 2017)

This would mean a freedom to live, vacation, and enjoy our lives here on this planet. There is nothing that is more important than quality time spent with loved ones. Why can't we the poor have the opportunity to be free from financial debt and struggle. I could see my son and I could see my sick mother.

Jason (Massachusetts, USA, September 4, 2017)

Fewer abandoned communities. Fewer "bad" neighborhoods. More restaurants. More art. More debate.

Jason (place of residence withheld, ON, September 6, 2017)

I was recently stuck between a rock and hard place. After becoming ill leaving me with a permanent disability I was given two options: 15 weeks of employment insurance or Ontario Disability Pension. As a nurse, I did not qualify financially for ODSP therefore I was forced to return to work too soon or be left with no income. Basic income is the solution to my dilemma. I would have had adequate time to recover with some income and return to work when I was ready. Thank you.

Jay (Duncan, BC, September 11, 2017)

50th year anniversary, 150 words, September 15th deadline for this, so I will assume basic income to be \$1500/month. How would that affect my life? Oh, my Jesus. Burden of rent, gone. Expenses taken care of. That leaves another \$300 or so for food. You are retiring every person instantly, at a rather minimum but at least the very least of conditions for each person is retirement. This means so much. We all prepare our lives for when we will not have to work and worry so we can REALLY live our lives without the constraint of time. Until that time comes, however, the furthest our minds can reach in thought is how much is possible in a months' time or a few. That mental barrier needs to be broken and true freedom needs to be given to humanity. Trudeau, please.

Jeanne (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

I believe that guaranteed basic income will benefit each one in our society. Being an independent music composer and a part owner of a home-based family business made me realize that dreams aren't easily accomplished. With the guaranteed basic income, tasks will seem a bit easier and life would be much more comfortable, especially in this kind of economy. It would become the needed helping hand to build our future by opening doors of possibilities. Everyone including I and my family certainly need a loving & caring hand to make things come true. Therefore, guaranteed basic income will definitely have a strong positive impact on us all, especially when it comes to living happy.

Jennifer (London, ON, September 3, 2017)

I'm not used to it not being easy. My husband Iain almost died in 2011 and suffers from diabetes, chronic pancreatitis and vascular pain syndrome. He can't work anymore. He also hasn't successfully been able to get ODSP. Surviving on my single income with his medications and diet care has been a struggle. It became nearly impossible when I was diagnosed with cancer. We depend on a lot of kindnesses. There's no safety net. We've showered with cold water for over a year now, our water heater broke. Because there's no room for "luxury". Our life is less than the basic as we exist below the poverty line. In a house that could be taken away if I get sick again. A basic income would mean that I wouldn't have to worry about homelessness every night before I go to sleep. That we could run the heater in the winter. Groceries and medicine wouldn't be a juggling act. It would end our struggle. Thank you for reading my story.

Jeremy (Saint Catharines, ON, September 5, 2017)

Basic Income would allow me the opportunity to break out of a cycle of poverty and become more independent. I would be able to look after my disabled spouse and aging mother and still afford shoes, something I cannot currently do. I would like to upgrade my education and try out some work at home/self-employment ideas. I could choose part time work or more suitable work rather than take a precarious job that doesn't pay the bills or make use of my skills. When I have recurring bouts of illness that require surgery and recovery time, I wouldn't have to worry about becoming homeless or working while in pain. Perhaps I could afford better nutrition, food, supplements and a drug insurance plan to improve my health. I would be able to afford transportation to look for work or return to school. Less worry and better mental health.

Jerry (place of residence withheld, September 6, 2017)

With a basic income in place in Canada I believe the following would occur:

- 1) Crime rates would go down, reducing the costs of fighting crime, reducing the cost on insurance, and making me feel safer walking our streets.
- 2) Demands on our health care system would decrease, making waiting times at hospital emergency departments shorter and lowering the costs of provincial health care systems – thus lowering my taxes.
- 3) More of our youth could afford post high-school education and training thus creating a stronger and more highly educated work force for our nation, thus more progress in our society from which I and of course, all of us would benefit.
- 4) Both provincial and the federal governments could reduce the costs of managing and delivering the myriad programs of financial assistance now in place to help those in financial need - thus the taxes I now pay would go down.
- 5) Small businesses would flourish because of greater demand for their goods and services, which provides me with greater choice and more competition for my requirement for those goods and services.

Jessica (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

The Basic income would greatly improve my life because: first off I cannot work due to both severe mental and physical disabilities. The basic income would allow me to afford to better contribute to the household finances, be able to contribute more to society as well as let me be more of an equal and less of a lower-class citizen. It would also greatly help several other people in my life who I know could benefit from this program. In short, it would completely change my life and those around me for the better. Thank you. Have a Great Day.

Jessica (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

Basic Income would encourage me to do more work from home. I'd be able to maintain a relationship and home with the person I love most. I'd be able to live in a smaller town that is not currently overcrowded and help develop the town so that it is a very walkable place. I would have an organized community volunteering and cooking schedule as well. I would also feel good about being in a more fair and equal society where there are not so many power trip issues and politics as we find in all work places today. It would be nice to know that we are not behind in progress in the world when countries like Netherlands, India and many others have already proved success after Basic Income pilot experiments. http://bsmedia.business-standard.com/_media/bs/img/article/2017-01/11/full/1484081327-364.jpg

Jessica (Hamilton, ON, September 11, 2017)

My husband is a good man. He works hard to provide for this beautiful, four-person family. Unfortunately, it's not always enough. Of course, HE is always enough but stretching an income of

\$14.50/hour through a month is often a tall order. We always manage. However, I am tired of watching my family strain. I am tired of not being able to take them places, because we can't even afford the bus fare it would take to get there. I am tired of watching the love of my life, the father of my children, struggle through his week, physically, emotionally and mentally. I wish I could help financially, but my place is taking care of my home, my children and my partner. I am also an artist, and while it truly brightens our space, it doesn't usually provide meals. We would just love the chance to stop drowning and start swimming.

Jo-Anne (London, ON, September 11, 2017)

I believe in dignity for all people. The Basic Income Guarantee would be helpful in allowing dignity for all. I have had to use Social Assistance in the past when I was unable to find employment. And I had to use the Food Bank. It was very stressful to be on Social Assistance; you are made very aware that if you make extra income you could be penalized and have to pay back your Assistance. The amount received on Assistance was barely enough to pay rent let alone other basic needs. It was very unsettling to always worry if you were doing "everything" correctly. Also, although the Food Bank is a blessing when you do not have enough money to eat; it is also weak in some areas. It does make you feel like you are begging and also you are eating mostly processed/canned food. Yes, we should be thankful that we do have this help in but it would be better with the Basic Income Guarantee as that would allow people to purchase their own food. It would be good if we can shut down "Welfare" and places like food banks and soup kitchens, etc. and let people be in control of their own lives instead. Thank you.

Joe (place of residence withheld, September 5, 2017)

I have been blessed with a number of lucky breaks that provided me with a career and a comfortable retirement. I also realize that I could be one of the disabled poor. Poverty has a negative impact on our well-being and security. My personal experience with poverty and its associated issues make me empathetic to those living near or below the poverty line. Our current welfare system, though well intentioned, is costly, inefficient and continues to entrap individuals and families in perpetual poverty. We stigmatize them as "poor people" as though it was an incurable disease and therefore beyond our help. Now, as a taxpayer, I am willing to support and invest in a Basic Income program. I suspect, however, that any initial additional investments will largely be eliminated over time with reduced health and social costs, combined with the added stimulus of vibrant communities. I therefore see a national Basic Income program is affordable and an effective tool in the overall goal of making poverty history.

Joel (Oakville, ON and Summerland, BC, September 5, 2017)

Greetings! I would like to state that myself and many of my friends and family support the idea of universal basic income. We do however see a few problems it may have. Our biggest concern is the direction of cash flow. We don't believe it should be a money handout. Rather more of a debt payment system. If I maintain a student loan, credit card debt, etc. UBI should assist with the relief of debt first. Thank you.

Joel (Thunder Bay, ON, September 11, 2017)

Basic income would definitely help me in a lot of ways. It would seriously change the way I eat; means I would be able to eat healthier as my health is not the greatest because of bad eating habits; means I'd be able to afford fruits and green veggies and eat healthier. Would definitely be able to help for my massage therapist: I'd be able to go more often in a month as I had a bad neck accident, then surgery so it would help for my pain if I can go more often. And, lastly, it would help me try to get a vehicle and be able to pay for my insurance. And, also, I live in the country and am trying to relocate to the city. But that's expensive so that would definitely help. I'd also be able to send my daughter a bit more money monthly and hopefully be able to help go to college.

John (place of residence withheld, September 3, 2017)

I am disabled. I can't afford to have dignity. This is something others can take for granted. There can be no equality in Canada until all people have access to dignity.

John (place of residence withheld, ON, September 3, 2017)

I work in an industry that right now pays basically minimum wage. I work a 50-plus hour a week at \$14.60 per hour. It stands now that minimum wage will go up. I've paid my taxes on time. Basic income would allow me to have a family, take care of them. Raising children is expensive living in Ontario. Canada is where I was born. It would allow me to keep being proud of being a Canadian. I don't drink or smoke or do drugs other than the stroke medication which is taken in a blister pack provided by my pharmacy. I'm a good Canadian.

I have a very little criminal record, only one theft charge as a teenager. My high-school friends dared me to take a chocolate bar. As a young man, I took the dare getting caught as an adult. I have one charge for assault. I misunderstood that the word of assault was incorrect. I grabbed my ex-girlfriend by the arm as she walked by me, forcing her to stop. She proceeded in taking a cordless phone, hitting me 6 times until it broke. I got the criminal record, she did not because the police officer thought to defend the woman in court. The judge asked why I'd spent the night in jail because I could've been released because I had no prior charges.

Basically, I'm saying basic income would allow me to live a better life of which most Canadian people live. Already a lot of Canadians live in poverty-stricken lives but a lot of its their fault because they're lazy and wish to receive everything for free. I believe welfare and disability are for recovery and should be used to get back to work. I had a serious stroke. I was off work for almost 18 months recovering to go to work again. I've paid my taxes all my life. I used the disability insurance to recover and return to work full time.

I wish you to know that a basic income tax credit would be deeply appreciated by a lot of people but to misuse it would be a shame. Give it to people who deserve it people who are worthy of such a credit. Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion on this matter/email. My father raised me to have good morals and Christian values. I believe the sole purpose of the government is to be there for the people of the country to build the country and the people strong as one. It's like a family but as family inexpensive rule one house. God bless you and your government

John (Berthier-sur-Mer, QC, September 14, 2017)

Global Resource Bank. The GRBe Currency Program. Everyone owns one share in the GRB. GRB shareholders value the earth's wealth of natural resources at six quadrillions (q) GRBe. The GRB converts US\$ assets to GRBe. The GRBe reserve provides shareholder accounts with e50 per day for 20 years. The GRB invests e1.5q in ecosystems and e250 trillion (t) in the GRBnet. The GRBe income account earns ecos from an ecosystem impact charge on shareholder and commercial accounts and balances ecos with the GRB reserve to maintain a steady-state global economy. The shareholder's average impact sets the shareholder account charge and the impact of their goods and services sets commercial account charges. Two percent of GRBe income maintains the GRBnet and e50 per day support GRB shareholders for life. Shareholders invest 5% of their GRBe income in Earth's ecosystems. The GRBe value of natural resources and GRBe percentages adjust to shareholder feedback. After one year of inactivity, GRBe accounts revert to the reserve. The majority chooses the GRBe program manager. Q&A: <https://www.grb.net>

John and Clare (London, ON, September 4, 2017)

That would be a dream come true. Clare and I live off a decent pension. We are 81 yrs of age, and try to give at least 10% of our net income supporting groups who assist people in need. For that amount to be funded federally, my taxes would increase by at least that amount, as would the taxes of all people in our tax bracket. Combine that source with current federal, provincial, municipal and private programs and funding becomes a reality. It would give us all great joy to see that happen. I say "all" because Canadians are overwhelmingly a loving and generous people. If anyone doubts that fact, look at the response of our people to the 2004 Asian Tsunami crisis. Our response was referred to recently as "colossal". There are two reasons for this response: the horror of tsunami, and the overwhelming need for assistance. Our current poverty levels mirror that horror and that need.

Joseph (White Rock, BC, September 6, 2017)

I had a brutal childhood. A basic income would help me move past the effects of the residential school system, depression, and chronic physical pain due to a back injury. I want to be a successful tax paying Canadian, but my condition will not allow a physical job. I subsist on a \$722.99 PWD pension, and after rent and bills nothing is left for food. A Basic Income Guarantee would mean less stress overall and healthier food. If I had a basic income I could afford to go back to school, I would buy a gym pass and continue my physical therapy. Good health, wellbeing, independence, and hope for a better future are what Basic Income could provide me.

Judy (Winnipeg, MB, September 6, 2017)

We are senior citizens, working on contract, no pension, no benefits. The current contract ended, and we need a new one. No job prospects equals potential homelessness. Our daughter, a young adult, has an incurable chronic pain disability from a childhood injury at school. Manitoba's Provincial Disability Income Assistance is \$400.90 a month and the province wants her "cured" within a year. The medicines needed are not covered by Pharmacare, and are about \$975.00/month. Her future looks bleak: pain and no home, no medical care. An annual income above the poverty line, one that covers medical and other needs, would be excellent. Look up Complex Regional Pain Syndrome. Thank you.

Julia (place of residence withheld, September 3, 2017)

A basic income would give people that are unable to find or even have a full-time job, due to health circumstances that are not covered under disability or any other insurance or program, as well as people that cannot find meaningful work outside of home, an income that they could at least pay for some shelter, food, and clothing and/or possible must-have pharmaceutical items such as diabetic supplies and insulin, even while they may be looking for work. As a parent supporting older children I am quite happy with helping my children but as a retired parent it becomes stressful since retirement money has to go a lot further and can become a real strain. Lack of employment opportunities due to an overpopulation problem which the world is seeing is becoming the norm. It is affecting a whole generation of people and we need to deal with it sooner than later. Basic income could be replaced with the welfare and unemployment payouts and other financial handouts and would give people more dignity regardless of where they live and what they want to do. It would be an asset for people that enjoy volunteering as it would give them a basic income they could live on and be able to provide volunteer services to their communities. Our attitudes have to change and encompass the fact that we do need to help every next one that requires it. I think the basic income is a very great start towards that attitude. Please consider my thoughts seriously as all other people's thoughts on this issue. It's the right time to do this. Thank you for this opportunity to voice my opinion along with others.

K. (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

For most of my life I have worked for minimum wage, all the while endeavouring to be a contributor to society as well as be self-sufficient. There were a few years that I did make more than minimum wage.

However, during those times one is so busy playing catch up that you find you have not made any overall progress. I know what it is to be a single parent, homeless and live out of one's car. Mental anguish and stress lead to problems with mental health. For the past nine years I have been on a disability doing whatever work I could to just try and reach the poverty line. This coming year I will be 65, with no hope of ever reaching the poverty level, let alone above it.

A basic income would make my life worth living. Living below poverty takes its toll on a person's physical and mental health. I have a lot to live for with many grandchildren, whom I love dearly. It would be nice to be able to bake them some cookies now and then, however I cannot even afford to buy food for myself. Poverty is a prison with invisible walls. However, others who have enough to provide the necessities of life for themselves and their families do not see those walls. How sad it is for so many Canadians to live in poverty when really Canada is a country with plenty to go around. Canada is my home and native land and there are many wonderful people that have given me support in one way or another throughout my life on this earth. Poverty is worse than a sickness that can heal, as no matter how hard you try, when you work for minimum wage or going to receive pension without a company pension poverty is not going anywhere. I had to give up TV because there are no channels that will come in on my TV without cable where I live. Though I try to stay optimistic, there are days when I wonder why I am here and do not even want to live anymore. A Basic Income would bring hope back into my life, for sure. It is amazing what one can do with just a little more to give of themselves instead of just worrying about mere survival.

K. (Newmarket, ON, September 5, 2017)

My adult daughter is on ODSP because she has severe mental illness that is not expected to improve. I am a single mother and I have been supplementing the needs of my daughter because ODSP is not enough. She would not be able to pay her rent if I did not pay more than half of it. Some medications are not covered so I pay for those, as well as things like counselling. Eating good food becomes a challenge, never mind utilities, phone, etc. My finances and credit are now in ruins as I struggle to keep up, and heading into my 60th year, I don't see the day when I may be able to retire. My daughter is on the waiting list for housing, but I'm told it could be 10-12 years. Because of her issues, living with me is not recommended. A basic income guarantee would ensure that my daughter has her needs met, and would relieve the financial pressure and the resulting stress related health issues on me. It would not only improve our quality of life, it would prevent each of us in our own way from becoming an unnecessary financial burden. I'm doing my best to care for my daughter but am unsure how long we can go on like this-the stress is becoming intolerable. I'm told that if I put her in a shelter and withdraw my support that she may get faster service. I think this is unacceptable and would cause her further trauma. Sharing in the cost of a guaranteed income would be far less expensive for society/government than long term care or stress related illness. I want a society that cares about its people.

Karen (Mississauga, ON, September 3, 2017)

A basic income for our severely autistic daughter would allow her to rent an apartment perhaps with a friend from her day program who has similar needs. It would give her a sense of pride and dignity as a young woman in her 20's to live independently from her parents. As a parent of an individual with high needs I am becoming increasingly concerned about our ability to care for her as we enter our senior years. I hear about many families ending up in crisis because of the decades of neglect to funding for residential services here in Ontario. A federal basic income program would go a long way to help bridge the gap between the desperate need of our most vulnerable citizens and the severely under-funded provincial programs.

Karen (place of residence withheld, September 4, 2017)

Basic income would provide our family with the peace of mind that despite economic fluctuations, we will always be able to provide our children and ourselves with the basic necessities of food and shelter. Canada already has so much to offer its citizens, let's set an example to all countries that nourishment and shelter are a right and not a privilege. Basic income also provides every citizen with the peace of mind that those in need are being provided for, because what happens to one of us, happens to all of us. Let's be bold. Let's dare to dream of a prosperous future for all Canadians. Let's put that dream into motion. A proud Canadian.

Karen (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

I work full time and so does my partner. We have a 9-year old daughter who goes to Public School. We own a condo and pay a mortgage and property taxes. I find it very difficult to afford my life. I have credit card debt as when I cannot afford certain things I rely on my credit card. We don't live beyond our means, far from it. An example is, daycare fees for my daughter's before-school, after-school program are approximately \$200 a month. When she just started in pre-kindergarten the fees were \$100. That's a huge increase, meanwhile as she gets older the government keeps taking away credits for her. I also have to pay for her tutoring, as she is in a public school and is not getting the education she requires I must pay \$130 a month for math tutoring. In fact, in one month the government will not pay for her dental care. This is a huge concern for us as we feel that we struggle with daily expenses raising our child.

Kassi (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

If I had access to \$1000 dollars a month in basic income, my rent would be paid right off the bat. So, all of my own income could be focused on paying off my student loans and then towards achieving my teaching degree. Furthermore, I could put money towards the publishing costs of my future novels and poetry books. Even if I only had access to \$500 extra dollars a month it would help me tremendously with my dreams and aspirations. I am an avid volunteer with after school programs and events in my community, but when I have to work full time, there is no time left for me to share. Having more money means having more time to pursue social causes and personal goals. I think this is the truth for a lot of people and I would be thrilled to read other people's testimonials. Thanks for the opportunity.

Kathy (place of residence withheld, ON, September 5, 2017)

My daughter has Ehler Danlos Syndrome and is so debilitated she cannot work. She is an ODSP patient which is a cruel and a mean-spirited program where the disabled person, although helped somewhat is investigated to death as though they are a criminal. The end of such a program is overdue. With a replacement that is not punitive, that reflects what it costs to live in Toronto and receive necessary treatments, services and medications with this disability, and that can be fair, progressive and timely we can be proud of such action. ODSP likely breaks the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, but if not, the United Nations has said it is against the Civil Rights of this person. ODSP serves no one, has failed to reflect fair support, and costs too much for ineffective and likely illegal actions against the person. It seems medieval. A guaranteed income would be positive, would help this disabled person and others live better, become and be considered an equal citizen, and it would be hopeful for our society, leaving backwards and hurtful practices behind.

I have been recently diagnosed with EDS too. I suffered most of life with something no one could name, spent large amounts of money to keep me working, but had to retire early as a result. I try to help, but it is EXTREMELY difficult financially. Any increase in monthly funds to help an ODSP patient by a new name, also helps the whole family, and likely helps the economy. And reduces government costs. And makes each of us more equal. Isn't that enough?

Patients and families suffer daily, and for all the years to come to provide care for after I am gone. It is terrifying. It depletes family funds now which should be saved for later and it creates mistrust of government instead of being seen as an ally and fair-minded advocate for disabled people and others. The new EDS Clinic is a bandaid. Added to the guaranteed income must be increased funds for treatments, drugs and supplements doctors order and affordable, safe housing that will allow this person to be more productive and engaged. Without private insurance, fair healthcare is refused for people who did not do anything to cause the conditions they were given at birth.

When we witness the lives of people like my daughter, we know we must change our discriminatory systems that erode rather than create opportunity and fairmindedness. Our vocabulary and our systems need to reflect what is possible and smart for the 21st Century...it IS 2017!

Kerri (Kitchener, ON, September 5, 2017)

I am originally from Gander, Newfoundland. I am 100% in support of implementing coast to coast Basic Income. I receive Ontario Works Benefits (\$650.00 monthly) and struggle financially greatly. With the costs of housing/living I barely keep my head above water, forcing me to EVERY MONTH having to use community supports such as food banks, the local soup kitchen, etc. I STRONGLY believe that if the basic income were to be given it would immensely remove the chaos of living in poverty. I feel it would allow for me to concentrate of being productive and moving forward in life instead of living day to day having to use such time figuring out how to survive. I feel it would allow not only myself but all those in this same position to further their education/skills to become productive members of society which in turn will eventually lower taxes, crime rates, etc. I hope my input helps to see life on my side of the fence as well as influence those in the power to make basic income possible.

Kevin (place of residence withheld, September 13, 2017)

I am disabled. If a basic income were enough to actually live on and help a disabled person with living expenses like rent or buy a home, healthy food (not just mushroom soup and crackers), clothing, medicine, entertainment, utilities, transportation, dental; and have enough left over so that you are not praying just so you can buy something that others can buy because they are able to work; and not being forced to live so far below poverty that even the rodents look down on you: if basic income could do this for me life would at least be tolerable. And without the government being able to snatch it away and tell you that you can do without. I would feel human again.

Kim (place of residence withheld, September 7, 2017)

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau. We have been tasked with convincing you of how a basic income could change our lives and those of our loved ones. Of the infinite reasons a Basic Income could be a positive and uplifting benefit to Canadians, here are just a few of my own. I know that I speak for many other mothers struggling with limited resources. Here are some examples of how this policy could improve the lives of myself, my children and many more.

I am an unmarried parent by choice, having escaped abuse more than once. I have found that even in Canada, gender equality in relationships is severely lacking. A Basic Income would provide the means for more independence for survivors of abuse like myself. Women need options to escape the danger and to live peacefully while providing our children with a healthier home environment. Financial freedom offers freedom from abuse and control, which will only improve the lives of people escaping family violence.

A freedom from stigma of welfare and living in poverty due to a Basic Income would also mean the option to move to a safer neighbourhood. In our area, we're regularly experiencing/witnessing crimes and my children are exposed to negative, unhealthy influences that I often feel helpless to battle against.

In terms of my life's work, I would love nothing more than to experience the freedom to do more volunteering with school children, community and care work (which pays little to nothing) in the workforce and is often very challenging to balance as a single parent needing reliable, affordable licensed child care.

While I'd prefer to sweep these thoughts under the rug, my parents are ageing and I wish for the ability to care for my them in their autumn years without severe financial consequences. Basic Income would give me the ability to be with them when they will eventually need me for their change of life.

A great wish of mine is to have the freedom to afford to continue my education and pursuits in the sciences. I am a horticulturist with an interest in environmental sciences and a children's educator who wishes to further serve my community.

Finally, I would like to leave you with a reminder that the health of an individual is scientifically proven to improve with more available income and less stress. A Basic Income to support our lives would certainly assure that they were much healthier ones. Please consider the future of Basic Income carefully. We could move towards a greater, more productive and healthier future for Canada (and the world).

Kristin (Kingston, ON, September 4, 2017)

In regards to the question, how basic income will affect me and my loved ones: I am a single mother who wants the very best for my children. I work in the health care field. My job is rewarding and demanding. But living on a single income my children miss out on so many opportunities. Basic income would give them so much more. Relieve stress in me and I can enjoy life as a single mother. All 3 of my sons are gifted, and basic income would help to cultivate their gifts. Making Canada a better place. Please bring basic income to all of us.

Krystle (place of residence withheld, ON, September 13, 2017)

I am writing to express my thoughts on the prospective introduction of a basic guaranteed income for all across Canada. In 2008, I experienced a devastating set back and much hardship due to being diagnosed with a severe mental health issue. Throughout the years that I have suffered with this condition, I have faced the frustration and stress of not having enough income to meet the demands of high housing costs (\$1000 all-inclusive vs \$750 plus utilities) as well as other necessary day to day expenses. On an ODSP income of \$1200, this leaves me with very little to cover food, clothing, transportation, phone etc. which creates more stress and adds to health complications. I believe there are many facing similar challenges. For me, I think the guaranteed income would mean I would be afforded the opportunity to finally have stability in my life as well as the peace of mind to know that I can maintain my current housing situation without worry that I may be thrust into a situation where my health would be jeopardized. Thank you.

L. (Ottawa, ON, September 3, 2017)

For me it would change my life for the better and my teenager's life. I'm on ODSP because of health problems. We have a subsidy with Ottawa housing. When my kid grows up and the child tax is gone in a few years it will be a struggle to get by. I wish I could just be worry free. Basic income would insure I can keep my housing and maintain basic needs. I'm really hoping Ottawa gets it in a few years because honestly, I don't know what I will do without it. Basic income would change my life and my kids for the better. I hope Justin Trudeau or whoever gets in will see that this life is a lot better when basic needs are met and that some people can't work. It makes a difference to have good housing and food and clothing and other needs met. I really hope basic income gets implemented Canada wide.

Linda (Kingston, ON, September 11, 2017)

How would being in receipt of a basic income improve my life? I am a senior whose income is Old Age Security with the Guaranteed Income Supplement and a small Canada Pension. Every month when the cheques arrive in my bank account, it becomes a stressful time trying to balance the bills needed to be

paid and having something left over to keep my bank account out of overdraft. Each month by the second week I am usually at a cash store just to have enough money to buy food for the rest of the month. Paying it back requires another loan at some time in the following month. Having a basic income would enable me to eliminate cash store loans and have all of my monthly requirements taken care of with a bit to save.

Linda (Richmond, BC, September 3, 2017)

Basic Income would give myself a chance to finally be free of demeaning restrictions unfairly placed on me just so I can stay home and care for my precious epileptic daughter of whom has had seizures for 29 years! The only way I could care for her as a divorced mother and survivor of severe domestic violence has been by living on severely restricted income. This is not fair. I do 99% of all her shifts around the clock as my respite is limited to less than a dozen hours per month! I basically sacrificed my life for her care. I won the 2004 Allianz Caregiver Award for the Western and Northern Region which hugely catapulted my recognition into the limelight to go on and do great things despite nearly impossibly unsurmountable obstacles. Everyone has the birth right to a decent standard of living and chance to be self-sufficient and happy and live.

Linda (Etobicoke, ON, September 5, 2017)

I'm 63 years old and live in the Rexdale area of Etobicoke. Highway Terraces is the name of the old, low-rent, seniors-only apartment building in which I reside. The building is in a sad state and needs work! The only income that I have comes from early CPP and some other small government benefit payments. As yet, I am not eligible to receive OAS benefits. Despite working full-time in Ontario, I do not have any company pension plan or benefits, such as to pay for drugs. I am the unpaid power of attorney for my 92-year old parents who live in a nursing home. Surprisingly, there is a lot of work involved in dealing with their health issues, the nursing home, etc. Bottom line is that I live in poverty in Canada, the country of my birth and the only country in which I've ever lived.

How would basic income impact me? I would be able to afford to cover my expenses better without having to keep cashing out my small amounts of RRSP savings. Gas prices are so high and I do have a car which I need to drive to the nursing home, etc. If I gave up my car in order to save money and managed to get more money in future, my car insurance rate would skyrocket as if I was a new driver. I cannot let my car insurance premiums lapse for even one day according to my insurance broker.

Bell Canada's rates are very expensive for telephone and internet services and they do not offer discount packages for seniors. Despite my phoning numerous times, even talking to their Customer Loyalty staff, they cannot offer me a better rate. I need the existing services that I get from them for myself and on behalf of my two grantors, my parents, in doing POA work on their behalf.

Food prices are so expensive and I live very frugally, e.g. using the Competitive Ad Check program at Walmart across the road from me. Each week, when I get the bag of ad flyers delivered to us in this senior's building, I go through each ad flyer and circle the items that I need to purchase so that I can try to get that exact same item at the sale price at Walmart. Walmart doesn't always carry these sale items. I cannot afford the gas money to drive from supermarket to supermarket to take advantage of the weekly sales.

As a result of relying on sale items, my diet is impacted and I tend to eat too many processed foods because of the cheap prices. Since I am at moderate risk of getting diabetes, my diet needs to be changed to include more fresh fruits and vegetables. But, I cannot always afford these foods. I cannot remember the last time that I was able to buy a roast of beef or a whole turkey. I stockpile canned and packaged foods as much as possible in my small apartment. My idea of a big treat in going to a restaurant would be a meal of chicken (not expensive ribs or roast beef) at Swiss Chalet on special occasions. It's been over 4 years since I have paid for a pizza from a pizza restaurant. Buying frozen pizza

on sale allows me the treat of fulfilling my occasional pizza cravings. Sometimes, in order to just feel happier, I like to treat myself with good food, if possible. At my age as a senior citizen living alone, why can't I have food treats? I am not covered by any drug plans and need to pay for my own prescriptions.

I am very fortunate in being able to live in this low-rent building and do get an excellent rent-controlled rate based on my low income. But, there are so many extra expenses that are overwhelming. I need to pay for renters' insurance for my apartment according to my landlord in case something bad was to happen to my apartment and its impact on other apartment(s) and the building.

The bills just keep piling up and are intimidating. If I could be entitled to a basic income that would exceed the small amount of money that I am currently earning, I would be able to feel less stress in trying to cope and less worry about my future. My lifestyle would be better. It would be really nice if my "golden years" could indeed be golden and not moldy years instead. It would be nice if I could treat my elderly parents more often. It would be ideal if I could go away somewhere on vacation for a week. The last time that I went on vacation was 3.5 years ago for one week. I feel stressed and depressed. Poverty is taking an emotional toll on me. Who would hire a 63-year-old woman who has injured arms and shoulders and constant arthritis pain? I feel useless, overwhelmed and would like to do more with my life but it doesn't seem possible.

I could go on and on about how my life, physical health and emotional health would improve if I could be granted a basic income to give me more money. But, you get the message. Thank you for your consideration. If you need any clarification, I could communicate further with you.

Linda (place of residence withheld, NS, September 11, 2017)

The Basic Income would not affect me personally but I would feel good in knowing that those less fortunate would have a financial base for their basic needs. I wish everyone would understand that this is a good thing and would help everyone of us in so many ways. We would be a healthier, happier, better educated country. Children would have a better chance for success. The stress levels would down. I do hope that this program comes into effect soon for the basic good of our population.

Lingxia (place of residence withheld, September 7, 2017)

As we are born on the earth that would asserts we exist as human beings with human rights. But now too many people are struggling to survival in Canada. That is very strange, isn't it? Common sense is that survival is a foundation for our lives as one of human rights. We need to reach the basic lever for our survival and human rights, so basic income is a solution to impact like poverty, homelessness, joblessness and so on. I believe we are all equal as one. Let's do a little step with having a basic income for everybody to build a heaven on the earth in the future.

Lisa (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

My adult children have significant and lifelong challenges (physical, emotional and cognitive) which affect their ability to work full-time. They live in poverty, their income coming from provincial disability plans, each receiving around \$12,000 per year. A guaranteed annual income that was above the poverty level, would give them financial security. This would allow them to grow their significant strengths and abilities, their personal sense of self-worth, and ability to give back to society. I am [also] raising a grandchild. Due to his circumstances, I retired early and am using my carefully built up retirement savings to pay for his special needs. A guaranteed annual income would allow me to keep those savings until I am truly elderly. As it is, those retirement savings will be used before I am in my mid-seventies, leaving me in poverty.

Lise (Sudbury, ON, September 6, 2017)

My reply to your question, would be, let us breath, let us not feel like low life's, just because life has thrown us a curve ball, it's not like we choose to be disabled, or suffer a mental illness. ALLOW us to

walk with as much pride as all other residents of this province. You wonder why there is such an epidemic of obese people (on the system). Do you not realize that it is much cheaper to eat junk food than it is to cook wholesome meals? I truly don't know if one year with this program would be enough time to make a change, but I certainly hope this becomes a permanent thing. Thank you kindly for hearing me out.

Lori (Lytton, BC, September 12, 2017)

I am disabled. I am a single mom of four. I stayed home to raise my children and became disabled quite young. This leaves me at the not-so-tender mercy of provincial disability. As I have been told repeatedly by ministry employees, they are a ministry of last resort. So, getting any assistance, even for medical necessities, is a complicated and humiliating experience. Begging is not guaranteed to get you what you need. Without exaggeration, I wish I could die. I would never cause that pain to my children, but having this existence for the balance of my life is indescribably depressing. I am too ill to work and my illness is progressive. I can do nothing to improve my situation. Having a Universal Basic Income would give me back some dignity, something I have not experienced in quite some time.

Lorraine (small town, BC, September 13, 2017)

Due to supporting a family member through a recent crisis, I now have zero savings and am starting over at age 58. I've experienced ageism when trying to find employment, but have some experience as an entrepreneur so have been building on those skills by taking business courses. I have a proven business idea with a solid business plan for selling my products. My business would contribute to my local economy, including employing several other citizens, and as well grow a social enterprise. I do not have the resources to "pay myself" while the business is launched and grows the first year. A monthly guaranteed annual income would give me the ability to do so. It would empower me to be able to launch a successful, viable business that would also assist my community, instead of having to continue down the rabbit hole of trying to find employment.

Lucifer (Calgary, AB, September 11, 2017)

Why the Basic income would change my life: I met the love of my life in 2015 November 11th, we quickly got married and have been blissful ever since, except she lives in the U.K and I in Calgary Alberta Canada. I do not have the funds or even jobs. Five hundred people showed up at a "job fair" for one job at McDonalds. The Basic Income would allow me to start my online career, better equipment like a stronger laptop. It would offer me the security that I desperately need to be allowed the time I need for my career. I used to eat 1 meal every 5 days, noodles. There were weeks I had to eat nothing but peanut butter. There was a week I had to eat 1 cooked ham split between me, my mother and brother for 2 weeks. I have been homeless twice. When I was one, a BBQ fell on my head twice. I had amnesia for 22 years. The Basic Income would change my entire life and make everything possible. It would help everything for everyone. With the advancements of technology, a beer brewery plant took hundreds+ people, now only take 6 for example. Advancements will only get stronger, and money needs to be more accessible. There was an age jobs were everywhere, not anymore. I could keep going but I'll end it here. Thank you for reading. I believe it's time for a change, what do you think? My name is Lucifer, I arrived May 1st 1992.

Lynn (Summerside, PE, September 3, 2017)

The basic income would greatly help a lot of families on PEI. As for my family, a basic income would be less struggle to make sure that we have enough food in our home for our daughter to take for her lunch and to be able to have a nutritional meal when she is home. Both myself and my husband are on disability and do find it hard to make ends meet, given that we only have money at the end of the month and the child tax credit. Having a basic income for everyone can and will help everyone who is struggling. Please let Canadians have a basic income regardless of where they live. Thank you.

Lynn (Vancouver, BC, September 14, 2017)

I learned about the concept of guaranteed basic income at TEDTalk Vancouver in April. Rutger Bregman shared what he's learned about poverty and the people living in poverty since he began studying that area. And then he shared the results of the research from the study done in Dauphin, Manitoba — better health, reduced stigma, increased community involvement, less domestic violence, higher graduation rates, less substance abuse — positive changes in each of these areas that were large enough and consistent enough to the introduction of guaranteed basic income. Positive changes that lessen the load on public services and reduce tax burdens.

What could we achieve if we shifted our tax dollars from trying to fix the symptoms of poverty and stigma, to providing every Canadian with a basic income that enabled them to feed, clothe, and house themselves — to live a life of dignity? What if instead of administering multiple complex social support systems — Employment Insurance, Canada Pension Plan, welfare, disability — we administered one much simpler one?

Bregman's talk and that research sparked not only my imagination, but my pride in Canada. Could we be the country to demonstrate that a nation without poverty is possible? Could we reap the benefits of every Canadian having a solid foundation on which to stand? Having a guaranteed basic income means lower stress during the most stressful times in our lives. It means less desperation, less crime, less violence, safer communities. It means more dignity, greater access to education, healthier choices, wiser decisions. It means a better Canada for us all.

Lynne (Hearst, ON, September 4, 2017)

A Basic Income Guarantee would enhance the quality of life of Canadian citizens. We are living in times of rapid technological change where automation and artificial intelligence are replacing jobs that pay well. The work remaining to do does not necessarily pay well enough to guarantee a good quality of life. Many people live in economic uncertainty, and I feel this negatively affects the health of many. If a Basic Income Guarantee would be available, it would help to ease the transition in the working world with automation and artificial intelligence eliminating many jobs. We should embrace progress. Citizens should not be punished by technological advancements. All should benefit from it. The government should provide citizens with a Basic Income Guarantee instead of focusing on band-aid job creation policies and continuing to provide welfare and employment insurance with multiple levels of bureaucracy; these programs are very expensive to administer. Let's make this happen.

M. (Calgary, AB, September 4, 2017)

More needs to be done to address the medical costs of poor people for such things as optometry, dentistry, prescriptions, and podiatry. While people below an arbitrary cut-off point are given some help for such things, those like me who are just slightly above get no help at all. Help for medical costs should be provided using tables like child support tables, not arbitrary cut-off points. Being given a basic income would improve not only the lives of those directly affected but also the lives of those around them. Note however that the amount needs to allow for more than just bare survival. As long as one is just barely surviving, one's health will be compromised. Improving the health of individuals is also cost-beneficial for society in general.

M. (Little Current, ON, September 12, 2017)

Basic income would allow me to take creative risks in contributing my gifts and skills to my society. With risk-taking comes innovation, and with innovation comes social progress. Basic income would free up my time to pursue endeavours I'm passionate about and can excel at and thrive with. Basic income would reduce my financial stress levels, increasing my general health and energy levels and decreasing my use of the public medical system down the road. I think these statements are true of everyone, and I want to see what type of society we can be when everyone has the freedom to offer their natural gifts, without the preoccupation of immediate financial pay-back.

Madeleine (place of residence withheld, QC, September 7, 2017)

The basic income would come very handy as I am a single parent working as a nurse. I helping financially my daughter Veronique. I have been working since I am 8 years old. I'm now 52. I started working at 8 years old delivering La Presse and Journal de Montreal. My parents emigrated from Haiti in the late 1950s. They were on welfare but made sure that I had excellent schooling to provide me a better future. They did the best to raise us and are very grateful to be Canadian. I was born in Canada and I'm a proud Canadian. I love and honour my country. Whenever I have a change I do some volunteer work to help others. The basic income would help me start a new career and pay some bills. I would be very grateful to have the basic income program. Hoping to be able to get the basic income.

Malu (Oakville, ON, September 7, 2017)

A basic Income would give me and my two kids room, to do things that we can't afford with my limited income. I have been struggling over the years with a major, recurrent and postpartum depression. I was never able to handle a regular job for more than a year. The basic Income would help us tremendously and would improve our quality of life.

Marc (place of residence withheld, September 5, 2017)

Basic income would have affected me greatly as a child. It would have meant more opportunities to thrive instead of just survive. For clients, students and others I have worked with since it would mean the opportunity to become educated without hunger, to be able to afford needed equipment like work boots and uniforms for job opportunities and it would mean better access to transportation and healthy foods. Basic income is diversion from expensive poverty, justice and health care systems. It improves the capacity of individuals and families to make decisions and live better lives. Let's make that a reality in a just, healthy and fair Canada.

Margaret (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

Basic income would allow me to retire between 65-70 years old, instead of working on until 75 or 80 and then living in poverty. I am a single mom aged 64 who raised 4 children alone in the 1980's & 90's and was therefore out of the work world for over 10 years. Then I had to retrain to re-enter labour market. I never had the spare income to save for retirement, nor worked for a company with pensions. I am now working at minimum wage with 2 PT jobs as employers are not interested in hiring people over 60. I feel

that I fell through generational, gender and political cracks in the social security system. I hope my health stays good or I will be another welfare case. My kids do not have the disposable income to support me in old age. I am not afraid to work but am scared to grow old in Canada.

Maria (Edmonton, AB, September 5, 2017)

How can the basic income help my family, well I work full time 6 days a week and make a decent wage and my family is struggling terribly and it's not due to eating out, or any addictions or for any other reason than it is too expensive to live. I recently moved to a cheaper smaller place and still we can't get ahead the utilities are outrageous and we are barely home, the cost of groceries is ridiculous. Everything costs so much yet the wages don't rise to make up for the higher costs. So yes, the basic income would help my family, as well as every single family I know as all of us are struggling.

Marisa (Lindsay, ON, September 12, 2017)

Basic Income Guarantee program may affect my life directly in offering me an independent status in a safe, secure employment status. New opportunities for an individual such as myself have been difficult to secure – new employment opportunities and/or a continuation in a commission base independent status with almost every Real Estate Brokerage. I am currently inactive in a commission base salary and wish to retain my Real Estate License following a leave of absence from the Real Estate industry. Commission sales for the last two years with no other source of income. My intention is to remain a licensed Realtor, and still maintain a good basic lifestyle.

Marissa (Coquitlam City, BC, September 6, 2017)

Dear PM Justin Trudeau. Greetings to your family and the whole staff of your Cabinet. Sir, I am currently looking after my mother who is disabled and 87 years old. I am now 60 years old and start receiving CPP of \$193.66/mo. which was started on April 2017, short of 5 years before I will receive my OAS and GIS. I hope the Government will give basic income to those who are looking after their parents and disabled family members. Caregiving is a very stressful and demanding job. Receiving Basic Income will be a great help to ease the financial need of a Caregiver who does not have an income because of situations beyond their control. I hope you can extend help to those who are suffering in silent and needed the most. Thank you.

Mark (Little Current, ON, September 11, 2017)

Our current welfare system provides specialized benefits to specific groups of people (recently unemployed, parents, first time students, members of minorities, etc.) – the result of decades of accumulated legislation aimed at helping identified groups. It is a complex system that still allows many people to fall through the cracks, and disproportionately aids others. Entrepreneurs, artists, volunteers, returning students and many others often have to suffer either a very low income or the stress of working a second job on the side while pursuing their dreams. Basic income would allow everyone to pursue their own path without discrimination. Government bureaucracy could be simplified, and people who don't fit well into the current system (including myself as an entrepreneur) would be relieved of much indignity.

Mary (Souris, PE, September 4, 2017)

I was asked to write in explaining how the basic income could help my life. Well right now I am living off of disability which is only \$650 which is not much cause \$440 of that pays for all my pain meds and other meds that I need to be able to get through a day with as less pain as possible which is hard to do. I was in a car accident 16 years ago and means I didn't have a family doctor. I just found out that I have a crack in my spine between my T7-8 disc which can never be repaired. According to my doctors they would have to remove my left rib cage, deflate my lung and go around the front of my heart. With all that it is too high risk for infection and it not even helping. Right now I take a lot of meds and pain meds to keep the nerve pain I feel everyday all day as less as possible cause it never really goes away. At the end of

this letter I will have a list of all my meds and what they are for and how they help me.

I also found out that my L5-S1 disc is herniated since the car accident. I have been back and forth to several doctors trying to get on to at-least operate on that so I can try to walk again. I am currently walking with 2 canes and in a wheel chair. When I know I have to walk a distance to get somewhere I can't hold myself up very well. I have been immobile for more than 4 years cause of this pain and I had to change my food the way that I eat everyday cause I am gaining too much weight from not being able to exercise at all. But this is very hard to do when I spend 3/4 of my check to pay for meds. I don't have enough to buy the foods I need to eat so I cannot gain anymore weight and try to lose some.

My husband is currently not working and doesn't have any income at the moment. He is trying to open up an auto garage in our backyard so he can be close to home and me in case I need help to get through a nerve pain attack which is a lot. Most days I have about 3-5 attacks that last between 1-5 minutes at times that is even with my pain meds. Being able to have the basic income increase our income would take a lot of weight off of my husband's shoulders. He is so stressed and worried how we're going to make our mortgage payment or to keep our lights on or how we're going to eat over the next week. So this extra income would be a blessing cause I don't know how much longer my husband can handle the stress. He has been thinking of leaving me cause he didn't plan to have this kind of life. So please when you do start giving out basic income to see how some people live on it please let my husband and I be in one of those groups for the test run PLEASE. Thank u for listening and reading.

Mary (Etobicoke, ON, September 3, 2017)

For the last 5 years, my life consisted of 3 strokes, 3 cancers, sepsis, radiation and a foot injury so devastating that I am disabled and in a wheelchair. I am on ODSP due to bad luck and an almost comic series of circumstances. I used to be a researcher and put myself through 3 degrees without one cent in government assistance. I paid high taxes for 35 years. Now I live for the last day of each month to receive my meager ODSP payment, pay some bills and live on a few dozen dollars till next month. The basic income project gave me hope that I may have a normal life, without financial stress, or the indignity of begging and pleading for help. If I had been lucky enough to be chosen for the pilot, my life would have changed and I could heal and recover without fear. I do not live. I endure. There has to be more dignity and help for the disabled.

Matthew (Salisbury, NB, September 11, 2017)

Basic income would greatly improve the quality of my family's life as my wife and I are on (and have been for 10 years) a paycheque to paycheque basis. Our incomes are stagnant and although I would like to go back to school to upgrade skills or obtain new ones in an effort earn more money, I can't because any drop in our combined less than \$45,000 a year family income would mean no roof over our heads or food to eat. Having a basic guaranteed income would also relieve the sleepless nights of worry over paying for food or paying rent if my main income ever decreased for any reason. Basic income gives a greater sense of security in knowing that no matter what happens I am guaranteed a set amount of income per year.

Matthew (Halifax, NS, September 15, 2017)

For most of my adult life I have been affected by precarious and undervalued work, the stress from which leaves me exhausted and demoralized. Whether the hours toiling at an underpaying and overworking job are mine or someone I care about almost everyone I know is being left behind by advancing profits and growth. Basic social acts such as paying for my own dinner when out with friends, participating in a potluck, even going out for a coffee, while crucial acts of personal agency are not within my means because of my various poverties. Basic nutrition for a healthy life for just myself is currently out of my reach. Perhaps a BIG would grant me negotiating power with renters and employers so as to secure fair pricing for safe and secure housing and the energies of my various labours. I still have some hope remaining.

Maureen (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

Basic Income would give me financial security. (My savings are depleted.) Basic Income would give me peace of mind and the ability to remain independent and not reliant on any government subsidy. I could pay off my consumer proposal (which is a drain on my early small CPP income). I could put new tires on my car and repair my brakes. I could put money towards a van which I could live in or I could take out a mortgage for a tiny house. I would not have to car camp in between my house/pet sitting jobs. I would eat healthier food. I would contribute more to my communities. If I had more stability I would be in a better position to apply for and work at a part-time job along with my house/pet sitting (which only gives me survival income). I would also consider starting up a small business (I have a good idea but not the stability and resources). I would be happier and less stressed (although I meditate and keep fit and am doing well under the circumstances). This would have a positive ripple effect on everyone in my world as everyone's energies affect everyone in their family and community.

Mawuena (Vancouver, BC, September 15, 2017)

Basic income would reduce the stress of rising housing costs and increase my quality of life. Basic income would not reduce my desire to find meaningful work. Basic income allows people to find purpose without undue economic pressure.

Melanie (place of residence withheld, September 4, 2017)

It's a long story, how my husband and I got here, and I can't possibly explain it all in 150 words or less. So, the short of it is, I have \$11 in the bank and scrounged up \$20 in change so I can buy milk, eggs and butter. I make \$13/hr part-time since being laid-off, and my husband, after losing his job, makes \$14/hr part-time. We are in the worst financial situation we've ever faced and it's a real possibility that we will be homeless. We have nothing in savings now and are slowly running out of food. I've already borrowed money from family, and can't bring myself to ask again. We tried welfare, but they said they couldn't help us. Having a guaranteed income, something I know is coming in, no matter what happens to our jobs, would be the most amazing relief. I can't urge you enough to make this happen asap. Not just for my family, but for everyone. We all want a better life, but circumstances don't always allow it. We are stuck in this terrible situation and I'm scared of what will come. I'm 37 years old and I've never been so scared for my family and myself.

Melanie (place of residence withheld, ON, September 4, 2017)

Good day. I'm grateful that I am able to share how this guaranteed income would benefit my current life. I have Multiple Sclerosis and I have tried my best to continue working but as my disease progresses it gets harder to find employment. ODSP is not nearly enough to support living, eating, car or home repairs. It's unfortunate that I have to provide extremely embarrassing information with them to ensure I have enough money for medical supplies. Having a bit more guaranteed income would help me stress less about how to survive each month and focus on staying healthy. Thank you so much again for this opportunity and I hope to hear from you again.

Melia (London, ON, September 11, 2017)

As a senior who receives the Guaranteed Income Supplement, I am for all practical purposes on a guaranteed income – except that it's not exactly that. For reasons I don't understand, my GIS dropped \$245 a month for 2017/18. That's significant. I prefer the Green Party's take on this - a Basic LIVABLE Income. It's like the minimum income figures – if someone working full time on the minimum wage doesn't have enough to live on, the minimum needs to be higher. I totally support an unconditional basic income. Our entire economy would thrive on this. All the boats float when the water level rises. The Dauphin MB experiment showed the payoffs to the entire community –less crime, fewer ER visits, etc.

Michael (Montreal, QC, September 4, 2017)

Basic Income would allow me to live and eat. I am a border line type 2 diabetic and finding suitable employment is difficult at my age, as I cannot continue to work in restaurants any longer. I am also a visual artist who would prefer to expand my area of expertise when will this take effect in my own Province of Quebec.

Michèle (in the Laurentians, QC, September 11, 2017)

I am retired and therefore on a fixed income which is not much. And on top of that I have a handicap, my left arm and hand have been damaged severely from a medical error, so there are many things I cannot do by myself. An additional basic income would allow me to hire help for the things I can't do myself because of my disability. It would also allow me to fix my house quicker because it takes forever to save up for renovations. It would allow me to buy organic food instead of food filled with pesticides, growth hormones and whatever else they put in there to poison us. It would allow me to perhaps buy a used car to get around. And who knows, maybe even go on a trip once a year. That's what an additional basic income would allow. Not to have to always choose between one often time necessity or another because I cannot do both at the same time. I'm probably forgetting a lot of things but this can give you an idea of how welcome it would be.

Michelle (Huntsville, ON, September 13, 2017)

I have a family of four living at home. My husband works full-time and now that my youngest child started school this September I will be looking for work. We are the working poor and the struggle to break free from poverty is all too real. I personally think the basic income would be such a blessing to not only my family but for the millions of working families who are struggling just to get by. Thank you for the opportunity to express how I feel.

Mike (Thunder Bay, ON, September 4, 2017)

I am in serious need of some financial help, it is extremely difficult to survive on my current situation. I currently am \$40,000.00 in debt to credit card companies and owe \$45,000.00 towards my homeline credit. I receive \$1,200.00 from ODSP monthly, and from this I payout \$1,100.00 towards minimum monthly payments on visa and my homeline credit. I am currently living on credit cards and getting further in debt. I do not drink, smoke, gamble, do drugs or socialize. I would like to stay in my family home of 55 years, and this extra income would allow me to do so. Please help me, thank-you.

Miroslava (Edmonton, AB, September 3, 2017)

Basic income for our family would mean the freedom to choose to stay at home to raise our kids instead of being forced back to work to be able to afford to live in our starter home which due to rising house prices has made us house poor. We make too much money to qualify for aid, but can barely afford a roof over our head because the gap in-between is so vast. Thank you, I hope you're able to get someone to listen. We have a serious living affordability crisis in this country that the government is choosing to turn a blind eye to, and this would be a definite step in the right direction. Let's stop basing our social system on how we're better than the states and look at how we're falling short compared to nations across the world. Have a wonderful day.

Mohit (place of residence withheld, September 3, 2017)

If I received a basic income, the insane amount of stress from student loans would disappear. I recently had a chance to start a new tech start-up company that could've revolutionized the tutoring business. But I elected for a safer job because of the pressure from my student loans. Now a similar company exists in Hong Kong with over \$3 million in funding. If I had basic income, it would've allowed me to pursue my dreams; not make all my decisions based on my student loans.

Mona (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

Being a 2nd generation fashion designer is a constant struggle to conquer your goal. Having the thought of a possible guaranteed basic income gives me more hope to reach my goal faster. Everything costs

more nowadays and fashion is highly demanding, an expensive/difficult career to pursue. Getting a guaranteed basic income will bring me closer to accomplish my dream of having my own recognizable label or brand. It will give me an opportunity to step forward and do what I love. It is the required boost to go forward. Finally, I and my family will get the needed break to conquer what our hearts truly desire. In this case, I think the community will also flourish. Sales will be high then economy on the charts will indicate more success and raise the bar higher than before. Guaranteed basic income will play a significant role and key factor in shaping our future by giving us an essential push in the right direction.

Muhammad (Kitchener, ON, September 6, 2017)

I was laid off in March 2009 and since then, I am continuously searching for a position in my profession but unfortunately, I not successful to establish a source of income. Due to my lower back & right leg pain, I am not fit for every job except office light job. Due to jobless for over five years, my pension is worked out \$32 per month due to zero contribution toward CPP in the most recent years. Due to zero income over the five years, my savings are also zero. Due to zero income, I depend for my personal financial needs on my kids' income which effect their contribution towards savings for their future. Due to zero income, I am daily physically & physiologically severely demoralized. After establishing a source of income either through job finding or Basic Income Guarantee, I will not be any more financially burden over my kids. I will be able to live with dignity and to plan for my better future life. I will also be able to pay Annual Student Membership Fee of Chartered Professional Accountant of Ontario, Canada. I will also be able to pay for CPA Professional Education Program, to qualify for the CPA designation in future which is currently delaying for the two years. It will overall improve me financially, physically, and physiologically. It will also impact my medication cost due to improvement in my physical condition, after having source of income. Finally, I will be more productive in the Canadian economy. My wife is also passing through the same situation. It will positively affect our family life, after having source of income.

Nancy (place of residence withheld, September 3, 2017)

This proposed basic income would improve my life by knowing that others do not have to 1) beg; 2) live as homeless persons; 3) live on welfare that does not meet their basic needs for housing/food/transportation/dental; 4) disabled who do not have enough to meet their needs plus mental/physical special needs; 5) low wage earners who do not have enough to meet their basic needs; 6) single parents who cannot find affordable daycare so they cannot go to school or work and therefore cannot move out of poverty; 7) seniors living in poverty; and 8) all who do not experience the dignity deserved by all citizens living in a rich democratic nation. The proposed basic income would prevent crime which is often the result of poverty; provide incentives to youth to go to school/college and think of the future; reduce drug usage because people experience their society as caring; reduce parental anxiety about the future of their children; and plain makes sense! More voter turnout?

Patricia (place of residence withheld, September 13, 2017)

I received an email asking me how basic income would help me or my loved ones' life. I was sexually assaulted a few years back and as a result of those assaults, I have been dealing with PTSD. I have had to leave my job and home. I have been in many different types of therapy in order to deal with the PTSD I have been suffering. As a result, I have not been able to work and have been in financial distress as a result. I am now looking for work because I have used all of my savings. A basic income would allow me the time I need to heal from my trauma without the financial stress that has been added to my mental health issues. Basic income would also allow me the opportunity to work part-time until I am mentally capable of working full-time. I appreciate the opportunity for allowing me the opportunity to express my feelings on the importance of a program such as basic income. I am sure there are many people for many different reasons that this would benefit from such an opportunity. An opportunity that would bring a more fulfilling life experience. Thank you.

Patricia (Thunder Bay, ON, September 5, 2017)

I always dream of the day that I would no longer have to choose whether to buy a few groceries, gas or to pay a bill. Hopefully I don't need to go to doctors or for lab work as where is the parking money to come from. I am on ODSP as I have Crohns Disease. To have my self-esteem and self-confidence restored along with my dignity would be a blessing not only to myself but to my daughter who has also suffered because of my poverty. A guaranteed income would change this feeling of stress that plays a major role on a persons overall health (physical/mental/emotional/spiritual) when there is not enough money to pay for all necessities. Staying centered and calm is vital but not always attainable because of constant worrying and fear about getting by today – never mind tomorrow. To have the opportunity to get to enjoy a bit of a social life would be amazing. It would relieve the pressure of helplessness felt at times; which in turn brings on a level of depression that comes with poverty. I could once again feel proud of myself and show my daughter that I have an inner strength that has shone through and survived. I could go to bed peacefully each night and wake up excited about day ahead instead of fearful. I wouldn't have to look for my daughter to constantly help me out - which in turn lessens her life financially. It's humiliating and degrading. Every human being deserves the right to not live in poverty. It is long overdue. Thank you for your time.

Patricia (place of residence withheld, ON, September 11, 2017)

My husband and I are seniors retired with an Ontario Disability Pension. I am very worried now. We can barely make it through the month. I may possibly take my CPP Pension early, so we receive it earlier than our Ontario Disability Pension, but it is taken off dollar for dollar. What I truly am concerned with, not just for ourselves but other seniors that are or will be returning without any other pensions coming in, is how are we all going to survive. The prices are going up and up all the time. How are we going to survive? Please help us out.

Patti (Calgary, AB, September 11, 2017)

My 30-year old son could use a basic income to have weathered his life since he had an accident in 2012 that changed his life overnight. He was earning about \$56,000 annually as an unlicensed machinist but after surgery for a broken femur, smashed teeth and a PTSD assessment, he could no longer stand for his full shift and eventually ended up leaving his job. Since then, he has steadily lost his apartment, most of his assets and has survived doing odd jobs and hauling scrap. He currently lives in a trailer attached to his truck that he parks wherever he can. He recently started a job grating with landscaping and snow removal. I hope it works out. My husband and I are pensioners and have helped him as much as we can. A guaranteed basic income would have allowed him to remain in his apartment, keep most of his assets, allow him to complete the health care he still needs (another hip operation is required) until he's back on his feet. Our other 27-year old son is bi-polar and lives with my husband and I in a two-bedroom apartment. He has struggled to get full-time work in retail. He too would benefit with a basic income until he is able to get full-time work. I realize most Canadians think they pay enough taxes, and have no idea how a basic income could effectively wipe out half the poverty cases in Canada by allowing the poor to have enough money to leave poverty behind, with choice and dignity and pride. Thank you for listening.

Paul (place of residence withheld, September 3, 2017)

In my 30's 40's & 50's I was making about \$2 above minimum & yet still had to pay the gas, hydro, water and taxes just like a GM worker making \$30/hr. Plus, any other expenses that came along like a new roof sewer pipes etc. I had \$10 left over at the end of the month when all the bills were paid. So, I was taking in as much as I was taking out just barely. Since 2000 I realized that a basic income would supplement or help greatly if there was one. Now at 65 I get GIS but I have not forgotten those days. I do NOT want it on the generation that are coming because I remember what it was like.

Paul (Hamilton, ON, September 11, 2017)

Before my mother came here
In her deepest heart
Grew a hope, alive, ready to thrive and not just survive

Next followed three decades
Of painstaking wage slavery
Working to the bone, confused she hadn't found freedom

Paul (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

The Basic Income supports could assist me in paying my increasing housing bills for property taxes, utilities, shelter upkeep, food and drinks, clothing and hygienic supplies, medical supplies/coverages transportation coverages, etc. This could also help lift me out of poverty and help me to be more self-sufficient in supporting myself financially and relying less heavily on charitable and community groups and family and friends to survive. Also, I wouldn't have to raise money by collecting and cashing in various bottles and cans and scrap metals to supplement my low income to make ends meet. I would also feel better inside as a person and have more self-respect and belief in myself and spend more money in taking upgrading training courses to improve my education and well-being and give me more time to volunteer in the community and help others and myself make things better for all.

Paul (place of residence withheld, September 15, 2017)

A basic income would greatly improve the life of myself and many of my friends. I have worked and volunteered in homelessness, counselling and prostitution. I was frustrated that the government was doing little to PREVENT these problems. I have a degree in psychology which got me the counselling job, but volunteering doesn't pay the bills. Two of my jobs I had to quit due to injury (I "won" both WCB claims but they paid almost nothing). Another job, transporting a disabled fellow, I had to quit because the pay worked to almost nothing. A government official investigating my resignation was shocked when I gave her the numbers and she agreed I had no choice but to quit! I currently depend on family for housing, food and transportation. A basic income would allow me to continue doing jobs that help others (which I enjoy and am good at) and ultimately reduce the number of people who NEED my assistance.

Penny (place of residence withheld, ON, September 4, 2017)

Depending on what the basic income is??? What do you consider basic Income? \$15 an hour for a 40-hour week? Does this income deplete any old age pension income? We all know there are more people over the age of 54 within the Ontario population. Most of these people cannot get a job yet they have another 25-30 years of living expenses and we all know that the majority of these people cannot live/survive on old age pension alone. Are you creating a poverty level society that can never get out of this income bracket? What incentive is there if they think they will lose the basic income if they are offered work starting at \$15 an hour with the potential of higher income down the road? \$50,000 a year is poverty level for a family of 3 (2 parents/1child) because of the high taxed cost of living in Ontario! I suggest you start with raising the low-income bar first...less tax for those earning \$60,000 or less.

Pete (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

I am in a category of Canadian that could benefit from Basic Income in the long run: a disabled person subsiding on a meager disability income. At 55, I'm too young to be retired, but unable to endure a full-time workload. I volunteer doing rewarding activities and my efforts are greatly appreciated, but they do not add to my income. As things are, my later years will be fraught with difficulty and, essentially, poverty. The income programs I am with do not allow me to make any money without it being clawed back. Because of these circumstances, to make a return to work worth it, monetarily, I would need to be on a full-time work schedule, which my disability will not allow. Basic Income will give me the chance to explore employment options. I might be able to find something that really ignites my passion, but with on-the-job training, a lenient timetable, and without the stresses of competitive employment. Basic Income would make so many things possible for me, and may even see me become a fully self-supporting person again.

Peter (Montreal, QC, September 3, 2017)

I am a 58-year old man, medically unable to do any work that requires me to leave the house. I am currently on social assistance. The only marketable skill I currently possess is writing, but for writing contracts I am in competition with millions of people from India, whose cost of living is much lower than mine. The existing system will penalize me if I find work that earns more than \$200 a month. This disincentive to bettering my situation is damning. Why would I take on a job that requires me to work dozens of hours a week if it gains me nothing? A Basic Income Guarantee would remove that disincentive and give me the impetus to work my way out of this poverty trap I am in. With resources and incentive, I could learn new skills such as web site construction and administration.

Peter (Harrington PEI, September 11, 2017)

I would not have to worry so much about how to compensate for mental health issues when finding a new job. Perhaps we might even qualify for a mortgage.

Peter (Durham Bridge, NB, September 4, 2017)

I and my fellow Canadians are not protected by the uncoordinated income support programs we have in Canada from periods anguish produced by a lack of income – especially welfare programs that do not encourage the unemployed to join the labour force when possible as they fear losing financial support for possibly short term/seasonal wages – only to go through the agony of reapplying when they may again be unemployed. I want to see my fellow citizens have AUTOMATIC access (administered by Revenue Canada) to modest financial support with incentives that will make them better off if they rejoin the work force – such that they GRADUALLY face decreasing basic income support as they increasingly become financially self-sufficient.

Peter (Spruce Grove, AB, September 6, 2017)

Basic Income will give me belief that the government cares about my well-being regardless of economic problems in the country and/or global. There is a psychological limit of the lowest income every person thinks is appropriate for human being to live. If this minimum is anyhow unavailable then anybody thinks the authorities do not fulfill their duties properly. If I get Basic Income benefits, I will feel I'm an equal member of the society, I'm respected as a human being and so I will wish to improve the life in the country even more. It will stimulate all my abilities, education, skills to be transferred to seeking new progressive ideas for my local community and for my province. Even while working for any employer equal society member spirit will improve relations with bosses, colleagues and customers thus actually improving productivity and quality of work. This effect multiplied by the number of people in the province and overall in Canada will give a great deal of improvement virtually in everything.

R. (Toronto, ON, September 12, 2017)

Implementing guaranteed income would affect my family in many ways and for many reasons. First and foremost, ours is a profit-based society. Profit generates wealth. To that end, everything – including human labour – must be turned into product or service and sold in the marketplace. Increased demand drives down the prices and boosts competition, which explains why labour is becoming increasingly undervalued and automated. Automated labour is inexpensive, reliable and unlikely to make mistakes. Human labour falls short in comparison. As a result, work is becoming ever more precarious and more and more people are driven out of the economy. Universal basic income can fix that. It would empower everyone to participate in the economy, which would make for a less dehumanizing and more inclusive economy and for a more stable and equitable society. That is how guaranteed income would benefit not only my family but society as a whole.

R. (Montreal, QC, September 4, 2017)

A Basic Income Guarantee (BIC) would be of such great benefit to me and to so many people I know and to particular groups of people in our society (e.g. the homeless, newly released prison inmates). I am currently working only two days per week after having a burn-out two years ago. That means that after

a few short months of receiving EI benefits that were not sufficient to live on, I must use up some of my long-term savings to make up for my income deficit. Because I am fortunate enough to have savings, I have been able to take the time I need to fully recover. But even so, I constantly feel the pressure to hurry up and get back to work before I completely deplete my savings. If I had enough income to cover my expenses, I could take all the time I need to recover and only start to work more when I felt completely ready, which would mean being more healthy and productive, and avoiding another burn-out or other health issue related to stress. It would also mean I could afford to devote more time to volunteering or doing work that I love, but that does not pay well. This is something that is not only humane, but that we can afford and would reduce poverty and all its related costs. I strongly urge you to make this happen nation-wide as soon as possible.

Ray (Vancouver, BC, September 11, 2017)

Basic income would help my life enormously. It would help me to pay the rising costs of rent, food and necessities in the area I live in. In my current situation, I'm not able to buy the food and the things I need and I am forced to live in the lowest cost, worst rental units that exist here. I have to buy the cheapest food and things that are available without having any choice of what is best for me to buy. Basic income would give me the nutrition, more self-confidence and to feel more secure in life which would improve my physical and mental health combined just by feeling better about life in general.

It would also be a huge benefit to the community I live in by having more money to spend on the things I need and helping the local businesses being able to spend more. It would also lower government medical costs by people eating healthier and feeling better about themselves in general. This basic income would help not only the people living in poverty but all people in all communities across the country by lowering crime rates, prevent people from having to live on the streets and make a much more productive and happier population across Canada.

Raymond (Peterborough, ON, September 11, 2017)

Basic income would be a great help if it was at least \$2000 a month. I am receiving ODSP but it is not enough to cover the cost of living. After everything is done and said, I am left with Peterborough housing paying my rent and I still can't stretch the \$600 I'm left with to cover the cost of living. Some of us can't work but I don't expect your position to change. Thanks.

Rhean (place of residence withheld, September 12, 2017)

As a culture creator, basic income only makes sense. Especially for those who have paid into the system, by getting degrees, that our governments should provide a basic support to our endeavours! Basic income can mean the difference of an artist's career both in allowing them to have more energy for creation and security from the ravages of poverty. The future is not going to be carried by this broken system we have now. Basic income is the first baby step to imagining what a post-monetary system may look like. In a world where we might begin to take human rights seriously, basic income is a way to begin empowering the citizens to dream better solutions to our global issues. performance artist
extraordinaire

Ricardo (Ile Perrot, QC, September 4, 2017)

As a person in our land of Canada I never expected Government to understand our problems of day to day living. But I know you do extend a hand out. My situation as a Canadian is this. I had tumors removed back in 2010, and medical costs are always on the rise. Basic income can help alleviate some of the costs, as I wouldn't have to give up eating every day. On fixed income we must resolve our own problems and find a way to make ends meet, so to stretch the dollar is important. Basic income would at least in the time we have to live, ease some of the major day to day stress we face. I have no better way to express this.

Roan (Canadian Citizen) (New Rochelle, NY, September 12, 2017)

A Basic Income Guarantee Policy for Canada will positively change and improve individual life for all Canadians. Living in poverty without a basic income is “hell.” A government policy to provide assistance through shared wealth, a base line income for Canadians who find themselves in an unfortunate financial predicament unable to take care of their basic human needs; activities of daily living; food, housing, clothing, transportation, health, education, finding employment. Given an opportunity, poor Canadians will survive and improve their individual well-being as citizens, socially and economically. A Basic Income Guarantee will ease some of the mental strain and burden poverty brings to poor Canadian families. The upside for the Canadian economy is that this government investment of shared wealth among its citizens will stimulate spending and create savings by improving health and well-being for all citizens. The best outcome for a Basic Income Guarantee Policy is to provide peace of mind and jobs for its citizens; create opportunities for its citizens to be able to lift themselves out of poverty through sharing wealth more fairly.

Rob (place of residence withheld, ON, September 15, 2017)

Both of my daughters, both of my sisters, some close friends, and many other people who I know would benefit immensely now from basic income – and could have benefited from it greatly in years gone by. Each of them would have used – and would now use – basic income in multiple, diverse ways to benefit and better themselves, and in so doing have that much more time, energy, and capacity to benefit the larger world around them. I have absolutely no doubt that were Canada to introduce cross-country access to a basic income guarantee, building on some of the existing building blocks for basic income that we already have (Canada Child Benefit, Old Age Security, Guaranteed Income Supplement), that Canada would be a considerably fairer, healthier, happier and more just nation – a world leader in economic and social rights. I will do all in my power to help bring this about.

Robert (Oakville, ON, September 11, 2017)

I would be able to focus my time on getting healthy, finally being able to afford the dentist, not be so afraid of how I can pay next month’s rent. I would have time to help my parents and be able to get a better education. It’s hard to find work. Working to pay these high prices doesn’t leave money or time for anything else. It’s very depressing. The only light at the end of the tunnel is basic income.

Robert (Mississauga, ON, September 11, 2017)

If I have had basic income, I would continue working at my current job. However, I would be bolder and more proactive in pursuing my career projects – acquiring additional education and becoming an entrepreneur. So far, I was postponing these projects because I’m a risk averse person. With the support of basic income, I would not feel like jeopardizing my family financial status by pursuing my constructive visions, which – if they succeed – would be beneficial for the society. There’s an official research proving that entrepreneurial success mostly depends on a solid safety network behind the entrepreneur. In other words, most of the entrepreneurs are not “adventure prone risk takers” like the current media myth preaches – they are actually well supported organizers. I would also increase the investing into my children’s education, enabling them to gain in-demand skills so they would become fulfilled and productive citizens.

Robert (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

I suffer from severe anxiety and depression. A basic income would help me in so many ways, trying to live on \$1200 a month is definitely a challenge! It is hard to get out of bed knowing you have no money and will not ever have money to do anything! Food is so expensive! Rents are ridiculous! I got a dog that I can't afford but she is a wonderful companion and she keeps me going! It would be great therapy to have enough extra money to get out of town for a day or two. Thank God I don't drink or smoke! It would be a relief to know I had more than \$5 in my bank account. The only 12 days of the year I look forward to are the last day of each month when I get paid. The rest of my days are spent concentrating on how to survive, it really sucks! Thank you for this opportunity to express my feelings, there are so

many more things to say. I definitely did not wish to be as sick as I am and to struggle financially on top of it all just compounds everything!

Roch (Hawkesbury, ON, September 11, 2017)

I would like to thank you for this opportunity to share what this could do for not only me but my community – and the world. I hope it could be enacted province wide soon. I'm a Christian. I believe being healthy and in prosperity for all – as to what God wishes for humanity. The future could definitely be brighter and money is a part of that solution (not the only thing). But at this point there is great poverty in my town. People steal things from others (I've had 2 bikes stolen already). If money was in the right hands (hard to tell), it could help! Briefly, food for me and family, clothing for me and family & donations to others & my charity is my top priority. I'm thinking of the future when a basic income would be enacted. ODSP is below the poverty line and not enough. I also believe in working on top of that.

Rod (place of residence withheld, ON, September 5, 2017)

Hi, I'm Rod, a 47-year old that works on my family farm, a small farm I helped clear and rebuild from scratch with my parents. It's the home we all want to live on the rest of our lives. I only asked them for minimum wage for work they need me to help with as my parents can't afford much. I typically make up to \$3000.00 per year. If I had a basic income I could stop asking them for that money and be able to leave the farm for the first time in 16 years to take a proper vacation. Here are the other things I could think of off the top of my head that I would use that income for:

- Fix my teeth, cavities, filling replacements
- Braces, my teeth are moving back to a crooked state again since my childhood braces corrected them the first time.
- Save up for an electric car, I would not be able to have a gasoline vehicle again as they always require seriously expensive repairs. I'll need a car in the future to be able to take my aging parents (73 & 61) to their multiple doctor appointments each month, from a rural location to the city.
- Pay for full cell service, I currently only pay for data. (From the only provider in Ontario that does so)
- Get health supplements to prevent illness & maintain my mobility
- Buy an increased amount of organic foods
- Upgrade appliances to more efficient Energy Star ratings
- Buy a home battery to use all green energy, we currently generate 10kw of solar for the grid
- Pay for everyday use Asthma medicine like I should be using
- Purchase regular massage therapy to keep myself limber as I age
- Repair the front porch and clad it so it won't rot
- Double insulate the greenhouse so we can heat it and grow food year round
- Travel, take regular vacations so I can recharge
- Hair transplant so I won't have to wear a hat every day of the year to prevent searing sunburns or frostbite and to regain some dignity to living
- Put money away for retirement

These are only the tip of the iceberg for me, I just can't think of more at the moment. I hope you would find these items worthwhile and appropriate areas to spend a basic minimum income.

Rona (Toronto, ON, September 6, 2017)

I wake up every morning in a state of terror. Ninety-nine percent of my terror is over money. I am 68 years old and I have my CPP and OAS and GIS. Even this patchwork of funds is not enough to live on. When is the last time someone looked at the GIS? If you live in a small town maybe it would be enough. But, unfortunately, I live in Toronto and now I can't move because now I have fourth stage cancer and I am tied to the care that the hospitals provide here. In other words, I am fighting for my life and I have to

worry about money all the time. I am in debt up to my ears and I don't know where to turn. I have no family except my 26-year old son who like most young people his age hasn't been able to find work. This is my third round with breast cancer. I was first diagnosed in 2003. I was and still am self-employed, although I am really unable to work right now. Because I was self-employed, I had no benefits, no disability. I was a single mother and when the cancer came back in 2008, I swallowed my pride and went on ODSP. The years that I was on ODSP I wasn't paying into my pension but I did have benefits. A guaranteed basic income would change my life for the better. It would also help my son until he gets on his feet. I could say so much more but I think that is 150 words.

Rose (place of residence withheld, ON, September 11, 2017)

Until my car accident, I was on ODSP plus a part-time job. Life was much easier, bills paid on time, ate better and got a new car. Was up to \$21,000 on income tax. After car accident, I get just \$1269 a month from ODSP. Everything is hard to pay, hard to manage on food, paying for my car out of the ODSP. Basic income will make things much easier. On ODSP, if you have to leave job for any reason any benefits receive for job lost is directly taken out of ODSP check. Basic income will let you keep base amount and what you receive from other sources. Life would be much easier. I would feel much better about things, eat a lot better. Most of my money goes back into the economy. I do not smoke, drink or do drugs. I live day by day on ODSP which is hard to survive on with everything getting more costly. BASIC INCOME WILL IMPROVE MY LIFE A LOT. My health would be much better with better eating habits. Thanks for listening to me.

Rowan (Vancouver, BC, September 12, 2017)

Hey there, I'm Rowan. I'm a software engineer in Vancouver, BC. A Basic Income Guarantee would give everyone I know more power at job interviews. With it, an interviewer would not have to be perceived as a gatekeeper to the income necessary for survival. With the power dynamic leveled, it would be easier to hire the right people for a job, and for people to find the right job for themselves. There would be less risk for either party in being more open. It wouldn't be as personal to reject a candidate. It wouldn't be as scary for a candidate to ask hard questions to get to know a company. All of these things would lead to a higher chance of a good fit.

A basic income guarantee would also increase flexibility. It would reduce the need to do so much paid work, opening opportunities to do more culture and community related work. I believe it would afford me the flexibility to live a more culturally rich life. Generally, I think all people around me would feel much safer. The psychological safety that comes with knowing your friend will not go hungry or lose their residence if they lose their job: this is something that would really comfort me. Thanks for reading!

Samuel (Peterborough, ON, September 11, 2017).

I am on social services and live with my mom. I can't afford to rent anywhere on my own. This basic income could help me to bring in some extra money for food and such. I hate struggling to make ends meet. Our cost of rent and hydro rates have gone up. I'm glad I live with my mom so I can afford food at least and my cell phone.

Sarah (Brantford, ON, September 3, 2017)

I am a single mother of two children. They have separate fathers who have both failed their children. I was on Ontario Works and went back to school after eight long years to achieve my equivalent grade 12 at Mohawk college. Then went forward to attain my medical office assistant diploma. I am not in the medical field but am still advancing in administration. My first position was a disappointment and I was laid off a year later. I have now been at Grand River employment and training for almost 2 years. I enjoy my job and love helping others in the stepping stones of achieving their goals. While raising a 14-year old and 10-year old with 1 father helping with \$196 a month. Basic income would mean a lifestyle difference for my family. Better housing, better grocery schedules. And not living cheque to cheque. My kids could get involved in sports and dance and I would not have to live cheque to cheque. Maybe we could have a vacation once in a while and could afford a car to get to appointments, work and their stuff. So that's how it would make a difference.

Sarah (Ottawa, ON, September 4, 2017)

A basic guaranteed income to myself would mean peace of mind. I work part-time but receive almost full-time hours – of which I am not guaranteed. Businesses these days don't want to hire full-time, as they have to give them paid vacation, and sick leave etc. So, they use the part-time status loop hole...and when the business gets slow, it's often part-timers who get the cutbacks. When fall and winter come I am not guaranteed the hours I need to "scrape" by, and with a guaranteed income, I know that even if I fall short a shift, I can still pay my rent, and buy food. It would also mean that on the rare occasion I fall sick I am not potentially screwing myself over for bill money. Reassurance would mean so much to those who live paycheck-to-paycheck and help out our stress levels, health and increase our quality of living.

Shannon (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

A minimum basic income would allow for people to have more options for education. We have the technology to automate many services we have today, but we are unable to do so because people need those jobs. We are unable to use our human or technological resources fully with the current system. We need to remember that a basic income that is too low will not solve the problem and could possibly

make it worse. We must ensure that the basic income amount is an actual livable wage. Minimum wages should reflect that determination. Thank you for the opportunity to share my views.

Sharon (Halifax, NS, September 8, 2017)

I will be writing on how a basic income guarantee would improve my eyes and the life of my family. First I want to give a little background on how the basic income guarantee could have affected all of our lives. My grandfather died when my dad was only 16 years old. There were nine children in the family. My dad had to leave school and got a job as an unskilled laborer at the CNR dry dock. Another factor that kept my dad from living his potential was my mom and dad had seven children in quick succession and he felt it impossible to find his way out to a better future for him and his family. My father was a very articulate speaker and was involved in organizing his union and in organizing the NDP in Newfoundland in the 1960s. People were encouraging him to take a step forward and become a public servant. However, with the responsibility of raising seven children my father wasn't able to take the risk of losing the security of putting food on the table for his family. All this led my father to a deadly course of alcoholism. As an adult, with a social work background, I realized my father was medicating himself to deal with his unhappiness and depression. When I was seven years old I remember wanting to join the girl guides. My parents could not afford the uniform. I found myself looking through the window of the church basement sad and hopeless and feeling like being on the outside looking in. As an adult thinking about this experience, I have realized that this is how people living in poverty, especially children, feel—constantly on the outside looking in. A basic income guarantee would have at least given me a sense of inclusion with the other girls in the meeting room. It is hard to build a future if your confidence and self-esteem are lacking. If you don't even feel a part of things. I hope I can play a role no matter how small in bringing Basic Income to bear fruit. It has been proven to work.

Shaughna (Belleville, ON, September 13, 2017)

A guaranteed income would pull us out of the poverty cycle and allow us to build our lives and careers. It would remove the never-ending question of "will I have enough for rent this month?" or for many "can I afford basic groceries this week?" Working minimum wage keeps your head just above the water so you're still alive but you constantly feel like you're drowning. And as we move into a more technologically advanced economy, the lowest service jobs will be replaced by cheaper and more obedient machines.

Shawn (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

A Basic Income Guarantee would allow my wife and I to pursue our goals of generating an income from a home-based business in aquaponics. The infrastructure for this business is 60% complete but was

Sheila (Toronto, ON, September 6, 2017)

My family is a microcosm of what we now call Canada. It amazes me that my mother has lived for almost two-thirds of its 150-year history, through the great depression, war and many opportunities denied to her mother. My father came here fleeing revolution and dictatorship. My family is a wonderful mix of skin colours and hair textures bearing witness to modern globalization, legacies of colonization and slavery, and hard-won societal progress. Most of us are doing well, for now. But some of us, like other Canadians, are faltering or worried about the future. Extreme income polarization and policies that enable it are driving up fear and anxiety, turning people dangerously against each other. A basic income would mean that Canada is turning forward instead of backward and upholding democracy and human dignity. That would make my family – and yours – safer and more secure.

Sheila (Oshawa, ON, September 11, 2017)

I am nearly 55 years old and I have been ill since I was 14. I am on disability. Basic income would improve my health, physically and emotionally. It would help to reduce my pain because I would be able to go to chiropractor, physiotherapy, naturopath, buy supplements, massage therapy, dental work. I would have less depression/anxiety because of all the stress that I am under. I always have to worry

about money. I would have a better quality of life/self-care. I would be able to afford things: shoes, haircuts, clothes, attend activities, family/church functions where you are expected to bring food for potluck/gifts. I could live in better housing where there are no bugs, buy adequate good quality food, no longer have to go to a food bank where I often receive outdated and rotten food. (I feel hunger pains every day and have low blood sugar from lack of food.) I could buy gas for the car. I could save money for emergencies, car repairs, vet bills, take a vacation, pursue hobbies, take educational courses to expand my mind. There is a stigma associated with living in poverty. I could overcome that. Basically I live in survival mode and I would be able to relax and laugh more and enjoy life, instead of worrying about money.

Simon (Toronto, ON, September 5, 2017)

in 20 years from now, at an age when many people today start careers. I hope, at this time, we can offer a world of greater abundance, in which we use the proceeds of growing automation to elevate everyone and liberate all from drudgery, replacing it with greater freedom to cultivate and contribute unique talents and skills. I'm hopeful that my children and *all children* will have the opportunity to propel the world forward with more time to innovate, create and build strong communities. Canada can be a pioneer in showing the world what's possible. I hope we're bold enough to try.

Sonja (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

I am a 73-year old widow and have been living on a pension for a few years. Due to my son's health condition, he moved in with me over 8 years ago after he lost his home and job and had to go on disability. I have been taking care of him when it comes to lodging, car expenses, medical and dental bills, glasses, food, etc. Since he is in a lot of debt, his funds don't go very far. He can't even rent an apartment for what he gets. So yes, it would help me tremendously if he could take on some of the burden of his personal care. I think that anyone who is on disability should automatically get the basic income and even at that, it's not enough in today's society to live on. Canada is a wealthy country and, surely, we can help our less fortunate. Good luck in your pursuit and hopefully we can come to a positive conclusion. Thank you for asking.

Sophia (Brossard, QC, September 4, 2017)

I'm a mother of 5! I'm really hoping basic income happens here soon. Time is at the essence. I'm struggling to keep up with necessary things, clothes and food, school supplies, bus fare, hydro, videotron, school tax, and other bills, mortgage, entertainment. Having the basic income would not only help me with all of this but it would also help with my stress level, and worrying all the time. I know other parents around me are struggling too, some more than others. I think a stay at home mom is a job in itself, but when my babies are ready for school the basic income won't stop me from going back to work. A lot of people need this, I need this! Please don't wait too long to make the decision. I know a mother who is about to lose her house, and she has 3 kids. This would help so many people.

Stephanie (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

Honestly? Currently with ZERO income since February 2015 – I feel like a non-person. A ZERO. I have a chronic illness, was on a partial disability of \$610/month. I lost my partial income when my boys moved out on their own and with nowhere to go, I was forced to move in with a male friend. When you live with someone/partner, you are not allowed to have partial or full disability provincially and I would need a lawyer to piece together a Federal Disability as it has now been more than 6 years since I was able to work. With money, not only would I be financially independent but I could make my own choices as to where and with whom I would live. I could operate a car as my insurance is only \$50/month. I could improve my quality of life by driving somewhere, where the land is flat and I could once again be physically active which I love and miss. Money would improve my vitality and longevity and quality of life. My own money would allow me to be more active in the community, take yoga and some art classes. And with all of my numerous certifications allowing me to do so, I would once again like to

operate my own home-based business. I would be able to buy clothes, interact socially, have a love life and once again feel like I was part of the human race!

I am a landed immigrant. Have been in Canada for 56 years but as a single mom for 18 of those years, I could not afford to pay for my Citizenship. The line keeps moving and now it would cost nearly \$1000 with courier costs, etc. With a regular monthly income – I could start to save and build on this money to get my citizenship. Money is spiritually the same energy as love, communication and sex! Yes! Money energy is fire, passion, creativity! I have numerous skills and talents that are not being used to their full potential. I am alive but not living. Having a sustainable monthly income would definitely change that for me. Thank you for my opportunity to express myself. With warm, heartfelt sincerity.

Steve (place of residence withheld, ON, September 5, 2017)

On a Provincial Disability "Basic Income" would make a huge difference being able to pay bills, taxes and eat without food banks & other help. I survive 30% below the poverty level in Ontario unable to pay. I've worked hard all my life; raised on a dairy farm then construction & home builder. 150 words not enough.

Steve (Quebec City, QC, September 12, 2017)

I'm a DJ/producer for many years. I have been working retail sales for years to pay my bills and I have been struggling with declining wages and unemployment in this work sector. My music craft has not been exploded to the fullest because of the lack of money and time to work on my music project. I really think that basic income program would really change my struggling situation to pay bills and help me and other people in my situation to be able to work more on our music and have a chance to get to next level in the music business. The basic income project has already been implemented in countries in Europe, like Finland, and has started to have a positive effect on the people of that country. I really think that basic income in Canada would be a great way show the world that this project is possible and viable, and would also have a positive effect on the people of our great country. Thank you.

Steven (Boisbriand, QC, September 11, 2017).

I am an average person working at an average job living in today's age where all prices keep increasing and salaries keep staying the same. It is very hard to get by in today's day and age. I wake up every morning to go to work and do about 50 hours a week working at Bell Canada as a technician. I am making \$15.20 an hour. After taxation and other deductions, I end up with \$460 net a week. With having to pay for lodging and a vehicle with all the insurances and upkeep involved, to have services like electricity and television/internet etc., one is left with nothing. We all live off our credit cards and end up paying ridiculous interest charges because we can't make it to bring down the interest accrued.

Basic income Aid will help the majority of people who are working in their low earning jobs to maybe live a little more like people should be in a first world country. It will help people put food on their table and relieve the ongoing Financial stress that makes people sick, potentially get mental illness from all of the stress and, help the people who are thinking of ending their lives due to all their financial stresses. This is my opinion without any prejudice or disrespect to anyone. I just feel it's time that the Canadian government looks to help its citizens before looking to Aid elsewhere.

Susan (Kingston, ON, September 4, 2017)

My son has starts college tomorrow. When he graduates in three years, how wonderful it will be if he can be the jewellery artist he is meant to be with a guarantee of enough income to keep himself and his cohort fed and housed while they all figure out how to make a living at this. There is so much creativity and ambition and beautiful dreaming among the youth that I know (despite stereotypes of young people with too much entitlement and no ambition). They want to build a better world, a kind and beautiful world full of art and giving and sharing and caring. As adults, the best thing we can do is to have faith,

and fund these young idealists in their plans for a better future with a guaranteed basic income for all. It's an investment in the future, in young people, and in the planet.

Susan (Kingston, ON, September 4, 2017)

Basic Income would be a lifesaving program for me and people in my situation. I am on disability (ODSP) and receive \$806.00 a month. With just basics like my rent and parking, car/life/renter's insurance and my cell phone plus internet (needed for my cell), I have roughly \$200 left to pay for gas to get to medical appt's, food, prescriptions not covered by my benefit car and any other emergency that comes up. My diet has suffered tremendously because I don't have enough money to buy proper food for the month. BIG would enable me to eat better, get the much-needed physiotherapy I need, as well as other medications. Eating better would improve my overall health. I would be able to afford to go to the eye doctor and the dentist like normal people do. I may even be able to get my hair cut! Bonus!

Susan (Dundas, ON, September 11, 2017)

As a family who has struggled for years, living pay cheque to pay cheque, the "working poor", a Basic Income Guarantee would mean a whole new world. It would mean not having to worry day in and day out whether we will have enough money for food until the next pay day, or whether we have enough for rent at the end of the month. It would mean not asking my parents to buy new clothes and shoes for my son, because there is never enough money to put away for such things. It would mean being able to save up to buy a new car or at least one that is not 20 years old. But most of all, it would mean peace of mind. It would mean *living* life, not just surviving it.

Susanne (place of residence withheld, September 13, 2017)

I believe basic income is important. The biggest issue for me is that it would relieve the stress that various relatives have in their lives now they are unemployed and their benefits have run out. I did a literature search on the neurology of stress which increases the ability of the limbic system to work without restraint. It means that people are in flight and fear most of the time. Since the adrenal system also regulates the hypothalamus which controls most of the hormonal systems in the body, people are prone to illness and depression. Many relatives I have are artists who live marginal lives. A basic income would allow them to explore their artistic careers which not only benefit them but would promote what is a lucrative arts community in Canada. Thank you.

Tamas (Sault Ste. Marie, September 4, 2017)

I think that no need for 150 words because the world would be definitely fairer with basic income. I support any such initiative. It would also change my life. For example, would help my current situation a lot. I am Tamas, Canadian citizen and I live in Europe, currently in Budapest. I take care of my old mother, I care for her. All my time is needed. My income is zero. Therefore, I don't have health insurance either. My reserves are exhausted. We live from my mother's pension and I don't know any other options...and I'm 57 years old. I think this tells me a lot about my possibilities.

Tara (place of residence withheld, September 7, 2017)

In the 1990s as a single mother of three with several university degrees, I couldn't find a good job and ended up on welfare. Imprisoned by an oppressive and punitive system that clawed back all my earnings, I couldn't do more than put one foot in front of the other, grit my teeth, and hope to make it through another day. The consequences were that I lost nearly a decade of my life at a time when most working Canadians are at their most productive and banking resources for the future. I couldn't buy a car or a home. My sons didn't have as many opportunities or resources as their peers. They went into debt to attend university, didn't eat the best food. Our health suffered. We're still experiencing the effects. Having a basic income guarantee that saved us from falling into deep poverty and preserved our dignity would have made an immeasurable difference to our lives. Then and now.

Thomas (place of residence withheld, ON, September 10, 2017)

I being on ODSP find it very difficult to make ends meet. I honestly believe the increase with a basic guaranteed income would greatly lessen the stress one has. Stress when one is worried about paying rent, hydro, where one's next meal is coming from. All of these worries can be lessened if a person knows that there is more money being allotted to allow them to not worry about which bill shall I pay this month and can I buy enough food to make it through the entire month. I am thankful for ODSP but with the yearly cost of living increases in everything. I myself have to be extremely frugal in my spending habits. I know that the increase as proposed by the Ontario Government will be very beneficial to all. I sincerely hope that the areas that were chosen in Ontario as a case study show that it is a program that should be mandated throughout all of Ontario.

Tim (Toronto, ON, September 3, 2017)

For myself, it would be better to ask how a Basic Income would have affected my life. I now have a virtual BI which is pretty close to adequate. I had to fight very hard for a very long time for it. I was always one of the 'hidden disabled'. I have a permanent medical condition which was not diagnosed for many years. This left me open to a lot of victimization and denigration as being lazy, stupid, mentally ill, and so on. I could always work. I just cannot fit into a rigid 40 hours a week system. I need flexibility to be able to work when I can and to draw back when I need to deal with flare ups and over tiredness. Once I was able to make them give me a reasonable income and a decent place to live, my life began.

Tom (Mississauga, ON, September 15, 2017)

Presently, I'm not employed, nor do I have a source of income. I have problems with anxiety/depression that make it difficult to interact with people. I am supported entirely by my parents, and would really like not to be. I have long considered taking advantage of the Ontario Disability Support Program, but have been unable to muster the courage to simply apply. A basic income program might help me get out of under my parents' roof, and get a place of my own. It might provide independence, and self-actualization.

Tom (Picton, ON, September 3, 2017)

I have attached a very short proposition on what Basic Income means to all of us. It is a merging of current economic facts and trends. To my knowledge this has not been done before. I have had it reviewed by subject matter experts and it stands up to both economic and implementation scrutiny. I hope you find it worth promoting. Thanks for your consideration.

Tracey (Charlottetown, PE, September 11, 2017)

I have been put off work due to illness and EI benefits end this month which will leave me without an income. Basic income would benefit my family as trying to find a job is very difficult and I have 2 small children that I adopted in elementary school. Right now, life is very hard to keep all my bills paid, food in the house and oil for heat and hot water. I feel my children suffer from having to eat less healthy due to the cost of food than I would like them too. Also, the cost of medication, dentist and eye doctors. It's very hard to ensure this is all being looked after without the means to do so. I also feel that the 2 girls miss out on being able to do an activity like dance or gymnastics. Even something like Brownies or Girl Guides costs a lot of money. Thank you.

Tracy (place of residence withheld, ON, September 12, 2017)

Picture two workers, one on ODSP and one who is not. The person on disability works for 8 hours, in pain and using pain-management options (medications, TENS machine, etc.). It does the person a world of good for their self-esteem to do the work, but it also has a physical toll on them, as they may hurt when they get home and not be able to work two days back to back. This person gets the same wage as the person who does the same job, goes home, puts their feet up and rests for the evening, goes back to work and thinks little of it, because they don't have the same pain or limitations that the other person has. At the end of the work week, they get paid. The worker who is not on disability has the regular deductions associated with gainful employment (CPP, EI etc.). The ODSP recipient also has these deductions PLUS they end up losing upwards of HALF of the remaining income off their next cheque.

Continuing the scenario, the following month (when the deductions have come off the ODSP cheque) the person cannot work at all, the pain is limiting their ability and they need more time off. That means they don't bring in the money that was lost FROM WORKING the previous month! They get the basic amount, less the amount they earned.

This type of scenario is what I live with. I want to be able to work and if I can't work because of the disability, then not make my pain worse and not be without money to pay bills. The basic income would get the ODSP system out of my life and ensure that if I CAN work, that I won't be penalized for when I am UNABLE to work. I want to have the option of working when my body will allow me. It helps my self-esteem, benefits my family and makes me a contributing member in society. I can't afford to gamble on earning this month, losing next month and being penalized because I have a life-long disability that I didn't cause, that can't be cured, and can only be basically managed; not even surgery will help me. Basic Income would mean that I am equal in all that I do with my co-worker who works beside me doing the same job, but has no disability. Basic Income would mean that I don't have to be a second-class citizen. My family roots stem back to pioneering days when this country was just being born.

Trevor (Fort Erie, ON, September 14, 2017)

A Basic Income in Canada would affect my life drastically. Allowing me to focus more on what matters in life. My family, my children, my spouse and last as always, myself. I tend to neglect what I need to do for myself. Whether it's the doctor visits or dental visits or even just the simple things like eating a proper meal. It's hard to raise a family and work to pay your rent and bills at the same time. Let alone putting clothes on the kids and food in their belly. Wish I didn't miss a lot of my kids' "firsts" because I was too occupied putting food on the table and a roof over our heads. A Basic Income would allow us to actually live rather than just living. I'd love to own our own house one day. Mortgage help. Medical help. Dental help. Kids' education. Food on the Table. Lights and Heat. These are the basic needs every Canadian family needs. Thanks for your time.

Una (Toronto, ON, September 3, 2017)

I'm an ODSP recipient due to long term mental illness. When I was accepted for the program, in 2013, my life changed. I could relax and focus on getting well as opposed to figuring out every month how to survive and feed myself and my pets. I am able to survive easily and thrive a bit now. What would a Basic Income mean to me? Greater freedom to travel the city, meet people and pursue education and culture. A chance to pursue work dreams so I can achieve independent living. It would give me the opportunity to live a normal productive life, something most Canadians can take for granted, but for someone like me, something that has always been unattainable. Everybody in society deserves a chance to lead a productive, peaceful and pleasant life, to be able to work towards professional and personal goals without the added stigma of poverty on top of mental illness. A basic income would do that for me, allow me to follow my dreams, live a nice, normal life, something as a poor person, I have never been able to fully do.

V. (London, ON, September 11, 2017)

I am a retired senior with a limited pension so this basic income would help me a great deal. Even if I don't qualify to receive the entire amount, any amount would help. It's difficult and almost impossible for me to live on my pension as all money I receive goes to bills. So, if I could get this no strings attached basic income I would greatly appreciate it. Thank you for listening.

Vahagn (place of residence withheld, September 4, 2017)

Our credentials have not been recognized and we have been denied employment deliberately.

Vanessa (place of residence withheld, September 9, 2017)

I am 45, single woman, never married, no children. My parents are divorced. My father never supported my mother; or children before or after divorce. My sister and I paid our way through college/university. Unfortunately, I became sick (Fibro/Chronic Fatigue, PTSD...) soon after starting my career. My insurance did not cover my illness. I had to file for CPP, which is my income to date (\$800/mo). I have high medical costs associated with my illness. I am isolated and not able to have any enjoyments of life. Presently, I cannot afford transportation, access to any part of my community, recreation, communication systems, and so much more! A basic income of e.g., \$20,000 for a person with a disability (with discounts like seniors and students have), would at least make my life dignified and worth living. Otherwise, I am living like I am Dead.

Vera (Toronto, ON, September 13, 2017)

I came to our amazing country in 1956 as a child with my parents, and raised my children here. A living income would enhance my life in many ways. First, a living income would help me to afford better housing here in Toronto. The waiting lists for subsidized and seniors' government housing are 10 years or longer. So, for several years now I have been forced to live in housing where there are bedbugs, cockroaches and hallways filled with second-hand cigarette and marijuana smoke. It would be nice to avoid loud tenants who return late at night after imbibing at their local bar. Furthermore, my health would improve as I could afford organic meals and a gym membership during the winter. I could also complete my degree because one is never too old to learn, and it would be good for my soul. Finally, I would be able to travel and take in other cultures. All of these improvements in my life would help me to impart a great deal to my grandchildren, who will grow up to be productive citizens in our wonderful country.

Vitaly (Ottawa, ON, September 3, 2017)

I came to Canada in 1998. Before arriving, I worked for 42 years in Russia. I have a masters degree in geodesy. In Canada, I sent out 300 resumes but couldn't find a job. I was 62 years old. I started to turn a penny as a photographer, making furniture and repairing houses. After 10 years, I've got \$141 [as an] old-age pension and \$600 of aid. I live barely making ends meet, as you can imagine. Now I'm 81 years old, I have no more energy to repair houses, although I lead a healthy, as possible, and active lifestyle. Naturally, the base income would change my life. It would be not yet decent, but already not beggarly. I am sure that in the coming era of total automation of the production, it is a sin of our prosperous country to provide not all its citizens with decent living conditions.

Wael (place of residence not disclosed, September 4, 2017)

More choices. More freedom. More rest. More smiles.

Wanda (place of residence withheld, September 5, 2017)

I exist, therefore I am poor
Fifty-seven-year-old person with a disability
Basic needs for cost of living
Thirty-three thousand dollars per year

Stay-at-home parent and raised three children

University graduates with heavy student loans
Many of us are not wealthy
Should be considered valuable citizens
Need a basic income guarantee

The standards need to change
The lower incomes are not sufficient
Provision for the high cost of living
Frowned upon as having less than others
Money becomes a power tool for or against
Lower income persons, unfortunate greed
Looking down upon others because of finances

I consider myself a valuable citizen of Canada
BIG could possibly be a good change
Essentially help the poverty stricken
Eat and live outside of the poverty heap
Sharing the wealth in Canada from 1867-2017
150 Words in favour of BIG

Wayne (Calgary, AB, September 11, 2017)

As the former CEO of the Calgary Homeless Foundation, I have seen the effects of poverty on so many in a city of such wealth. While there are many causes of homelessness, the common factor is lack of financial resources. People simply have too little money and must balance housing costs against other needs. Not surprisingly, one or more necessities go lacking. The only solution to the poverty dilemma is a guaranteed annual income. The Canadian economy has enough for all and we simply must find a path to just and fair distribution. Introduction of a basic income guarantee would relieve the guilt that I feel when I compare my family situation against those who have less. Pride in my country and society would increase. I would love to tell friends from around the world "look what Canada has done to build an egalitarian society."

Weiya (Montreal, QC, September 14, 2017)

I love poetry, writing and photography and have dreamed one day I can become a great poet and photographer. I think I have the talent to excel in the two fields. However, it is hard to earn a living as a poet or photographer for most of those who have just taken these two career paths seriously. But I only can take them as a kind of hobbies. I have no time and money for my education to go deeper dimension of the artistry of poetry and photography. My husband loves literary translation from English to Chinese, and vice-versa, but finds it is hard to make a living from a career of literary translator. I strongly believe that a basic income will guarantee us a basic living standard to pursue what we really love to do in the future. So, we can contribute to our society more meaningfully and significantly.

Wendy (place of residence withheld, ON, September 13, 2017)

Basic income would be beneficial to all citizens. It would be nice for the middle-class families to get a helping hand with everyday expenses not just lower income for a change. This could help for things like our children's education. We are over the \$80,000 bracket per family and very far from well off. We get very little help with education from OSAP so this would help. Also, with rising prices on most goods we buy today would offset the cost. It would just make life a little easier. My husband and myself both work full time and it would be nice not have to live paycheck to paycheck and I believe this would help. Thank you.

Wilfred (place of residence withheld, September 5, 2017)

Basic income is not a privilege, it's a right. The government of Canada is a company and it has placed itself as a Trustee. We the people are the beneficiaries and have always been the owner of all the resources. So, if the government would do its job as a Trustee, and manage the resources for the people, there would be less poverty, more creativity, and more human resources available to make a better life for everyone living on this land called Canada. This includes all residents, First Nations, immigrants and all being born on the land called Canada. There are more financial resources than we can even imagine to accomplish this basic task for taking care even the basic needs, roof over their heads, heating and electricity for their dwellings, food on their table, transportation, education, and work trainings for all of the population living on this land called Canada.

Wilma (place of residence withheld, September 11, 2017)

A basic income would provide much relief for many of our most vulnerable and poor. Having enough money to eat, have heat and a roof over your head and water to drink would be a miracle for many Canadians. I don't think that the power of having enough money for the necessities of life can be underestimated. I believe that a basic income would alleviate many of the problems in our society. It would mean less health problems, including mental health problems. We would have less problems with drug and alcohol addictions, less problems with crime. We would not need as many social workers, doctors, mental health clinics and addiction treatment centers, police or other social service agencies.

Keeping people poor is not what Canada should be about. We are one of the richest countries in the world but we need food banks. There should not be hungry people in Canada. I think it is a National Shame that we need to have food banks in Canada. The governments should be ashamed of themselves for letting the gap between the rich and poor become so big that we are starving our own people. A Basic Income may be a way to start breaking the cycle of poverty in Canada. Something needs to be done to bring back opportunity and hope to our people.