



CFSC has three program areas: peace, Indigenous Peoples' human rights, and transformative justice. A GLBI in Canada would positively impact each program area.

"Because economic behavior is so often excluded by policy from the zone of right relationship, it is a primary area of injustice, conflict, violence, and war."
—Keith Helmuth⁵

"Income is the most significant determinant for the health of an individual or community... It will take generations to restore our nations to the levels of health and prosperity that existed before residential schools and colonization, even with a guaranteed basic income. But it will reduce the hardships people face, and bring First Nations to the starting line."
—Max FineDay, Sweetgrass First Nation⁶

"Canadian prisons and jails are receptacles for people who have been failed by other systems."
—Kim Pate

GUARANTEED LIVABLE BASIC INCOME (GLBI)

From the perspective of CFSC's three program areas



Peace

Quakers in Canada define peace at three different levels: inner, interpersonal, and structural. When we consider structural peace, we're forced to look at the root causes of violence, including institutional violence. CFSC sees justice and opportunities as interconnected elements central to a culture of peacemaking. A GLBI framework holds the potential to address both the structural inequality in Canada (as a form of justice), and provide the opportunity many need to find new and meaningful ways to engage with their community. Both of these contribute towards a more peaceful society.

Quakers believe in the inherent value of each individual, which is described as 'that of God/Light in everyone.' A GLBI would act as a moral imperative that allows us to recognize the worth of each individual, without assessing that worth based on their physical contributions to society.



Indigenous Peoples' human rights

Indigenous Peoples are over-represented in poverty statistics, homelessness, and incarceration rates, while only making up 5% of the population. Child poverty rates have fallen since 2015 in Canada, but 50% of Indigenous children both on and off reserve experience poverty.¹ *Call for Justice 4.5* from the *Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls* is for a "guaranteed annual livable income for all Canadians, including Indigenous Peoples, to meet all their social and economic needs."

A GLBI, designed and implemented in consultation, cooperation, and with the free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples could be a vehicle through which Indigenous Peoples' self-determination is enhanced. It could also represent an investment by Canada in repairing systemic economic injustice, while advancing reconciliation, reducing harm, and moving forward together.²



Transformative justice

Canada's Correctional Investigator, Ivan Zinger, has stated that the disproportionate and growing number of incarcerated Indigenous people is Canada's most pressing human rights issue and needs to be urgently addressed.³

The leading risk factor for incarceration and/or contact with the legal system is poverty. A GLBI would be a transformational approach to preventing incarceration in the first place and would also constitute a solution for those exiting the carceral system as income and housing are often barriers to successful reintegration. Data shows that 85.5% of those who were homeless before being incarcerated anticipated being homeless again upon discharge.⁴ With no funds and prospects for housing, employment, etc. individuals can be put in a position where they breach their parole conditions, resulting in their return to prison. A GLBI would help to address this, serving as an important step in the process of dismantling inequities.

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2. Pate, K. (2024, June). *Beyond the Basics: GLBI & Bill S-233. How GLI Benefits and Supports Indigenous Communities & People*. <https://senpate.sencanada.ca>

3. Zinger, I. (2023, November). *Ten Years since Spirit Matters: A Roadmap for the Reform of Indigenous Corrections in Canada*. Office of the Correctional Investigator, Public Safety Canada.

4. Government of Canada. (2021, November 5). *Ex-prisoner Helps Forge New Path for Others at Risk of Homelessness*. National Housing Strategy. <https://www.placetocallhome.ca/stories/083-from-prison-to-homelessness-ending-a-perilous-trajectory>

5. Helmuth, K. (2008). *The Quaker Peace Testimony, Economics and the Common Good*. Quaker Institute for the Future.

6. Broad, G., and Nadjiwan-Smith, J. (2017) *B.I.G and First Nations: Cautions for Implementation*. Northern Policy Institute.



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