



Councillor Carmen McGregor

Re: Motion to Support Basic Income Guarantee for Canadians

Whereas a Basic Income Guarantee program for people over the age of 17 in Canada would meet basic needs by providing a minimum secure income, regardless of employment status;

And whereas a Basic Income Guarantee program would help to reduce poverty and improve income security in Canada and address the negative social and economic impacts on the health of equity-denied populations;

And whereas adequate and secure income is a key social determinant of health that impacts other determinants of health such as food security, education, housing, and mental health;

And whereas a Basic Income Guarantee program can complement existing social supports in Canada, such as the Canada Child Benefit and the Guaranteed Income Supplement for seniors, which have shown positive impacts on recipients, the economy, and our greater society;

And whereas the Ontario Basic Income Pilot project, that was implemented in Hamilton, Thunder Bay, and Lindsay between 2017 and 2019, had 4,000 eligible applicants receive a basic income and reported positive outcomes, including the improvement of food and housing insecurity, physical and mental health, financial stability, social relationships, and increased access to employment opportunities;

And whereas a Basic Income Guarantee program funded by the Federal Government can complement existing municipal programs and services, and reduce the strain on municipalities and allow them to focus on providing more effective and affordable services to residents;

And whereas Bill S-233, An Act to develop a national framework for a guaranteed livable basic income is currently being considered by the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance after passing second reading in April 2023;

And whereas the call for a Basic Income Guarantee program in Canada is being made by many other municipalities in Ontario and across Canada;

And whereas income-based policies are necessary to effectively reduce household food insecurity, which is associated with several negative health outcomes, and is experienced by 1 in 5 households in Chatham-Kent;

And whereas the Municipality of Chatham-Kent provides programs and services that decrease the impacts of poverty and income inequality, and provides participants with a better quality of life which can positively improve health and well-being;

And whereas a Basic Income Guarantee program would align with the Chatham-Kent Food Policy Council's mission to lead in the development of relevant policies and to advocate for our local food system, and the value that all people should have physical and economic access to healthy, culturally diverse, local food;

And whereas, the Chatham-Kent Food Policy Council's Strategic Plan for 2025-2027 highlights the need to advocate for government-level policies that impact food systems, and specifically, to advocate for income-based solutions to food insecurity to provide families with more agency in food choices.

Therefore be it resolved that the Mayor and Council of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent support the advocacy of the Chatham-Kent Food Policy Council in support of a basic income guarantee and the passage of Senate Bill S-233. The Mayor create a resolution requesting action based on the motion to be sent to the Federal Government. The resolution with a request for support be sent to FCM to distribute to all Municipalities across Canada.

The notice of motion would support the following area(s) of strategic focus:

			
Deliver Excellent Service	Promote Safety & Well-Being	Grow Our Community	Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Administration Response – Notice of Motion

Topic: Basic Income Guarantee

Requesting Councillor Carmen McGregor

Name of staff completing this form: Carina Caryn

Council meeting date NOM presented: November 4, 2024

Council meeting date to be voted on: November 18, 2024

1. Has this request come before Council previously? Yes **No**

If so, when and what was the Council decision?

2. Does this request support a Council Term Priority? **Yes** No

If so, the notice of motion would support the following area(s) of strategic focus:

			
Deliver Excellent Service	Promote Safety & Well-Being	Grow Our Community	Ensure Environmental Sustainability
	2.a.		

3. What is the cost/ budget implication (at a high level), if any: None

Explanation of cost estimate

4. Is it already in the queue with administration? Yes **No**

If yes, date expected to come to Council: _____

5. Should a report from administration be completed? Yes **No**

Why?

Type of Report? Information Report Recommendation Report

6. What is the estimated time to complete this request? Not applicable

Date expected to return to Council:

7. What items, if any, are needed to be put on hold in order to complete this task?

None

8. General or other comments:

Although this request specifically has not come before Council previously, Council has previously passed two motions in which the provincial government has been asked to support efforts that address social and economic issues, including an increase to social assistance rates. On [August 12, 2024](#), a motion asking the Province to commit to working with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario to undertake a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario was approved. On [November 6, 2023](#), Council passed a motion asking the province to increase the accommodation rates of social assistance payments to the local average market rent.

Administration supports all initiatives that enhance social, health and economic prosperity of its residents, including the notion of a basic income, if they are undertaken in a fiscally responsible manner. Municipalities should be engaged with to provide input into the development of a basic income program and in no instance should the implementation of a basic income rely on the municipal tax base. In addition, the implementation of a basic income program must recognize and consider the critical, long-standing role of municipalities in the delivery of people-centred services. While a basic income program would address the financial needs of many of our clients, municipalities are best positioned to provide supports to their clients so that they can access much needed local services.