

# The Problem with the Basic Income

discussion is that both sides are debating about a

## straw man!

Please learn what a BI is really about!

### (G.L.I.)

The Basic Problem with the world wide Basic Income movement? The misguided idea that never really defining the concept would bring in the greatest support.

The result is people using the same words to talk about different things. With the need for a BI becoming urgent, and interest peaking, this problem is starting to bite.

The BI movement is now breaking down into three tendencies;

- 1) The libertarian, Miltie Freidman, "use a negative income tax to eliminate all other social programs" bunch.
- 2) The Liberal, Phillippe Van Parijs "Poverty Relief" bunch, which has so far predominated in Canada.
- 3) The classic, Tobin and Galbraith "social transformation" people, like us. This is what a BI movement should have been built on from the start.

A Basic Income plan, properly called, is;

Universal- who needs it gets it,

Unconditional- we mean it; no conditions! and

Adequate-enough to live out of poverty.

We would really like  
to start calling it a

## Guaranteed

## Living

## Income

Ask us why!

### Join with us!

Help us bring the BI concept back to  
its original, socially transformative,  
focus. [www.livinggrant.ch](http://www.livinggrant.ch)

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= The amount received must be based on what it costs to live, according to the low income measure. In Toronto, this is currently \$22 000 per single person and \$13 000 per child.

= GLI must never be given to 'families,' only to individuals. Children's GLI goes to their mothers.

= Additional grants for disabilities and special needs is on a case by case basis.

= A GLI makes certain "welfare" programs redundant. It is not a replacement for health, housing, or educational programs, or for special needs.

= A GLI is administered through a monthly grant by cheque or automatic deposit. This is called a Demogrant.

= Under no circumstances should an income guarantee administered as a tax rebate or negative income tax be considered.

= It should not be necessary to file a tax return to receive GLI. There is no reason why taxes or benefits should not be calculated automatically for most people. Many countries do it like that.

= A GLI must not be structured so that the very poor are being aided by the somewhat better off, or "middle class". Only the really well to do should be paying taxes at all.

= In the short term, the tax system must be reformed. In the longer term, it should be eliminated and a wealth tax established.

= A High Income Measure must be developed. Beyond the HIM, a person is considered to be receiving and consuming a share of the common wealth which draws down the reserve capacity of the economy. Beyond HIM, the GLI is withdrawn and income or wealth taxes begin.

= There are abundant resources in the Canadian economy with which to fund a GLI and other needed programs. Raising government revenues so as to provide it will simply but social spending in line with the most advanced countries.

= A BI/GLI policy should not be promoted as a poverty relief measure, a substitute for other social programs, a way of promoting 'innovation' or 'entrepreneurialism', a way of continuing 'growth', a way of 'protecting the environment', a solution for 'technological unemployment' or as a way of enforcing any 'workfare', 'social participation' or 'education' program.

= A GLI must be available to anyone living in Canada. Solutions must be worked out to insure that new immigrants, migrant workers, exchange students, people on work visas, etc.; have an income support system and protection of basic rights.

= The object of a BI/GLI is this and only this; to insure a viable society and a decent life for everybody in the new conditions being created by technological advance.

= There is no "reciprocity" issue related to a BI/GLI. One person having a demogrant, even without doing any 'work', takes nothing away from anyone. People claiming otherwise are talking from Liberal ideology and/or a flawed, "grudger" type of personality.

= The GLI concept is inevitably socialist. The income guarantees idea began with socialism and must end there. Attempts to use 'socialist' as a pejorative must be challenged.

= The guaranteed income concept is not neutral. It can have beneficial or very dire effects, depending on how it is applied. GLI denotes a fundamentally 'left' approach to apply an income guarantee in a positive way.

# The Main Points of a BI/GLI

