



Statement of Principles

September 21, 2023

Lanark Basic Income Network (LBIN) is a group of citizens advocating for basic income as an essential pillar for fostering personal, family, and community well-being, stimulating local economies, and advancing a more equitable society.

A basic income guarantee entails providing a cash transfer from a government to individuals, enabling them to meet their basic needs, actively participate in society, and live with dignity, irrespective of their employment status. It is a regular payment made to individuals who require it, with minimal bureaucracy involved.

We believe that the right to a minimum level of income to allow every person to meet their basic needs is an essential element of a just society. However, millions of people in Canada do not have this reality. No one should live without access to secure, affordable housing, sufficient and nutritious food, a range of health care services including for mental health, quality childcare, and other vital social supports. While meeting such needs necessitates an integrated and coordinated approach, many, if not all, of them will remain unattainable without a basic income guarantee. A basic income guarantee unlocks new possibilities for the well-being and flourishing of individuals.

The following principles embody the foundational elements of a basic income guarantee:

- **Universally accessible** – ensuring that everyone who requires it can access it, subject only to income and residency requirements.
- **An essential component of a comprehensive social safety net** - complementing and potentially replacing other social programs.
- **Sufficient** – set at a livable level, above the poverty line, with additional support for individuals with disabilities, and indexed to the cost of living.
- **Responsive to changing circumstances** – easy to access and delivered on a monthly or bi-weekly basis.
- **Respectful of autonomy** – provided directly to individuals, to be used at their sole discretion. There should be no intrusive or degrading application or oversight process.
- **Gradual reduction of benefits** – resulting as other taxable income increases.
- **Respectful of Indigenous self-determination** – acknowledging the autonomy and rights of Indigenous people to determine whether a basic income should be implemented in their communities and, if so, in what form and through what implementation process.