



June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Re: ACT BIG Attendees Urge PEI to Implement a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income**

Dear The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada,

(Charlottetown, PE) – Canadians from across the country gathered in Prince Edward Island last week to discuss the importance of a guaranteed livable income to invest in Canadians and stop spending tax dollars on measures that further victimize women and keep people ensnared in poverty and intimate partner violence.

Women's Network PEI sponsored the **ACT BIG Conference** (Advocating Canada Toward Basic Income Guarantee) June 5-6, 2025, as part of a two-year project, [\*Building a Feminist Coalition for Basic Income Guarantee\*](#), funded by Women and Gender Equality Canada. The national gathering brought together non-profit organizations, advocates, community members, and policymakers to explore the transformative potential of a basic income in advancing gender equity and economic justice.

PEI has made historic strides toward ending poverty by committing to a Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) in partnership with the federal government. Since 2020, PEI's government and all legislative parties have voiced unwavering support for a basic income guarantee. After more than two years of dedicated work by economists, former MPs, policymakers, and advocates, a comprehensive and affordable proposal for a PEI GBI demonstration project is ready to be implemented.

This isn't just a theoretical plan — it's a practical, evidence-based solution that could transform the social and economic safety net, including possibly replacing ineffective and fragmented welfare programs with a simpler, fairer system that lifts people out of poverty.

In September 2024, a federal-provincial working group was established to explore a 5- to 7-year GBI demonstration project for PEI. Now is the moment to move from study to action.

Keynote speaker, Senator Kim Pate, reminded all present that, "PEI can lead Canada and the world in proving that a guaranteed livable basic income will provide a powerful, affordable path to ending poverty and building a more just society for all. The time to act is now — let's make basic income a reality for PEI and set a new standard for social and economic support throughout Canada!"

In response, all assembled issued a clarion **call to the governments of PEI and Canada to seize this opportunity and launch the Guaranteed Basic Income demonstration project without delay.**

Sincerely,

Sent by Jillian Kilfoil ([jillian@wnpei.org](mailto:jillian@wnpei.org)) on behalf of ACT BIG Conference

Attendees CC: Honourable Patty Hadju, Minister Responsible for Jobs and Families

- Alexia Riche, Community Sector Network of PEI
- Alyssa Jo Bernard, Aboriginal Women's Association of PEI
- Amir Zuccolo, Community Sector Network of PEI
- Barbara Boraks, Coalition Canada for Basic Income
- Barb McDowall
- Bernard Plourde
- Catherine Mullally
- Danya Pastuszek, Tamarack Institute for Community Engagement
- Elizabeth Kay-Raining Bird, Basic Income Nova Scotia; Basic Income NOW Atlantic Canada; Coalition Canada Basic Income-revenu de base
- Felicity Dowdle, PEI Transgender Network
- Gina Younker, Women's Network
- Hannah Cameron, Community Garden Kijipuktuk
- Heather Atcheson, Human Development Council
- Jane Ledwell, PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women
- Jaime Griffin, Women's Network PEI
- Jill Olscamp, Women's Network PEI
- Jillian Kilfoil, Women's Network PEI
- Kari Kruse, PEI Coalition for Women's Leadership
- Kailea Switzer
- Karen MacCarville
- Katie Baker, SRL Solutions
- Kim Pate, Senate of Canada
- Kerry Duggan, ResourceAbilities
- Lanyi Wang
- Lindsey Hynes
- Lise Morin, PEI Retired Teachers Association
- Louise Adongo
- Madelyn Iwankow
- Marie Burge, Cooper Institute
- Mark Nicoll, PEI Association of Social Workers
- Mark Nicoll, Spring Park United Church, Charlottetown
- Marion Clorey
- Michelle Jay, PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women
- Michelle Neill, Leader, Island New Democrats
- Nivethine Mahendran, Choices for Youth
- Pierre Stevens, BIG-NS, BICN
- Rebecca Green-LaPierre, Annapolis Valley Community Food Council
- Ro Fife, Canadian Friends Service Committee
- Sam Ledwell MacInnis, PEI Working Group for a Livable Income
- Sarah Dennis
- Shauna Sideritsch
- Sophie Burns, United Way Maritimes

- Susan Hartley
- Tamara Steele, Black Cultural Society of PEI
- Thaïs Laborde, National Association of Women and the Law
- Tina Hann, Food First NL
- Tom Cooper, Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction
- Tracy Smith-Carrier, Royal Roads University