

Facilitation Plan for a 60-Minute Event Basic Income Guarantee (BIG)

Thank you for hosting a BIG event! The goals of these sessions are to share information, gather input, and invite people to get more involved in the work of Basic Income. If you and your group are comfortable, please consider taking some photos to share with the central campaign. We love knowing about the events that are taking place! And please consider filling out the host's evaluation survey, so we can learn from your experience!

Agenda Overview

9:00 Welcome

- Land Acknowledgement
- Provide an overview of the agenda: this is a discussion, not a presentation
- *Invite participants to take turns introducing themselves and sharing what inspired them to come today.*
- *Quick Group Engagement: Show of hands, 'How many of you have heard of Basic Income before? Guaranteed Livable Income? Would anyone like to share what they know currently?'*

9:10am Short Presentation on Basic Income Guarantee

9:25am Small Group Discussions at tables-

Table 1: How could BIG transform people's lives and our communities?

Table 2: What does the public need to know about BIG to better support it?

Table 3: How could we talk about BIG in a way that helps skeptics see the value in it?

9:40am Report back from the tables

9:50am Reflections, Evaluation, Wrap-up, Thank Yous

10:00 am Adjourn

Setting up

We recommend setting the room up with 3 separate groupings of tables and chairs, spaced far enough apart to allow for separate conversations, and with enough seating to accommodate everyone you are expecting.

A projector and an internet connection will allow you to share the slideshow. Markers, large paper, and printed copies of the sign up sheet & participant survey will be all that's required. Enjoy your event!

Opening (10 minutes)

Slide 1

- Welcome Participants
- Land Acknowledgement
- Provide an overview of the agenda; this is a discussion, not just a presentation.
- *Ice Breaker: Invite participants to take turns introducing themselves and sharing what inspired them to come today.*

BIG Presentation (15 minutes)

Slide 2

- Show of hands, *'How many of you have heard of Basic Income before? Guaranteed Livable Income? Would anyone like to share what they know currently?'*

Slide 3

- A Basic Income Guarantee sets an income floor that no one would fall below. A regular cash payment would go to any adult who needs it to top up the level of their income, similar to how the Canada Child Benefit works.

Slide 4

Why Does BIG Matter?

- It provides economic security for all of us, which helps to address poverty, precarious work, and economically uncertain times.

Who benefits? BIG is not just for one group but for *everyone*:

- Workers in precarious jobs and the gig economy
- Caregivers (parents, those caring for aging family members)
- People with disabilities or chronic illnesses
- Small business owners, artists, students, food producers, etc.
- Everyone! Knowing you will have access to basic income no matter what increases wellbeing for all.

Slide 5

- In many ways, PEI is leading on Basic Income. A lot of work has been done here already, both inside and out of the legislative assembly. I'll quickly share some highlights of that work.

Slide 6

- 2015 marked the first time all 4 political parties endorsed BIG in the leaders' debate during the provincial election
- 2016 saw a motion presented and passed on Basic Income Guarantee in the legislative assembly of PEI
- 2019 a motion to create a special all-party committee on poverty was introduced and passed
- 2020 that committee presented their findings in a special report, which included costed recommendations for a Basic Income Guarantee for PEI. That report was adopted by the Assembly

Slide 7

- Following the publication of the final report of the Special Committee on Poverty in PEI and its recommendation for a Federal/Provincial demonstration project, members of Coalition Canada put together a multi-sector team to study and present the details of what such a project could look like.

Slide 8

- The 2 ½ year project resulted in the report "A Proposal for a Basic Income Benefit in Prince Edward Island." This report outlines issues of cost, financing, labour market effects, and more. This work is groundbreaking in that it is the first basic income proposal in Canada that studies, models, and presents solutions to key issues.

Slide 9

- **"Can we afford this?"** Yes! Economists have already demonstrated a BIG is financially feasible, and that poverty is expensive.
- **"How do we pay for it?"** There are many possible ways to fund a BIG program. Modest tax increases to higher income earners, and closing tax loopholes at the Federal level are some possibilities. Savings in other areas that would see positive impacts, such as Healthcare.

Slide 10

- **"Won't people stop working?"** Actually — no. Research shows people don't quit working.

What changes is why and how they work:

- People move into better jobs, more education, or essential caregiving roles.
- Pilot projects have been done in Canada, in Manitoba & Ontario, and this misconception just doesn't play out. International examples like Finland point to the same thing.

Slide 11

- Basic income recognizes that people are more than just workers. We all have a right to participate in society with dignity, and that can look different for everyone.
- For example:
 - A woman uses the income to care for her aging mother at home, instead of juggling two part-time jobs and paying out-of-pocket for support workers.
 - A person who'd always wanted to go back to school can finally afford to take night classes — without having to sacrifice rent or food.

Slide 12

- Why PEI? Why Now?
- PEI's small size and demographics make it an ideal place to start a BIG
- PEI has done more to build political support for this issue than any other province currently, and that presents a real opportunity.
- A PEI demonstration could show how basic income works at the provincial level, offering a model that could guide other jurisdictions, like provinces, territories or First Nations across Canada.

Slide 13

- Everyone has the right to live with dignity — to have enough to eat, a safe place to live, and the freedom to make choices. A Basic Income Guarantee supports these fundamental rights. It's not charity — it's economic justice.

Slide 14

- Building off of all this work, Cooper Institute and the Women's Network have partnered up. With funding from Women and Gender Equality Canada, they aim

to keep moving this work forward. They are getting project support from Leading Impact Consulting, and there are lots of ways for you to get involved, should you be interested.

Small-Group Discussion (30 minutes)

In small groups, participants rotate between **three themed tables**, each exploring a different discussion question about BIG. One prepared question is placed on each table, along with large paper and markers. Each group self-selects a note taker. Groups spend **6-7 minutes per table**, discussing and adding thoughts to shared notes. After three rounds, each group reports back on the key themes recorded on the large paper. Allow up to 3 minutes per group.

For smaller groups, any or all of these questions can be discussed one at a time with the whole group, as time allows. Whatever works best for you and the group you are working with.

Table 1: How could BIG transform people's lives and our communities?

Prompts:

- *What are the biggest struggles people in our community face today?*
- *How could BIG change our workplaces, small businesses, and local economy?*
- *How could it impact things like mental health, caregiving, volunteering, or education?*

Table 2: What does the public need to know about BIG to better support it?

Prompts:

- *What are the biggest questions or concerns people have when they first hear about BIG?*
- *How would you respond to someone who says, "We can't afford this"?*
- *How could we talk about BIG in a way that resonates with skeptics?*

Table 3: How could we talk about BIG in a way that helps skeptics see the value in it?

Prompts:

- *What is one thing we could each do in the next month to help build support for BIG?*
- *What's one way we can encourage politicians and candidates to take a position on BIG?*

Closing Reflection (5 minutes)

- Invite a few people to share their biggest takeaway or next step
- Share the reflection cards with participants