



Canadian Friends Service Committee

E-Newsletter



Resisting CANSEC with Quaker Roots

Join Pete Doubtfire from Quaker Roots in Britain to discuss successes and lessons learned during their activism against DSEI - Britain's biggest arms fair.

Speakers will then talk about organizing for Canada's arms fair - CANSEC (May 27-28 in Ottawa).

**Join us online on April 16th - 3 pm Eastern
(8 pm in the UK)**



Quakers in the UK protest their major arms fair. What have they learned?

Join us online on **Thursday, April 16th at 3 pm-4pm Eastern time** (8 pm in the UK) when Pete Doubtfire from Quaker Roots in Britain will discuss successes and lessons learned during activism against DSEI - Britain's biggest arms fair.

Brent Patterson from Peace Brigades International Canada will also speak to organizing around Canada's arms fair - CANSEC (May 27-28 in Ottawa) and Mel Burns from CFSC will discuss our plans for Friendly actions during CANSEC.

Register for free <https://QuakerService.ca/ResistingCANSEC>



*US carrier strike group sails in formation in the Arabian sea, Feb 6, 2026
Source: Jesse Monford/Wikimedia Commons*

This fact causes support for war to plummet

There are always alternatives to war. So why aren't more of us aware of them? Our new post for *Psychology Today* explores several of the many reasons, including some surprising research on the scale of secret military influence in Hollywood:

<https://QuakerService.ca/AlternativesToWar>



Big tech is taking huge military contracts. Where does that leave socially responsible investors?

In a second guest blog post, socially responsible investment (SRI) expert Alan Harman shares what goes into ethical investment decisions, and some recent cases where decisions are challenged by big tech companies' relationships with the military:

<https://QuakerService.ca/SRI>

If you missed it, the first post on the impact of social media companies like Meta is here: <https://QuakerService.ca/NewTobacco>

Have you been wondering about nonviolent resistance in Canada? Unsure if it really works in the face of an invasion, occupation, or other violent force?

Join us for our new monthly
BOOK CLUB



**CIVIL RESISTANCE:
What Everyone Needs to Know[®]**
by Erica Chenoweth

March-July: Every 3rd Thursday @ 7pm ET

Reminder: It's not too late to learn about successful nonviolent resistance against invasions and authoritarians

Do you know how nonviolence actually works to win real change?

Our book club is off to a great start! Even if you haven't be able to participate so far, you're still welcome to join us. We're reading *Civil resistance: what everyone needs to know* by Erica Chenoweth.

To see the dates of upcoming monthly book club calls, and to register for free, visit:
<https://QuakerService.ca/BookClub>

A GLBI in Canada would begin dismantling inequities.



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).



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 Jilayng Zhao

1. Ali, N. (2016). A Living Wage and Homelessness: Homeless Hub. <https://homelesshub.ca/blog/2016/03/16/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://proof.utoronto.ca/resource/2023budget48181818>

3. Segal, M., Fergat, E., and Banning, K. (2020). A Federal Basic Income Within the First COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan. Royal Society of Canada.

GUARANTEED LIVABLE BASIC INCOME (GLBI)

Myths and misrepresentations

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.¹ Current poorly administered, **overly expensive, and piece-meal** income assistance and welfare programs have huge costs. Economists say that provinces alone spend over \$20 billion per year on income assistance.² 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.³ 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 on guaranteed livable basic income

The idea of a guaranteed livable basic income is exciting, but it can also generate some anxieties. Luckily, many people have thought about and studied this for a long time. Our one-page handout explains why concerns about GLBI are misplaced:

<https://QuakerService.ca/GLBIFactSheet2>

