



# BIG Forum 2024 - Program

**Note:** All session times are confirmed. Additional session details will be added as needed. This program is made possible thanks to many volunteers and our sponsors

**DOORS OPEN AT 4 PM ON THURSDAY, MAY 23rd FOR REGISTRATION**

**Thursday, May 23, 2024**

<p>7:00 pm - 9:00 pm</p>	<p>CRX Auditorium (Rm 140)</p>	<p><b>The BIG Forum: Solutions to Big Issues - PUBLIC EVENT OPEN TO REGISTRANTS AND THE PUBLIC</b></p> <p><i>Conducted in English and French with simultaneous interpretation via closed captioning (screens will allow you to read what is being said in your preferred language).</i></p> <p>The opening event for this landmark Forum on income security is about the many paths that lead to a basic income guarantee—not in silos, and not as a sole solution, but as a rapid, powerful, and transformative one. We are in a moment when that is exactly what people and our country need.</p> <p>We begin with a tribute to, and short video of, the late Senator Hugh Segal speaking eloquently about the need for a basic income. And then we move to a conversation among illustrious panelists whose paths to basic income started in different places. <b>Dr. Danielle Martin</b> is a physician who wrote a book about how to improve our healthcare system. <b>Josephine Grey</b> is a long-time human rights organizer working with her community on climate resilient food sovereignty. <b>Yves-Marie Abraham</b>, is professor of sociology at HEC Montreal, where he teaches and leads research on the theme of sustainable degrowth, which led to his interest in basic income. <b>Evelyn Forget</b> is a health economist who has become Canada’s leading expert on basic income, recognized here and internationally. <b>Ugo Gentilini</b> is an economist with the World Bank and he will join us by video.</p> <p>These are challenging issues and that’s why these kinds of conversations matter in our work for a better future!</p> <p><b>Le Forum BIG: des solutions à de grands enjeux</b></p> <p>Cet évènement est ouvert aux personnes qui s’y sont inscrites ainsi qu’au grand public. Les activités se déroulent en anglais et en français avec interprétation simultanée par sous-titrage codé (vous pourrez lire dans la langue de votre choix sur les écrans ce qui se dit). Notre table ronde de panellistes sera suivie d’une réception (avec bar payant).</p> <p>L’activité d’ouverture de ce forum phare sur la sécurité du revenu s’intéresse aux nombreuses voies menant au revenu de base garanti, non pas en vase clos ni comme solution unique, mais comme solution expresse, puissante et transformatrice. Nous sommes à un moment charnière où cette solution est précisément ce dont les gens et notre pays ont besoin.</p> <p>Nous commençons avec un hommage au regretté sénateur Hugh Segal et avec une courte vidéo dans laquelle il exprime avec grande éloquence le bien-fondé du revenu de base. Après quoi, nous passons à une conversation entre nos illustres panellistes dont les trajectoires vers un revenu de base ont des points de départ différents. Dre Danielle Martin est médecin et est l’auteurice d’un livre sur des façons d’améliorer notre système de santé. Josephine Grey est une organisatrice de longue date en droits de la personne qui œuvre au sein de sa communauté à la promotion de la résilience climatique et de la souveraineté alimentaire. Yves-Marie Abraham est professeur de sociologie à HEC Montréal, où il enseigne et mène des recherches sur le thème de la décroissance soutenable; ce qui l’a amené à s’intéresser au revenu de base. Evelyn Forget est économiste de la santé et est devenue la grande spécialiste canadienne en matière de revenu de base, réputée ici au pays et à l’échelle internationale. Ugo Gentilini est économiste à la Banque mondiale et il se joindra à nous par vidéoconférence.</p> <p>Ce sont de grands enjeux complexes et la raison pour laquelle il est important, dans le cadre de nos travaux, d’avoir des conversations comme celles-ci en vue de créer un meilleur avenir!</p> <p>MCs/Animateurs : <b>Deirdre Pike</b> et <b>Pier-Luc Turcotte</b>          Panel Moderator/Modérateur du panel : <b>Mike Perry</b>, Executive Director/directeur général, Institute for Change Leaders</p>
<p>9:00 pm</p>	<p>CRX Foyer</p>	<p><b>Reception with Cash Bar</b></p>

Friday, May 24, 2024		
9:00 am - 9:15 am	CRX Auditorium (Rm 140)	<b>Opening and Welcome</b> MC - Deidre Pike
9:15 am - 10:40 am	CRX Auditorium (Rm 140)	<p><b>Plenary 1: <i>What's Work Got to Do With It?</i></b></p> <p>The answer to the title question in this plenary session is “just about everything”. Work includes labour, the jobs we do for pay, the main way most people get income. It also includes the valuable work that we do for our families and communities that doesn't get paid but holds our society and economy together. Add to that the administrative demands of modern society and complex programs. Finding time—and income—for it all is a struggle. Gender, race, class, and ability come into play. The implications of climate disasters, precarious jobs, the disruption of artificial intelligence and the affordability crisis are also all connected to work and income. Our panelists will share their perspectives on how a basic income fits into this context.</p> <p><b>Jim Stanford</b>, Economist and Director of the Centre for Future Work, a labour economics think tank based in Vancouver, and Australia.  <b>Tracy Smith-Carrier</b>, Canada Research Chair for the UN Sustainable Development Goals and professor in Humanitarian Studies at Royal Roads University in BC.  <b>James Janeiro</b>, Director of Policy and Government Relations, Canadian Centre for Caregiving Excellence, policy advisor to the Premier during the Ontario Basic Income Pilot  <b>Kerry Lubrick</b>, former Director/Manager of the Employment and Income Support/Ontario Works Division in Hamilton.</p> <p>Moderator: <b>Sheila Regehr</b></p>
10:40 am - 11:00 am	Break	
11:00 am - 12:15 pm	Concurrent Sessions 1	
1A	Room TBD	<p><b>Basic Income, Ecology, and Social Justice</b></p> <p>This session is about how basic income can help us to build an economically fairer, more democratic, and ecologically sustainable Canada. Basic income can enable movement away from ecologically destructive forms of economic growth and will support individual and collective action to create green neighborhoods, communities, and public policies.</p> <p><b>Dayle Eshelby</b>, Centre for Local Prosperity, Lockeport NS; Local participant in Green Resilience Project  <b>Maryo Wahba</b>, Coordinator, Climate Justice Policy, Citizens for Public Justice  <b>Jim Mulvale</b>, Faculty of Social Work, Univ. of Manitoba</p> <p>Moderator: <b>Natalie Appleyard</b> is a socio-economic policy analyst for Citizens for Public Justice (CPJ).</p>
1B	Room TBD	<p><b>The Philosophy and Politics of Welfare State Transformation</b></p> <p>Canada's welfare state, frayed by decades of market fundamentalism, needs urgent renewal. Basic Income is an indispensable tool for the revival of a robust program of human rights-based public provision and a different way of considering how we might live together. Unfortunately, the political technicians dominating parties sympathetic to Basic Income are ill-disposed to creative, new ideas. In this session, we consider Where has Canada's Basic Income movement come from? Where are we now? Where are we heading? A look at the politics of social movement building assumes that conference participants know which side of the fence we're on. Who's there with us? Is basic income a rights-based approach to poverty reduction? This session will have two presentations:</p> <p>→ <b>Basic Income: A Rights-Based Approach to Poverty Reduction”?</b>  <b>Sid Frankel</b>, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, University of Manitoba</p>

		<p>→ <b>Nothing lasts unless it is incessantly renewed” : Basic Income and the Politics of Welfare State Renewal</b></p> <p><b>Elaine Power</b> is a Professor in the School of Kinesiology &amp; Health Studies at Queen’s University, a founding member of the Kingston Action Group for a Basic Income Guarantee and co-author of The Case for Basic Income: Freedom, Security, Justice.</p> <p><b>Jamie Swift</b> is a writer/activist, also a founder of the Kingston group and co-author of The Case for Basic Income: Freedom, Security, Justice, who has written 13 books on subjects from forestry and biography to the politics of civil society.</p> <p><b>Jim Stanford</b>, Economist and Director of the Centre for Future Work, a labour economics think tank based in Vancouver, and Australia.</p> <p><b>Roberta Hamilton</b></p>
1C	Room TBD	<p><b>Care, Wellbeing, and Social Inclusion</b></p> <p>This session looks specifically at the connection between income and care, both paid and non-market, including race, gender and time dimensions. It explores the implications of a basic income guarantee for care, wellbeing and social inclusion, both for care providers and care recipients.</p> <p><b>Rhonda Castello</b> is a Personal Services Worker, who along with many other female immigrants to Canada, faces many challenges in a sector that is highly demanding and not well paid or secure. At a point when she could not do her job, she was able to join the Ontario pilot.</p> <p><b>James Janeiro</b> is the Director of Policy and Government Relations at the Canadian Centre for Caregiving Excellence. He was social policy advisor to the Premier throughout the design and roll out of the Ontario Basic Income Pilot.</p> <p><b>Cee Strauss</b> is a Senior Staff Lawyer at the Women’s Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF), and they are joining online from Tiohtià:ke/Montreal.</p> <p>Moderator: <b>Sheila Regehr</b></p>
Session 1D	Room TBD	<p><b>Feminist Principles and Experiences</b></p> <p>This session will include two presentations:</p> <p><b>Two Important Moments when the Canadian feminist movement did not support a Guaranteed Annual or Basic Income</b></p> <p>The Canadian feminist movement has been lack-lustre in its current support of the Basic Income campaign. In order to understand why the feminist movement has been reluctant to embrace the current campaign for Basic Income as a fundamental policy to improve women’s lives, this paper will address two important moments when an earlier version of Basic Income was part of the national conversation. In particular, this paper will address:</p> <p>i) The Royal Commission on the Status of Women (RCSW), 1967-1970</p> <p>ii) The Purge of Wages for Housework in the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC) in 1979</p> <p>Both these historic moments included a conversation about the Canadian state providing payments for the unpaid caring work that women did. And in both these moments prominent feminists (liberal, socialist, radical) and their organizations were reluctant or virulently opposed to supporting government payments for this unpaid caring work. These are two important historic moments help explain why current feminists are reluctant to hear about the realities of low-income women’s lives and join the national campaign for Basic Income today.</p> <p><b>Margaret Little</b>, Queen’s University, Kingston Basic Income Coalition</p> <p><b>Embedding Feminist Principles for a Transformative BI</b></p> <p><i>We aim to demonstrate through an intersectional feminist approach that there exists a traditional model amongst Basic Income (BI) theorists and practitioners that BI alone will act as a catalyst for transformative change not only in the economic but in the social, cultural, environmental and political spheres, and that this neglects the high context-dependency of BI in application. To-date, gender-neutral approaches in both empirical and conceptual research have failed to meaningfully take account of or address structural forms of injustice occurring along intersecting axes of power and oppression that can affect the efficacy of BI. Indeed, it may perpetuate existing inequities. This paper draws on policy documents from contemporary BI pilots to present a critical feminist analysis of the conception and design of BI in recent experimental contexts. Using a modified intersectional feminist policy analysis framework, we examine the presence, manner, and impact of a feminist ethic in shaping the</i></p>

		<p><i>design of BI pilot programs. We argue it is imperative to consider the social, cultural, environmental and political context for BI in order to draw conclusions on how we can better embed principles of equity and justice into the process of delivering BI in reality. As a tool to bridge basic income in theory and in reality, we introduce a framework to support the integration of these contextual perspectives in the design of BI pilots and programs.</i></p> <p><b>Clem Davies</b>, University of Freiburg  <b>Chloe Halpenny</b>, Queen's University  <b>Maria Franchi</b>, University of Bath</p>
1E	Room TBD	<p><b>Basic Income and Social Determinants of Health</b></p> <p>This session will examine the impacts of income insecurity and how a basic income could support people in all aspects of their lives. Income is the most impactful social determinant of health. Those with inadequate incomes are more likely to be unhoused or inadequately housed, food insecure, unemployed or precariously employed, less well educated, and involved with the justice and child welfare system. Equity-seeking groups are more likely to experience adverse living and working conditions which, in turn, cause mental and physical health problems, more frequent and longer hospitalizations, and earlier death. A basic income guarantee, by eliminating poverty and providing an income floor for all, can alleviate some of these difficulties.</p> <p><b>Josh Smee</b>, Food First Newfoundland  <b>Eric Levitan-Reid</b>, New Dawn, Sydney NS  <b>Wayne Lewchuk</b>, McMaster University  <b>Cory Neudorf</b>, University of Saskatchewan  <b>Cedar Iahtail</b>, Assembly of Seven Generations youth group</p> <p>Moderator: <b>Ben Earle</b>, is a community developer, researcher, and nonprofit sector leader who works as the General Manager, Basic Income Canada Network, and the CEO of Feed the Need in Durham.</p>
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm	Lunch - CRX Cafeteria	
1:15 pm - 2:40 pm	CRX Auditorium (Rm 140)	<p><b>Plenary 2: Income Security and the Polycrisis</b></p> <p>'Polycrisis' describes a string of natural and man-made crises blending into each other and making them worse, often with economic uncertainty creating a sense of impending crisis as well. This session focuses on intersecting public policy areas where we see a rise in mental health problems, homelessness, food insecurity, and patterns of discrimination and colonialism that can compound each other. This session looks at how better income security can act to improve multiple areas of crisis often treated in silos, and at what else is needed, to support equality, security and justice for the future.</p> <p><b>Josephine Grey</b>, is a human rights organizer working with her community on climate resilient food sovereignty, founder of Low Income Families Together and the St. James Town Co-operative with its Oasis project on food and water security.  <b>Joan Riggs</b>, facilitator, Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition  <b>Jiaying Zhao</b>, Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology and the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability at the University of British Columbia, who has studied the impact of cash transfers on homelessness. She is joining us virtually.  <b>Sarah Kennell</b>, National Director of Public Policy with the Canadian Mental Health Association  <b>Guy Standing</b>, prolific author and co-president of the Basic Income Earth Network, by pre-recorded video on his book on <i>The Politics of Time: Gaining Control in the Age of Uncertainty</i>.</p> <p>Moderator: <b>Ben Earle</b>, is a community developer, researcher, and nonprofit sector leader who works as the General Manager, Basic Income Canada Network, and the CEO of Feed the Need in Durham.</p>
2:40 pm - 3:00	Break	

3:00 pm - 4:15 pm	Concurrent Sessions 2	
2A	Room TBD	<p><b>Canadian Research on Basic Income and Income Security</b></p> <p>This session is about research on how unconditional income support can be a feasible and effective means of ensuring income security for everyone in Canada. The session will focus on lessons from pilot projects as well as on the general state of basic income research in Canada.</p> <p><b>Laura Cattari</b>, Peer Reviewer, Master University study of the Ontario Basic Income pilot project  <b>Dr. J. Zhao</b>, co-author of <i>Unconditional cash transfers reduce homelessness. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 120(36)</i></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Dr. Pier-Luc Turcotte</b>, Professeur adjoint, Faculté des sciences de la santé, Université d'Ottawa bilingual</p>
2B	Room TBD	<p><b>Basic Income and UN Sustainable Development Goals</b></p> <p>This session is about how basic income fits (or not) with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established to realize "peace and prosperity for people and the planet."</p> <p><b>Dr. Tracy Smith-Carrier</b> is a professor and the Canada Research Chair in Advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals in the School of Humanitarian Studies at Royal Roads University in Victoria, British Columbia.  <b>Natalie Appleyard</b> is a socio-economic policy analyst for Citizens for Public Justice (CPJ).  <b>Josephine Grey</b> is the project-lead for the OASIS Food Hub, a climate-resilient food security pilot project in the St. James Town in Toronto.</p> <p>Moderator: <b>Wendy Gifford</b>, Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Ottawa.</p>
2C	Room TBD	<p><b>Public Narrative: Telling our Stories to Inspire Others to Action</b></p> <p>Our stories are the language of our values. The emotions of our values inspire action. Leaders need stories to account for who they are, why they do what they do, and where they hope to lead others. This hands-on workshop provides a brief introduction to how we can channel our inner activist by developing our own stories as tools to inspire others to join us in action.</p> <p><b>Mike Perry</b> is Executive Director of the Institute for Change Leaders (ICL) and currently a teaching fellow for the leadership, organizing, and action course at Harvard.</p>
2D	Room TBD	<p><b>Basic Income as a Tool for Food System Sustainability</b></p> <p>In the context of climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, growing food insecurity, and rising inflation, the vulnerabilities and inequities in food systems are being made visible. Policies and programs that can support social and economic security while responding to intensifying environmental challenges are urgently needed. This panel considers basic income as a policy tool for supporting food systems sustainability in Canada, drawing on our collaborative research with Coalition Canada.</p> <p>The panelists in this session will present perspectives from different sectors of the food system (food security, agriculture, fisheries) on how a basic income might contribute to sustainability. Panelists will also consider differences and similarities for a basic income across these sectors from a food systems lens. The knowledge shared by panelists in this session emerges from research undertaken as part of Coalition Canada's Case for Basic Income Series as well as from recent workshops on the topic of basic income in the food system engaging anti-poverty advocates, food security organizations, farmers, and fishers across the country. This panel session will be designed to foster discussion and interaction with the audience with the aim of identifying future priorities for research, action, and policy investigation for a basic income in the food system in Canada.</p> <p><b>Kristen Lowitt</b>, Queen's University  <b>Bryan Dale</b>, Bishop's University  <b>Elaine Power</b>, Queen's University</p>

		<p><b>Charles Levkoe</b>, Lakehead University  <b>Barb Boraks</b>, Coalition Canada</p>
7:00 pm	<b>PUB NIGHT</b> - Father and Sons Pub 112 Osgoode Street, Ottawa	
<b>Saturday, May 25, 2024</b>		
9:00 am - 10:25 am	CRX Auditorium (Rm 140)	<p><b>Plenary 3: Policy and Politics</b></p> <p>There have been significant policy advances in how to design and deliver a basic income in Canada over the past decade. There is a large body of evidence from programs, pilots and pandemic experience. There is also convergence among proponents around what would work here. The political front has been more mixed, with growing support among some politicians and the public, along with pushback, while the only legislation passed has been the Canada Disability Benefit, which so far is off to a slow, small start. Our panel shares perspectives on what we know and do and what strategies for the future could look like.</p> <p><b>Evelyn Forget</b> is professor of Economics and Community Health Sciences at the University of Manitoba and author of Basic Income for Canadians: from the COVID-19 emergency to financial security for all.  <b>Rabia Khedr</b> is the National Director of Disability Without Poverty, a founder of Race and Disability Canada, and CEO of DEEN Support Services.  <b>Sid Frankel</b>, is associate professor in the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Manitoba, and a member of the national steering committee of Campaign 2000 to End Child Poverty.  <b>Sheila Regehr</b>, Chair of Basic Income Canada Network, former federal public servant and co-author (with Chandra Pasma) of Basic Income: Some Policy Options for Canada (2019).</p> <p>Moderator: <b>Niigaan Sinclair</b>, Acting Department Head, Native Studies, U of Manitoba, columnist, author, and featured speaker on CBC's Power and Politics.</p>
10:25 am - 10:45 am	Break	
10:45 am - 12:00 pm	Concurrent Sessions 3	
3A	Room TBD	<p><b>Local/Municipal Perspectives on BIG</b></p> <p>Panelists will offer municipal (Canada and U.S.) and Indigenous perspectives on basic income, its impacts, how local communities could positively work towards its implementation, and the barriers that may need to be faced and overcome. This session addresses all 3 conference objectives: Knowledge, Connection and Action.</p> <p><b>Marianne Alto</b>, Mayor of Victoria, BC, joining virtually from Victoria  <b>Guy Caron</b>, Mayor of Rimouski, QC  <b>Shawn Pankow</b>, Mayor, Smiths Falls, ON  <b>Sumbul Siddiqui</b>, Mayor of Cambridge, MA; leader of the US MGI group  <b>Niigaan Sinclair</b>, Acting Department Head, Native Studies, U. Manitoba</p> <p>Moderator: <b>Rob Rainer</b>, Reeve of Tay Valley Township, ON.</p>
3B	Room TBD	<p><b>Policy Learning: Steps and Missteps</b></p> <p>This session delves into the lessons that are offered by four different endeavours: the collaboration involved in building CCPA's Alternative Federal Budget and its four income security pillars; insights from McMaster research involving in-depth interviews tracking Ontario pilot recipient experiences up to 2022/23; data from Abacus on CERB results for a CCPA report; and an analysis of the ways pandemic</p>

		<p>benefits flirted with basic income, missed the mark, but provide opportunities for policy learning and action.</p> <p><b>David Macdonald</b>, Senior Economist, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives  <b>Peter Graefe</b>, McMaster University, Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction  <b>Oksana Kishchuk</b>, Director, Strategy and Insights, Abacus Data  <b>Sid Frankel</b>, BICN, University of Manitoba  <b>Evelyn Forget</b>, University of Manitoba</p>
3C	Room TBD	<p><b>Universal Basic Income: Essential Knowledge</b></p> <p>This author-meets-critics panel is the Canadian launch for the book, <i>Universal Basic Income: Essential Knowledge</i> (MIT Press, 2024). The fundamentals of Universal Basic Income (UBI) may be well-known to most participants of the BICN forum, but which aspects of the policy and the debate over it are most important to communicate to people new to the issue? How do we communicate these essentials most effectively? The author takes a novel approach to these questions by presenting the choice between UBI and the status quo as the choice between a voluntary- and mandatory-participation economy and by using this choice as the frame for understanding the issue. The author will begin the session with a 10-minute summary of the book. Each panelist will discuss the pros-and-cons of the book. The author will respond, and the participants will ask the audience to join the discussion.</p> <p>Author:  <b>Karl Widerquist</b>, professor of philosophy, Georgetown University-Qatar. Author of <i>Independence, Propertylessness, and Basic Income and the Prehistory of Private Property</i>.</p> <p>Panelists:  <b>Jessie Golem</b>, participant in the Ontario Basic Income Pilot Project and founder of Humans of Basic Income  <b>Pierre Madden</b>, Basic Income Montreal  <b>Conrad Shaw</b>, filmmaker, "Bootstraps;" cofounder the Income to Support All Foundation and Cominge.us.  <b>Liam Wilkinson</b>, Public Relations Strategist, UBI Works</p>
3D	Room TBD	<p><b>The Canada Disability Benefit Act and its Relationship to a potential national Basic Income</b></p> <p>This session is designed to examine the Canada Disability Benefit Act and compare it to the proposed Basic Income program. It will review the CDB, its goals, limitations and current status, including concerns with its implementation. We will then examine a limited program introduced in Quebec for vulnerable individuals, followed by the findings of a thesis on the conditions of disabled women in Nova Scotia. We will take a look at what is envisaged in a national Basic Income Guarantee (Guaranteed Livable Basic Income) and see how it might complement and also vary from a CDB as currently proposed. Time permitting, there will be a bilingual session to respond to questions from the floor and the Chat Room.</p> <p><b>Rabia Khedr</b>, Executive Director, Disability Without Poverty  <b>Amanda MacKenzie</b>, National Director, External Affairs, March of Dimes Canada  <b>Steve Baird</b>, Community Organizer, Front Commun des Personnes Assistées Sociales du Quebec  <b>Jennifer Boone</b>, Dalhousie Graduate Student, Health Promotion  <b>Joe Foster</b>, Advocate and BIG Forum Planning Committee</p> <p>Moderator: <b>Wil Roberson</b>, Co-chair, Basic Income Ottawa</p>
3E	Room TBD	<p><b>Basic Income and Food Security</b></p> <p>Measured rates of food insecurity have reached an all-time high across the country and show no signs of retreating. As food banks struggle to keep up with demand for their services, they are pleading with governments to enact a minimum income floor. Decades of research have shown that food insecurity is primarily a problem of material deprivation, responsive to income. A basic income that meets the costs of basic needs could dramatically improve rates of food insecurity, and the associated ill health and health care costs. This session will consider the potential impact of income on diet quality and dietary inequities; a qualitative assessment of how the Ontario Basic Income Pilot improved participants' food and eating practices; and the significance of Ontario's Public Health monitoring of food affordability, using</p>

		<p>the Nutritious Food Basket costing, as an advocacy tool supporting income responses to food insecurity.</p> <p>This session will include three presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ <i>The inadequacies of social protection policies in improving diet quality and reducing dietary inequities have renewed interest in a Basic Income (BI) as a means to ensure all Canadians can afford a healthful diet</i> <b>Seyed PozVeh</b> Dana Olstad, University of Calgary</li> <li>→ A Game Changer: The Impact of the Ontario Basic Income Pilot on Food and Eating Practices <b>Elaine Power</b>, Queen's University <b>Lia Kirkpatrick</b>, Queen's University</li> <li>→ <i>Monitoring food affordability in Ontario: the importance of income responses to reduce food insecurity</i> <b>Erin Reyce</b>, Ontario Dietitians in Public Health</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: <b>Ben Earle</b>, is a community developer, researcher, and nonprofit sector leader who works as the General Manager, Basic Income Canada Network, and the CEO of Feed the Need in Durham.</p>
12:00 pm - 12:20 pm	Musical Performance CRX Foyer	
12:20 pm - 1:00 pm	Lunch - CRX Cafeteria	
1:00 pm - 2:25 pm	CRX Auditorium (Rm 140)	<p><b>Plenary 4: Advocacy and Action</b></p> <p>As a champion of basic income as well as racial equality, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. talked about the arc of the moral universe bending towards justice—but only when we get out of our chairs and stand up and twist and struggle to make it bend! This session features people who are doing just that—through writing about the basic income movement, marching in the streets, creating organizations, running for election, and sharing the stories of the solution we want as only can be told by someone who was a basic income recipient.</p> <p><b>Paul Taylor</b> is a long-time activist, non-profit leader, educator, commentator, and a co-founder of Evenings &amp; Weekends Consulting. He was Executive Director of FoodShare Toronto, Canada's largest food justice organization, inspiring equity-focused practices.</p> <p><b>Jessica Topfer</b> is a former Ontario pilot participant, now Executive Director at The Nourish and Develop Foundation, who also leads seminars on sustainable agriculture. Throughout her advocacy work, she speaks about her transformative experience with basic income.</p> <p><b>Elaine Power</b> is a Professor in the School of Kinesiology &amp; Health Studies at Queen's University, a founding member of the Kingston Action Group for a Basic Income Guarantee and co-author of The Case for Basic Income: Freedom, Security, Justice.</p> <p><b>Jamie Swift</b> is a writer/activist, also a founder of the Kingston group and co-author of The Case for Basic Income: Freedom, Security, Justice, who has written 13 books on subjects from forestry and biography to the politics of civil society.</p> <p>Moderator: <b>Deirdre Pike</b> is a long time 2SLGBTQI+ activist who spent over 2 decades focussed on income, food and housing insecurity through her role as a Senior Social Planner. She was a "reluctant convert" to Basic Income but dropped everything to run on a basic income platform in Ontario's 2018 election. She is currently a Queer Catholic working for the Anglican Diocese of Niagara in Justice and Outreach ministry.</p>
2:30 pm - 3:45 pm	Concurrent Sessions 4	

4A	Room TBD	<p><b>Indigenous Perspectives on Governance and Basic Income</b></p> <p>This session will explore various emergent perspectives from diverse locations within Indigenous communities related to basic income  <b>Damon Johnston</b>, Co-chairperson, National Urban Indigenous Coalition Council, will provide an urban Indigenous perspective on basic income.  <b>Wayne Helgason and Sheilla Jones</b>, co-chairs of the Modernized Annuity Working Group will discuss the modernization of historical annuities as a reconciliation-based route to a basic income for First Nations people.  <b>Joan Riggs</b>, Facilitator, Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition and members of the OAC Research Team will present on the intersectional vulnerability of intergenerational trauma, housing vulnerability, and how a basic income could enhance resilience with a specific focus on Indigenous women’s experiences.  <b>Naiomi Metallic</b>, Associate Professor Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University, will present on social assistance in First Nations communities, communities’ approaches to reform and what role basic income might play.</p> <p>The session will be moderated by <b>Veldon Coburn</b>, Associate Professor, School of Continuous Studies, McGill University.</p>
4B	Room TBD	<p><b>Shifting Social Assistance Towards Basic Income</b></p> <p>While much attention is on the federal government for a national basic income, there are ways in which provincial and territorial governments can move towards a basic income, especially with regard to greater unconditionality and dignity with less intrusion and administration, along with more adequate benefit rates. This session looks at what some governments are doing and what others could or should do. Ontario social assistance is different than elsewhere as there is a municipal administration and delivery role.</p> <p><b>Josh Smee</b> is one of the organizers of Basic Income NL and is CEO of Food First NL, a nonprofit organization with a mandate to advance the right to food in Newfoundland and Labrador.  <b>Joshua Brandon</b> is a board member of Basic Income Manitoba. He is a community animator with the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg and is on the steering committee for Make Poverty History Manitoba  <b>Kerry Lubrick</b> is the Facilitator of the Ontario Basic Income Network (OBIN). Retired from the City of Hamilton (2020) where she was the former Director/Manager of the Employment and Income Support/Ontario Works Division.  <b>Raha Gharraie</b>, Yukon</p> <p>Moderator: <b>Jim Mulvale</b></p>
4C	Room TBD	<p><b>WORKSHOP - IN-PERSON ONLY</b>  <b>Hope Training: Bringing People with Lived Experience into the Basic Income Movement</b></p> <p>Remaining hopeful in our world today is the ultimate flex. Having hope is in itself an act of resistance, and it's what keeps us pushing for the change we want to see. But how do we strength-train those hope muscles, for ourselves, and for our communities, when social change so often feels like a Sisyphean task?  This interactive workshop promises to give your hope-muscles a healthy workout and offers a set of principles for respectfully integrating people with lived experience into the basic income movement. Too often, people with lived experience are left out of decisions that impact them the most, or they’re included in a way that exploits and tokenizes them. Join two artists working to make change in their community for some heartening gains!</p> <p><b>Elisha Rubacha</b>, Community Impact Officer at United Way Peterborough &amp; District and former social assistance recipient  <b>Alex Bierk</b>, Peterborough City Councillor and member of Peterborough Drug Strategy’s Lived Experience Advisory Panel</p>
4D	Room TBD	<p><b>GBI: From Empiricism to Implementation</b></p> <p>The first presentation in this session will discuss Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) pilot studies raising a number of ethical and moral concerns about their continued use. The importance of moving from pilots to permanent implementation will be stressed.</p> <p><b>Chris Hergesheimer</b>, post-doctoral researcher in the School of Humanitarian Studies at Royal Roads University, BC  <b>Tracy Smith-Carrier</b>, Canada Research Chair, UN SDGs, Royal Roads University.</p>

		<p>The second presentation will discuss the history and collaborative process behind development of the PEI GBI project, described in a recently released report. The project is the first in Canada to describe in detail how federal and provincial governments could collaborate to implement a province wide GBI. This model could lead the way to implementing a national program.</p> <p><b>Susan Hartley</b>, PEI Working Group for a Livable Income  <b>Kendal David</b>, PhD student, Carleton University, co-Chair, BICYN  Coalition Canada Basic Income-revenu de base members:  <b>Toni Pickard</b>, retired Professor, Queen's University, co-lead of the PEI Project  <b>Barbara Boraks</b>, co-lead of the PEI project  <b>Luc Gosselin</b>, Revenu de base Québec</p> <p>Moderator: <b>Mandy Kay-Raining Bird</b>, Professor Emeritus, Dalhousie University, BIG-NS, &amp; Coalition Canada Basic Income-revenu de base</p>
4E	Room TBD	<p><b>Building Allies and Reimagined Pathways</b></p> <p><i>Reimagined Pathways: Exploring the Role of the Third Sector in the Canadian Basic Income Movement</i></p> <p>In the wake of extreme employment and socioeconomic precarity, and related health impacts, revealed and perpetuated by the COVID-19 pandemic, academic and popular discourses alike have seen a renewed interest in a Canadian basic income guarantee. Much of the recent literature draws from the 1970s Manitoba Minimum-Income experiment, the Ontario Basic Income Pilot, and the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit. This literature has engaged questions surrounding the obligations of the state as providers of welfare; however, there exists a gap in examining the complex, dynamic relationships between state welfare regimes, the third sector, and the resulting health impacts of service delivery. My current research paper, based upon which I propose to provide a presentation, considers the role of charities/the third sector in facilitating financial assistance to vulnerable populations, advocating for social policy reform, and the potential health impacts of these programs offered at the non-profit level. I explore these topic areas through semi-structured interviews with non-profit Directors, Managers, and Staff in Canada, whose organizations provide direct, short- and long-term financial assistance to their community members. The data promises interesting insights for characterizing the need for a basic income in addition to existing social services, developing discourses between non-profit stakeholders, the basic income movement, and formal advocacy campaigns for the adoption of a provincial or national basic income, and into the role of community-based care in the context of the neoliberal policy era.</p> <p><b>Madeline Ritter</b>, Queen's University</p> <p>Additional presentation details forthcoming</p> <p>Moderator: <b>Ben Earle</b>, is a community developer, researcher, and nonprofit sector leader who works as the General Manager, Basic Income Canada Network, and the CEO of Feed the Need in Durham.</p>
3:45 pm - 4:05 pm	Break	
4:05 pm - 5:20 pm	Concurrent Sessions 5	
5A	Room TBD	<p><b>WORKSHOP - IN-PERSON ONLY</b>  <b>How to Write and Effective Policy Brief</b></p> <p><b>Tracy Smith-CARRIER</b>, Canada Research Chair for the UN Sustainable Development Goals and professor in Humanitarian Studies at Royal Roads University in BC.  <b>Natalie Appleyard</b> is a socio-economic policy analyst for Citizens for Public Justice (CPJ).</p>
5B	Room TBD	<b>WORKSHOP - IN-PERSON ONLY</b>

		<p><b>Change Leadership Training</b></p> <p>The Institute for Change Leaders (ICL) teaches the skills that organizers, activists and campaigners need to win social change. Our core curriculum comes from Marshall Ganz, a Harvard professor who codified the relationship-building organizational framework we teach after years of organizing with the Civil Rights and United Farm Workers movements.</p> <p><b>Mike Perry</b>, Executive Director, Institute for Change Leaders</p>
5C	Room TBD	<p><b>Basic Income in Atlantic Canada: What has worked, and why</b></p> <p>The session will begin with a discussion of how Basic Income NOW Atlantic Canada was formed followed by a quick look at the state and structure of the basic income movement in each of the four provinces and then a dive into the regional organizing that is pulling them all together. Throughout the session we will create opportunities for collaborative interchange. We will share tools (e.g., consensus statement, municipal toolkit), give video examples of proven strategies, and provide opportunities for attendees to share their experiences and strategize together.</p> <p><b>Susan Hartley</b>, PEI Working Group for a Livable Income  <b>Mandy Kay-Raining Bird</b>, Chair, Basic Income Nova Scotia  <b>Darlene O’Leary</b>, Coordinator, Martha’s Justice Ministry, Antigonish NS (virtual)  <b>Natasha Pei</b>, Associate Director, Communities Ending Poverty, Tamarack Institute, ON  <b>Sister Marion Sheridan</b>, Sisters of St. Martha of Antigonish, NS (virtual)  <b>Joshua Smee</b>, CEO of Food First NL;  <b>Susanna White</b>, Greater Fredericton Social Innovation, NB  Moderator: <b>Joanne Tompkins</b>, retired Senior Research Professor, St. Francis Xavier University</p>
5D	Room TBD	<p><b>WORKSHOP - IN-PERSON ONLY</b>  <b>Arts, Advocacy, and Storytelling</b></p> <p>The experiences of presenters will <i>impart my experiences, while teaching and showing others how to use storytelling (visual, written, oral, art, etc.) as a tool to advocate for the different causes (in this case, basic income) and also discuss the role of an artist in advocacy and political movements.</i> The session will include discussion of two projects:</p> <p>Jessie Golem will present on her <i>portrait series, "Humans of Basic Income" that was born as a visceral reaction to the Doug Ford government's premature cancellation of the Ontario Basic Income Pilot. Since doing the portrait series, she was able to learn and see how storytelling can be used as a tool for advocacy in movements that can affect change on a societal level.</i>  <i>Zines as arts-based knowledge mobilization of basic income research: Reflecting on "Room to Dream"</i></p> <p>Basic Income Canada Youth Network (BICYN), will share their project "Room to Dream", a 32-page, full-colour zine that combines research and art to provide an accessible and compelling account of the Ontario Basic Income Pilot and its effects on participants' lives. Featuring handmade collages and anonymized quotes from pilot participants drawn from two separate research projects which collected data from the pilot in the face of the cancellation, it foregrounds lived experience while providing powerful evidence about alternative approaches to income security in Canada. Authored by Chloe Halpenny and Kendal David - PhD students and co-chairs of BICYN - "Room to Dream" represents a sincere effort to preserve knowledge about this short-lived policy endeavour.</p>
5E	Room TBD	<p><b>Constructing the Basic Income Idea</b></p> <p>The first presentation in this session, <i>A systematic review: Lessons from global BI pilot to inform evidence-based policy implementation for BI in Canada</i>, will explore how various iterations of Basic Income Guarantee (BIG) programs have been tested in both developed and developing countries, delving into existing case studies to address the question <i>What can we learn from global policy implementation experiences to guide the creation of an-evidence-based policy implementation framework for BI in Canada?</i> The paper focuses on three key aspects: the “determinants of support/opposition to BIG and its framing as a policy issue,” the “implementation of pilot projects and policies,” the “policy outputs and outcomes,” and “the economic and social spillover effects within communities”. By delving into these areas, this paper aims to 1/ provide a comprehensive understanding of factors influencing its acceptance, the policy dynamics influencing the policy definition, the design and the implementation of BIG, 2/ explore the broader economic and social outcomes, and 3/ inform policymakers in Canada.</p>

		<p><b>Lauren Touchant</b> , Professor, Political Studies, Vancouver Island University</p> <p>The second presentation in this session will share findings from the author's work, <i>Discourse Historical and Feminist Political Economy analysis of UBI narratives</i>, based on a sample of Canadian newsprint published in the year 2020. The presentation will invite feedback on the interpretation of ideological tensions underlying public anxieties concerning welfare policies and UBI, as well as input on opportunities to further develop anti-poverty policies through scientific and political collaborations.</p> <p><b>Kelsey Berg</b>, University of Lethbridge</p>
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm		<p><b>Film Presentation: <i>Living Below the Line</i></b> (65 minutes, followed by a 20-minute talk-back with three co-creators, facilitated by Cate Frid, playwright and producer, Watercourse Theatre and Carol Stalker, Member, BIWR)</p> <p><i>Living Below the Line</i> is a new film by and about individuals living with poverty in Waterloo Region, Ontario, Canada. The idea for this project was initiated by Basic Income Waterloo Region (BIWR). <i>Living Below the Line</i> was originally a stage play, co-created by people living with poverty and theatre creators. That play has been filmed for wider distribution. Community co-creators also perform their own or each other's stories, sharing struggles, courage, and hope. Scenes cover: stigma, addiction, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), bias in education, the medical system maze, partner abuse and homelessness.</p>
<b>Sunday, May 26, 2024</b>		
9:30 am - 10:45 am	Concurrent Sessions 6	
6A	Room TBD	<p><b>Pilot Participant Voices</b></p> <p>Join former participants from the Ontario Pilot as they reveal what a Basic Income meant (and still means) to them. The session commences with 'A Human Picture' which explores the transformative power of basic income. Led by facilitator, former pilot participant, Jodi Dean, the 90-minute session unveils the journey through a short film screening, revealing personal narratives, and dynamic discussions.</p> <p><b>Part 1:</b> Screening of the short film "A Human Picture."  <b>Part 2:</b> Personal Reflection and Discussion by Former Basic Income Pilot Participant, Andre Canivet  <b>Panel Discussion:</b> "Behind the Lens - Creating 'A Human Picture'"  Rhonda Castello, Jessie Golem, and Alana Baltzer, alongside filmmakers Simon Brothers and Luke Mistruzzi, offer invaluable insights into the creation of 'A Human Picture' and the human stories it portrays. The session culminates in an engaging audience Q&amp;A, fostering dialogue and reflection. Join us as we champion the universal right to economic security and envision a more equitable future.</p> <p>Moderator: <b>Jodi Dean</b></p>
6B	Room TBD	<p><b>Basic Income Futures and Frontiers</b></p> <p><b>Reasons to be Cautious About a Cryptocurrency-Linked Basic Income</b>  This presentation addresses recent efforts to use cryptocurrency to support a Basic Income. The idea is to have a cryptocurrency that issues a small amount of new currency each month and distributes it unconditionally to everyone or to all registered users. This article argues that there are reasons to be pessimistic that any cryptocurrency (supporting Basic Income or not) can ever be stable enough to do all the things a true currency needs to do. Even if it were possible for cryptocurrency to become a true currency, the article argues that cryptocurrency cannot reverse the central problem that makes Basic Income necessary: although the natural resources of the Earth and the physical assets we've made out of them are essential to human survival, they are owned by very few people, putting the vast majority of us in the position where survival depends on providing services for the owners of resources and physical assets. This problem creates financial insecurity and job-dependence for the vast majority of people. Financial insecurity results in poverty and homelessness for a significant number of people. Perhaps the service we provide for physical-asset owners could be giving them cryptocurrency. It is possible that resource owners will exchange some of their assets for cryptocurrency, but the paper argues it is impossible for a cryptocurrency to provide a Basic Income large enough to protect people from poverty and homelessness or even to make a significant improvement in living standards or financial security.</p> <p><b>Karl Widerquist</b>, professor of philosophy, Georgetown University-Qatar</p>

		<p><b>Green basic income, conservation, and degrowth: an analysis of the Brazilian Bolsa Verde program</b></p> <p>This paper presents an analysis of the Bolsa Verde Program (BVP) in the Brazilian Amazon. Despite being envisioned as a Payment for Environmental Services (PES) program, we suggest that the BVP was, in function, the world's first large scale institution of a Green Basic Income Program. As such, the initiative presents a unique opportunity to evaluate the potential environmental uses and implications of Basic Income initiatives. Our study relies on a socially-embedded analysis of the program as it functioned in practice. This involves analysis of qualitative data from former program beneficiaries, community leaders, program evaluators, and managers. This research suggests that the program operated socially as a de-facto Green Basic Income program, despite being designed as a hybrid Payment for Environmental Services initiative. Our analysis suggests that Bolsa Verde was successful in reducing both deforestation and poverty, and these successes were achieved without undermining collective community institutions that could have positive anti-poverty and environmental protection benefits of their own. The potential of Green Basic Income projects for curbing rainforest destruction is discussed, as is potential applicability to other environmental purposes. Since the BVP reduces incentives for economic expansion and environmental exploitation simultaneously, this work provides important information to help us understand the place of purpose-designed Green Basic Income programs in transition to degrowth scenarios. This also allows us to better understand well-being enhancements that can be gained by removing incentives for economic expansion in certain contexts.</p> <p><b>Timothy McNeil</b>, Senior Teaching Professor, Ontario Tech University</p> <p><b>Can an extra income for all be a surplus share?</b></p> <p>Instead of being a budget item, can an extra income for all be a surplus share? Overlooked by many is the nature of wealth, how an immense portion is due not to inputs of labor or capital but to inputs of nature or privilege. This social surplus could become commonwealth by shifting taxes of our efforts, onto unbridled ownership of natural resources and receipt of privileges such as corporate charters. Plus, shifting subsidies—especially corporate welfare—into dividends to citizens. How much would one's dividend, based on the annual rental value of locations and government-granted licenses, be? The answer, based on government figures, is easy to calculate, but hard to believe, since members of society would receive so much. People could shrink the workweek, while recovering rents would spur efficient use of nature, and flatten the income gap between elite and everyone else. By disbursing recovered rents, government would lose its role as handmaiden to current rent recipients and become user friendly, as more egalitarian societies show.</p> <p><b>Jeffery Smith</b>, US Society for Ecological Economics, US Green Party, Committee for Land Value Taxation</p>
6C	Room TBD	<p><b>Public Policy and Programs: How They Include or Exclude</b></p> <p>This session looks at the consequences of exclusionary public policy and the constraints and demands it puts on program responses to meet actual need. In contrast, with an inclusive and unconditional basic income providing greater income security, program responses can be far more holistic, focused and effective. Presentations are centred around solutions to: male violence against women; colonialist exclusion from the economy; and income policy harms to mental health. In these areas and others, collaborative Federal, Provincial, Territorial and Indigenous governance is critical to designing public policy that works for everyone.</p> <p><b>Colleen Christopher-Cote</b> is Coordinator of the Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership on Treaty Six Territory, the Traditional Homeland of the Metis  <b>Cindy Bradshaw</b> is Frontline Services Coordinator with the Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter and she is joining us on-line from Vancouver  <b>Sheila Regehr</b> is the Chair of the Basic Income Canada Network and former Executive Director of the National Council of Welfare</p> <p>Moderator: <b>Jenny Gullen</b>, co-chair of an Ottawa nonprofit called City for All Women Initiative</p>
10:45 am - 11:00 am	Break	
11:00 am - 12:00 pm	CRX Auditorium (Rm 140)	<p><b>Closing Plenary</b></p> <p>Join <b>Senator Kim Pate</b>, Forum organizers, and colleagues from across governments and civil society to get inspired about your own capacity for leadership and action!</p> <p>We can aspire to each use our talents and strengths to move the yardsticks towards the freedom, security and justice of the healthier society we envision. Everyone can do something to influence others.</p>

		More powerfully, we can be part of mapping out what we can do together as allies and in coalitions to get the action and results we need for a better future for all.
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