



# Canadian Friends Service Committee

## E-Newsletter

Join our monthly  
discussion group



Feb 12, 7 pm Eastern

We'll chat about our brand new Guaranteed  
Livable Basic Income advocacy webpage!



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## Our discussion group is back! Join to talk about guaranteed livable basic income

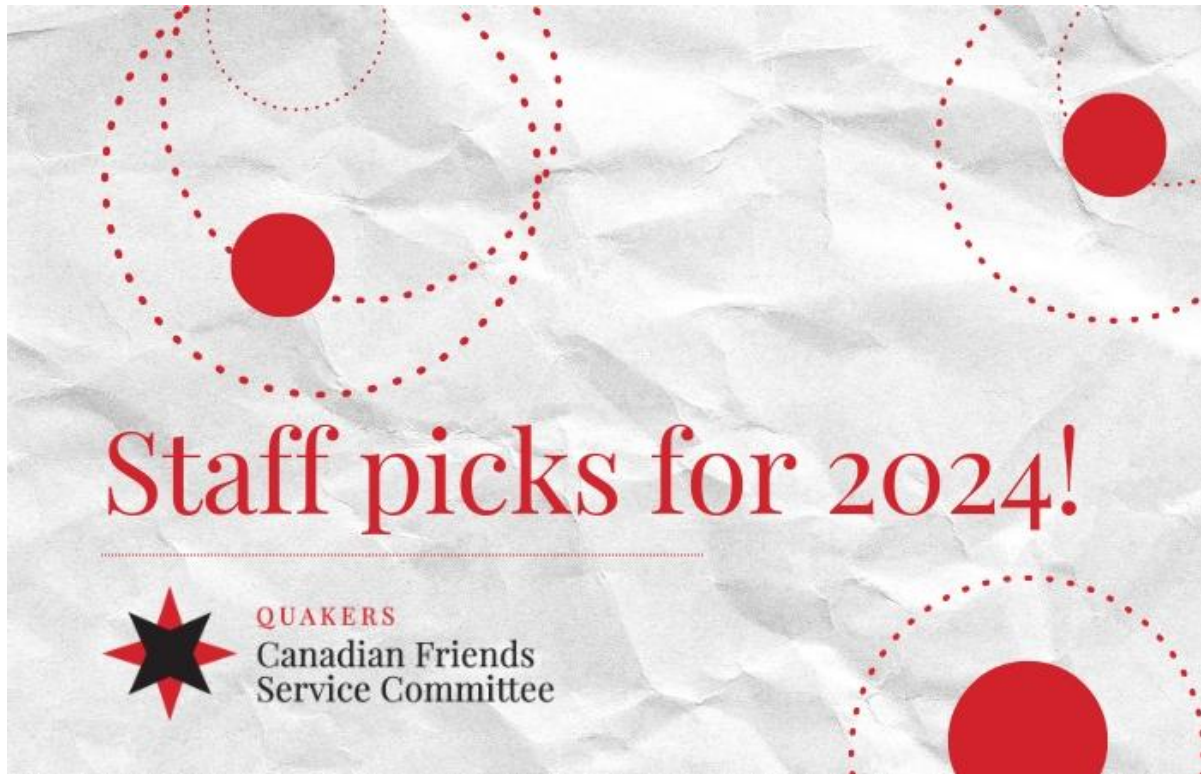
Guaranteed Livable Basic Income (GLBI) is a much-needed program that would address the overall goals of CFSC. Advocating for a GLBI is not the only way to achieve the just society that we hope for, but it does provide a pathway to creating greater equity. Join us as we discuss this exciting possibility!

**We invite all those that joined previous discussions as well as new participants to register and join us!**

We will be discussing CFSC's brand new webpage focused on GLBI. We encourage all participants to read through the page <https://QuakerService.ca/GLBI> and explore whichever links interest you!

The discussion will take place on **Feb 12th at 7:00 PM Eastern.**

[Register for the Zoom link.](#)



## **Staff picks for 2024**

You may be wondering: when not at work, what were CFSC staff listening to, watching, and reading in 2024? Even if you weren't wondering, now you can find out! Here are our [2024 staff picks.](#)



## The two hands of active nonviolence: oppose and propose


The activist Barbara Deming, who was particularly influenced by Gandhi, came up with an image of two hands of active nonviolence.

The oppose hand is a stop sign—naming harms and injustices and seeking to prevent them. For your relationships, you can think of this as noticing when there’s something you just can’t accommodate or accept. It’s an action the other person took that you sense you need to speak up about.

The propose hand is an open upturned palm of offering. It’s never enough to just be against something (it’s even less useful to be against someone). If you want to continue to have a relationship of some type, you need to discuss and come up with a proposal together of what you both can do. A proposal needs to be realistic, meeting peoples’ needs and avoiding humiliating anyone.

Both types of action are needed for healthy conflicts: oppose (don’t stay silent when there’s a serious problem) and propose (don’t just tear down; offer something positive that you’d like to see instead).

Read more of this post on [Psychology Today](#). Get [free tips for better conflicts](#).




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## GUARANTEED LIVABLE BASIC INCOME (GLBI)


### Myths and misrepresentations

A GLBI in Canada would begin dismantling inequities.




**Stats**







**The wealth gap in Canada is increasing. The bottom 40% of earners now account for only 2.8% of total wealth. This, together with increased cost of living, is driving more people into poverty.**



**1 in 10 Canadians live in poverty.**



**1 in 5 households experience serious housing affordability challenges (spend over 50% of income on housing).**



**5.3%**


**In 2022, 16.9% of Canadians were food insecure. This was an increase of 5.3% from 2018. Food insecurity was 20.7% for racialized groups and 28.6% for Indigenous people.**

**"Hundreds of studies in the last 50 years have shown the same pattern: improved well-being, health conditions, cognitive function, food security, and reduced crime rate, as well as lower alcohol or substance use."**  
**—Dr Jiaying Zhao**

1. ALI, M. (2016). A Living Wage and Homelessness: Homeless Hub. <https://homelesshub.ca/blog/2016/01/16/a-living-wage-and-homelessness>

2. PROOF. (2023, April). Taking a closer look at provincial and territorial budgets and what this would mean for food insecurity. University of Toronto. <https://www.proofcanada.ca/resources/2023-budget-revision>

3. Segal, N., Forget, E., and Bentley, K. (2020). A Federal Basic Income Within the Post-COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan. Royal Society of Canada.



### What is GLBI?

Usually when people discuss basic income they're either talking about **universal** or **guaranteed**. When it comes to Bill S-233 in the Senate, it is proposing a GLBI.

**Universal basic income**

Everyone gets a uniform cash payment **regardless of their income or need.**

**vs**

**Guaranteed livable basic income**

is when cash payments are universally accessible and income tested. Which means it provides a top up for **those earning below the minimum requirement** for a sustainable and secure livelihood.

### The "expensive" myth

This is one of the most common misconceptions out there and needs to be addressed! While there are costs associated with such a program, data shows that Canada can afford it without causing harm to the economy or increasing inflationary pressures.

**The cost?** In 2021 the Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) costed a GLBI at \$85 billion.

**The truth?** Poverty has its own costs from poor health to lost productivity. The price tag is between \$72-\$84 billion.<sup>1</sup> Current poorly administered, **overly expensive, and piecemeal** income assistance and welfare programs have huge costs. Economists say that provinces alone spend over \$20 billion per year on income assistance.<sup>2</sup> Responding efficiently and appropriately to poverty is **forward thinking policy that could save money.**

### The "no data" myth

In Canada there have already been two pilot programs and two important studies:

1. **The Mincome Experiment** based in Dauphin, Manitoba in the 1970s.
2. **The Ontario Basic Income Pilot**, which took place from 2016-2019.
3. **PBO's Distributional and Fiscal Analysis of a National Guaranteed Basic Income Report.**
4. **British Columbia Basic Income Expert Panel Report.**

This data enriched the Canadian landscape on GLBI and was informative. There are also **over six decades** of pilots and programs around the world to draw from. Canada often uses examples of international case studies to show feasibility and lessons learned. And there are **hundreds of examples!** Many show **very promising results** and overall positive outcomes.

If we need to generate more data, the federal government and the government of PEI can agree and implement the proposed **Basic Income Pilot Project for PEI**. This pilot could be transformative, especially on the question of jurisdiction for Canada.

### The "people won't work" myth

Data from the many pilots and programs both nationally and internationally shows that **people don't stop working**. In Mincome, there was no change in labour force participation rates and **virtually no change in hours worked**, except for two groups of people: mothers who stayed home with young children, and young people who returned to and/or finished school.

With the Ontario pilot, an important outcome was that the quality of jobs held by low-income workers tended to improve. Instead of short-term, temporary, poorly paid work, the basic income guarantee allowed workers to search for better jobs with benefits and prospects.<sup>3</sup> These **positive results are echoed globally**. One can say that a GLBI is in fact good for workers and an opportunity for innovation.

## Featured resource: Fact sheet correcting myths about guaranteed livable basic income

Perfect for printing and handing out to elected officials or at rallies or educational events, this [one page fact sheet](#) corrects some common myths about guaranteed livable basic income. The facts are that Canada can afford it, it will benefit the economy, there is already solid data to support its benefits and suggest that people will continue to work even when a GLBI program is created. Look out for a lot more about GLBI in our upcoming newsletter *Quaker Concern*.

This fact sheet is just one of many great resources available [on our website](#).

