



Committee of the Whole

Town of Truro

Thursday, February 29th, 2024 – 4:00 p.m.

Town Hall – Council Chambers

A Committee of the Whole meeting for the Town of Truro took place on Thursday, February 29th, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Present: Mayor W.R. (Bill) Mills, Deputy Mayor C. Hinton, Councillors W. Talbot, A. Graham, B. Thomas, I. McGrath, J. Flemming

In Attendance: CAO M. Dolter, Director of Public Works A. MacKinnon, Director of Planning J. Fox, Director of Corporate Services B. Coulter, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture A. Simms, Fire Chief B. Currie, Police Chief D. MacNeil

Regrets:

Mayor B. Mills called the meeting to order and began with a Land Acknowledgment, recognizing that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people.

1. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

On motion of Deputy Mayor C. Hinton and Councillor I. McGrath, the agenda was approved as circulated. Motion carried.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion of Councillors J. Flemming and A. Graham, the minutes of January 25, 2024, were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

3. **BASIC INCOME NOVA SCOTIA**

Kathleen Kevany delivered a presentation in relation to a livable Basic Income Guarantee (BIG Program). The presentation is attached to these minutes.

4. **REVIEW OF 2024/2025 PRIORITIES**

M. Dolter provided an overview of the 2024/2025 Strategic Priorities.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:28 p.m.

W. R. (Bill) Mills
Mayor

M. Dolter
Chief Administrative Officer



Town of Truro – Presentation Feb 2024

Livable Basic Income Guarantee (BIG)

- Kathleen Kevany, Professor, Dalhousie, Volunteer, BIG;
- Elizabeth Kay-Raining Bird, Professor Emeritus, Dalhousie University; Chair, [BIG-NS](#); Planning Committee, [Basic Income NOW, Atlantic Canada](#); Steering Committee, [Coalition Canada Basic Income-revenu de base](#)
- Pierre Stevens, retired Senior Instructor, Dalhousie University; Treasurer, BIG-NS & [Basic Income Canada Network](#)

Why should municipalities care?

- Mayor Savage:
 - The Feds have the money
 - The Provinces have the jurisdiction
 - But the municipalities have the problems
- The difficulties people are experiencing are not going away
 - Housing
 - Food insecurity
 - Inflation...
- These difficulties impact your neighbours, friends, family and the municipality's budget and well-being

Canada is a Signatory to
the UN 2030 Agenda for
Sustainable Development

“We are determined to end poverty and hunger, in all their forms and dimensions, and to ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment.”


“Everybody deserves a life where they don’t have to choose between what bill gets paid this month.”

“Everybody deserves a life where you matter, even if you are not rich.”

Comments from Atlantic BIG Consensus Statement Signers

BUT.....


The child poverty rate in Nova Scotia increased by 11.4%



35,330
or 1 in 5 children live in poverty in Nova Scotia.

Nova Scotia's child poverty rate is the fourth-highest in Canada, and the highest in Atlantic Canada.

policyalternatives.ca/2023NSreportcard



CCPA
CANADIAN CENTRE
for POLICY ALTERNATIVES
NOVA SCOTIA OFFICE



CAMPAIGN 2000
END CHILD & FAMILY POVERTY

NS poverty rate:

Nova Scotia: 8.6% = 90,062

[National Advisory Council on Poverty, 2023](#)

Most vulnerable:

Persons in our communities who are Indigenous, Black, new immigrants, non-binary, disabled, single parents, single adults 45 - 64

“Poverty is the best predictor of early illness, early hospitalizations, longer hospital stays and earlier death. It is a reliable predictor of substance abuse, food insecurity, poor education outcomes, and for some, trouble with the law.”

(Segal, 2016; [Discussion paper on Ontario pilot project](#))

“Child poverty is a pernicious childhood adversity that has detrimental long-term impacts on children’s health, development and well-being throughout life.”

Many others are hurting One paycheck away from poverty

Precarious Work

- Risky
- Temporary
- Part-time
- Insecure
- Not unionized
- Often low or unreliable wages
- Usually lack benefits, rights, or other legal protections

24% of work is precarious

- More often
 - Females
 - Refugees and recent immigrants
 - Indigenous, Black, other racialized groups
- Severe impacts mental health

([Ioprespub](#), 2018; [Cubrich et al., 2022](#))

Social assistance

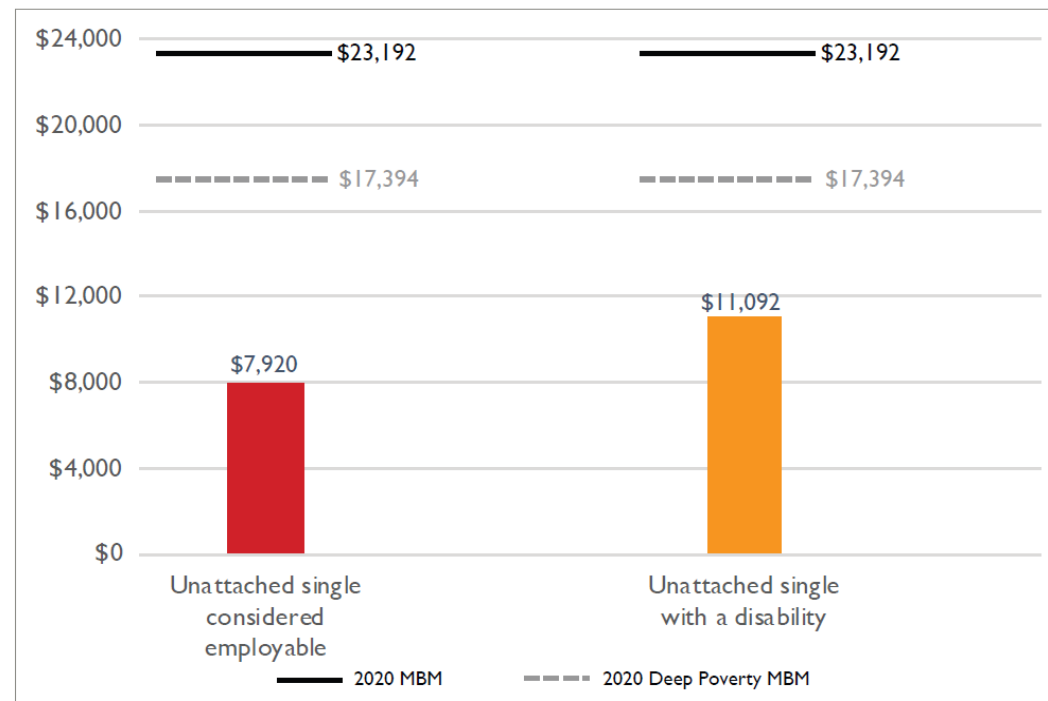
Insufficient

Demeaning

Disincentivizes work

Dehumanizing

Welfare incomes and poverty thresholds for single adults, 2020



Laidley & Tobarra, 2021 (Maytree)

Poverty costs the Atlantic Provinces \$4,604,723,040 every year [Saulnier & Plante, 2021](#)



BIG is a Poverty Elimination & Health Promotion Strategy

A basic income guarantee (BIG) or Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI) is an income floor, below which no one can fall

As a direct payment from government everyone has sufficient income to meet their basic needs, participate in society, and live with dignity



The Basic Income We Advocate For

NO

- For everyone (UBI)
 - Replaces other necessary social services and supports
 - Means tested
 - Same benefit for everyone
- 

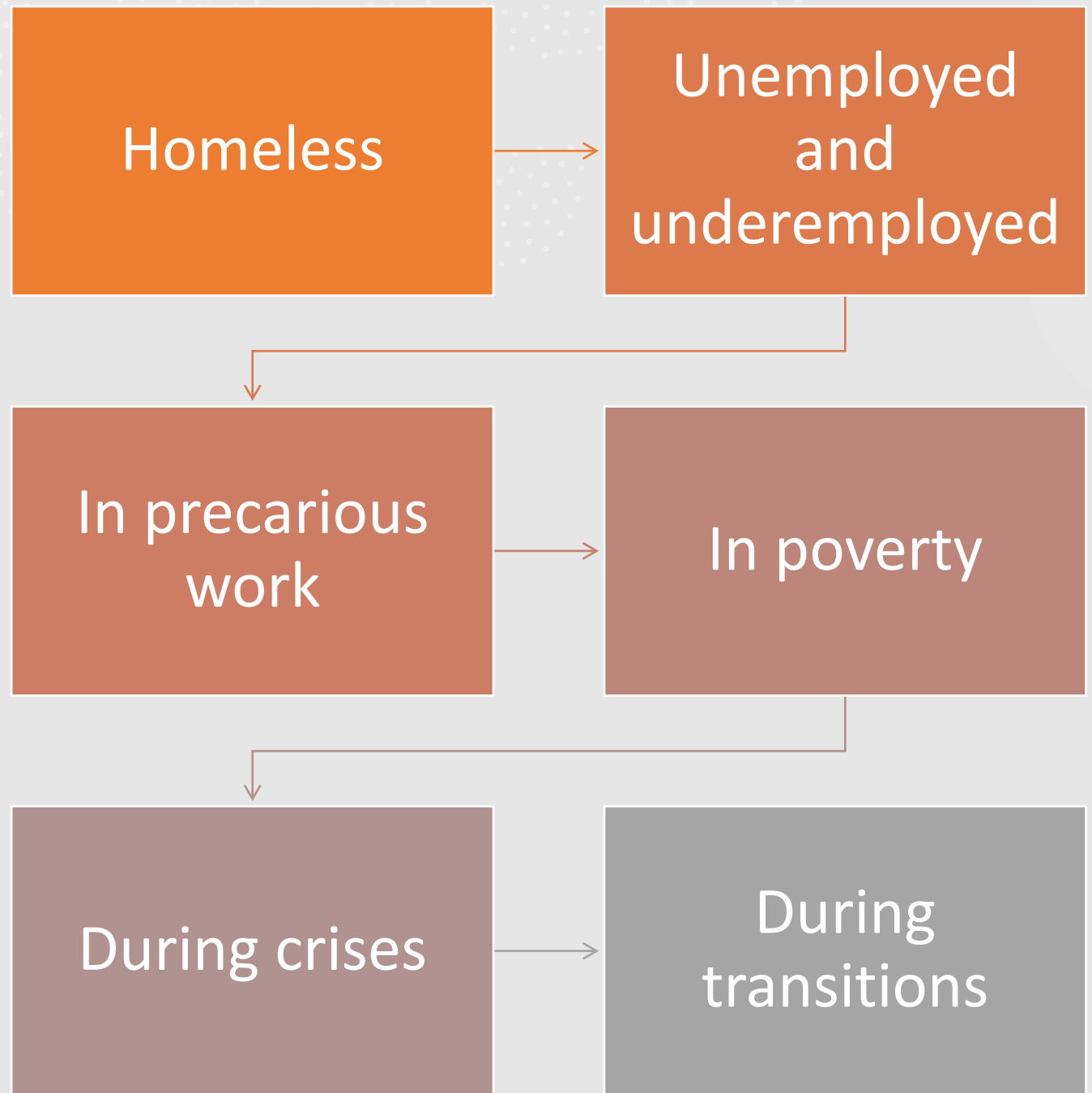
YES

- For those who need it (GLI / BIG)
 - Complements other services and social supports and supports efforts to strengthen them
 - No intrusive, onerous, demeaning, stigmatizing requirements or conditions.
 - The maximum benefit would be provided to those with the lowest incomes. Gradually reduced as incomes rise.
- 

7 Principles of GLI/BIG

- **Universally accessible**
- **Unconditional—only income tested**
- **An essential component of a comprehensive safety net**
- **Sufficient—set at or above the poverty line (livable level)**
- **Responsive to changing circumstances**
- **Respects autonomy**
- **Respects Indigenous rights & self-determination**

A BIG would
be there
when we
need it



It would reduce poverty

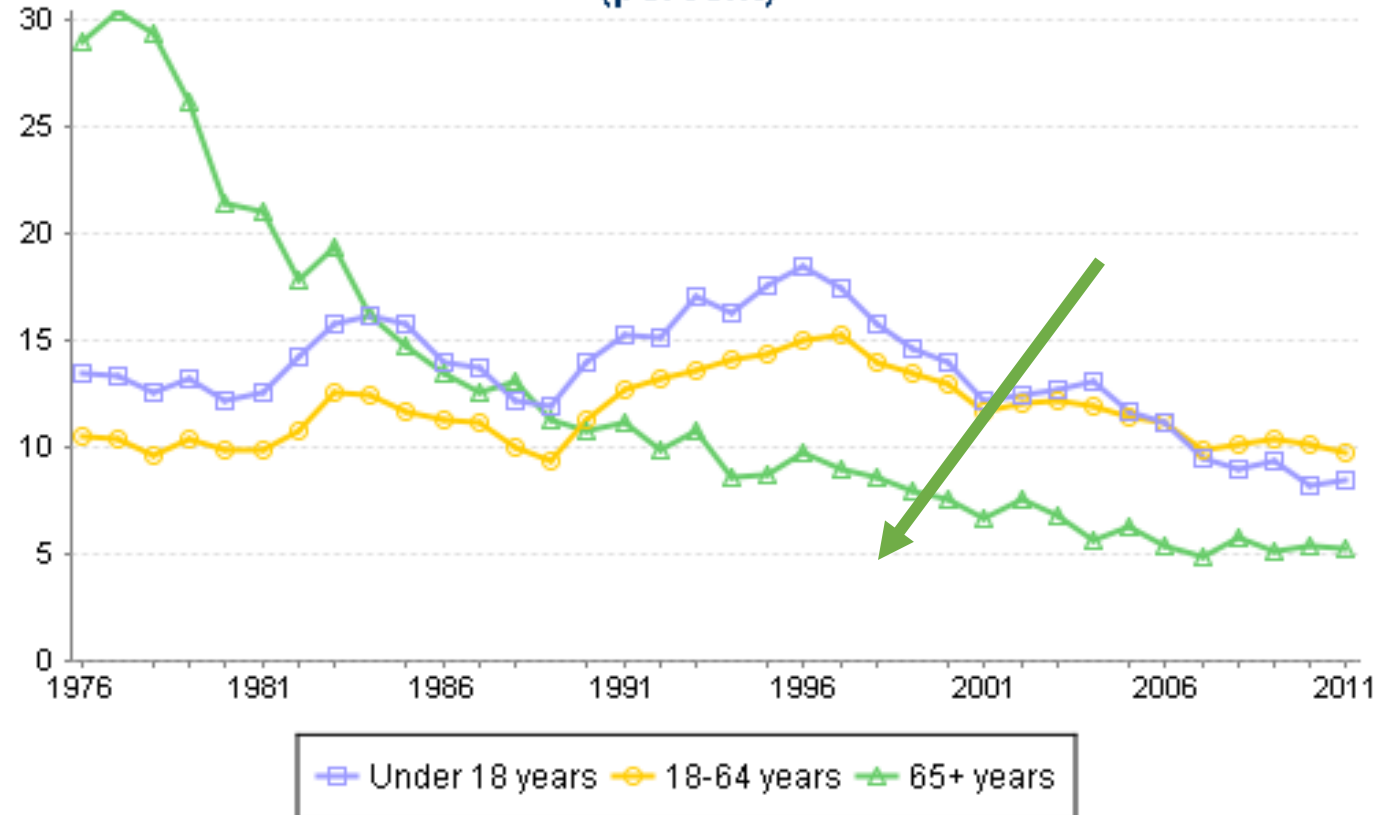
Example, OAS/GIS

When GIS was introduced:

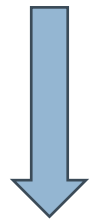
- Seniors' poverty rates fell dramatically
- Food insecurity rates dropped from 22% to 11%
- Health improved, despite recipients' getting older.

McIntyre et al., (2016)

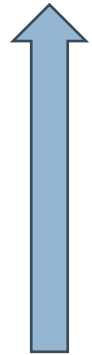
Low-income rate, by age, Canada, 1976-2011
(percent)



Stats Canada, 2012 http://www4.hrsdc.gc.ca/.3ndic.1t.4r@-eng.jsp?iid=23#M_4



- Poverty
- Crime (17.5%)
- Hospital and doctor visits (8.5%)



- Health and well-being
- Safe, secure housing
- School completion and continuation
- Food security
- Trust in government



- Paid work engagement

- All work is valued
 - e.g., home care, volunteer work, ...

Basic Income Impacts Lives Studies Show

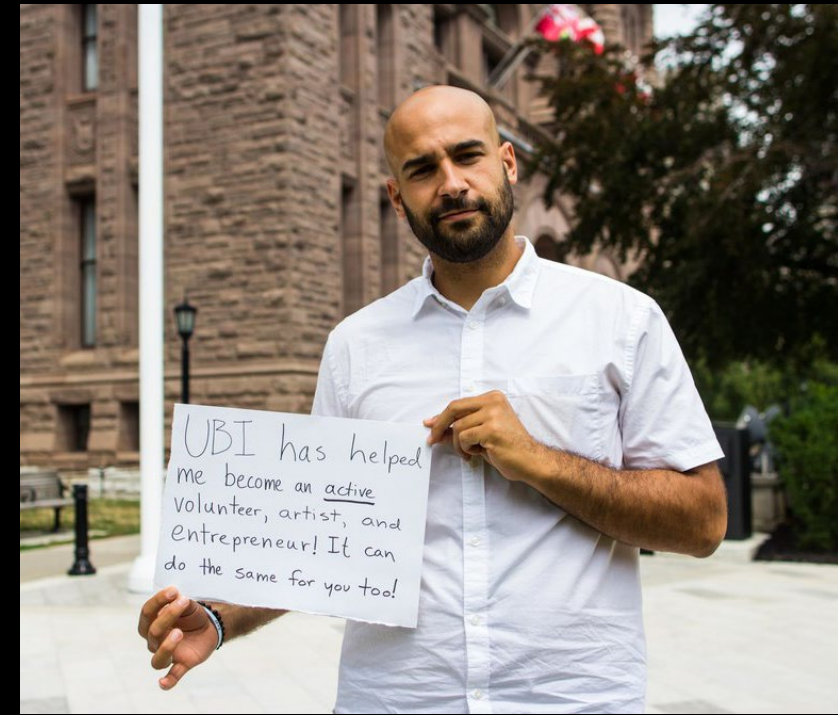
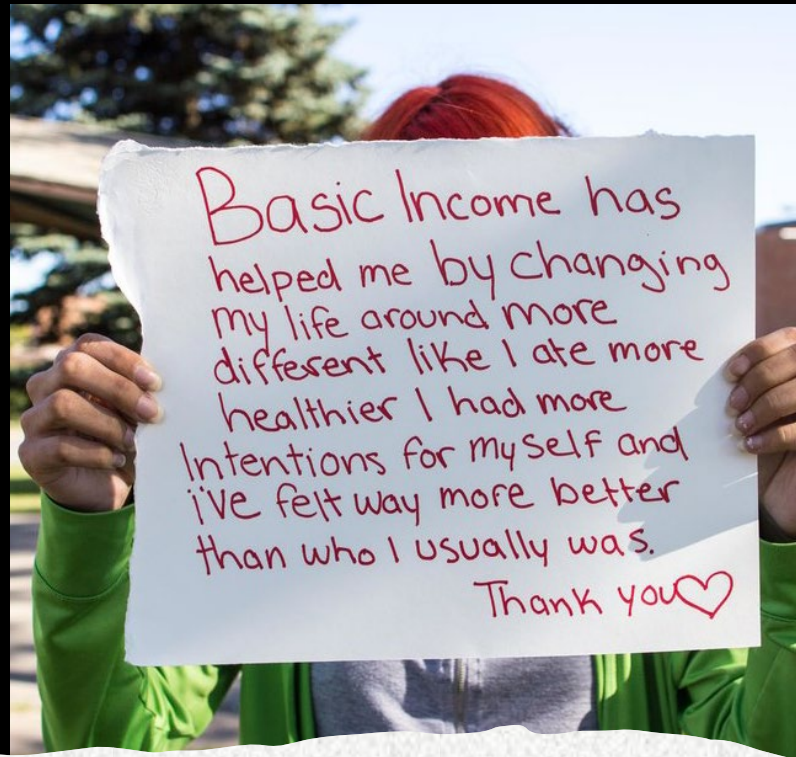
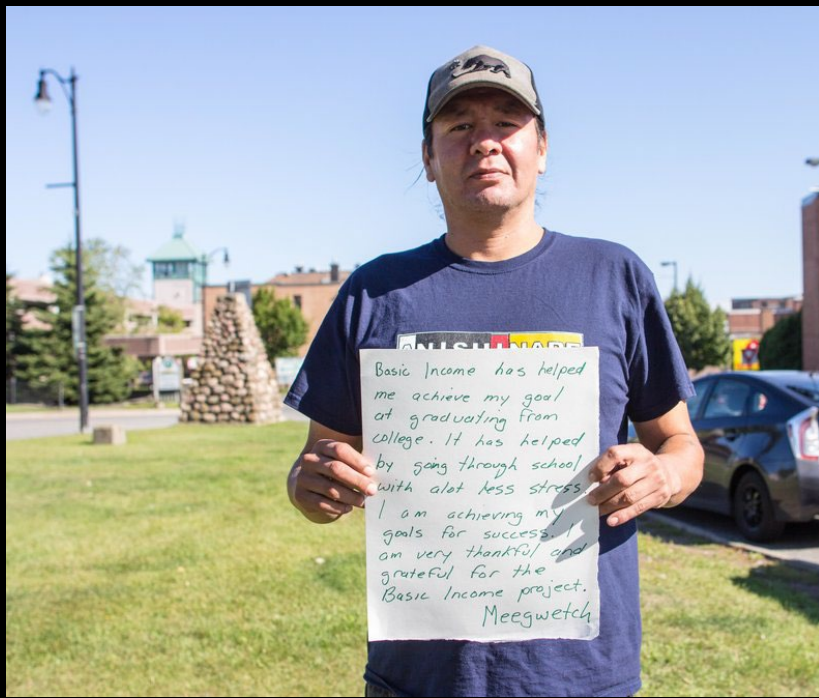
Calnitsky et al., 2021; Dwyer et al., 2023 Forget, E. (2011; 2013; 2018); PBO report, 2021; Finland, Final Report, 2022

- **People have economic security**
 - If they lose a job
 - If they cannot find work
 - If their work is precarious
- **People have choices**
 - Accept or refuse a job—can lead to workplace improvements
 - Take time to learn new skills
 - Provide care for loved ones
 - Volunteer in the community
- **People can take risks**
 - Entrepreneurs
 - Writers, musicians & artists
- **Local economies are stimulated**
 - 90% of the money stays in the local community

Basic Income

Studies Show

Forget (2018, 2020); Ferdosi et al. (2020), [Ontario Basic Income](#); [Stanford, 2022](#); [CANCEA CCB, 2018](#); [Canadian Women's Chamber of Commerce](#)

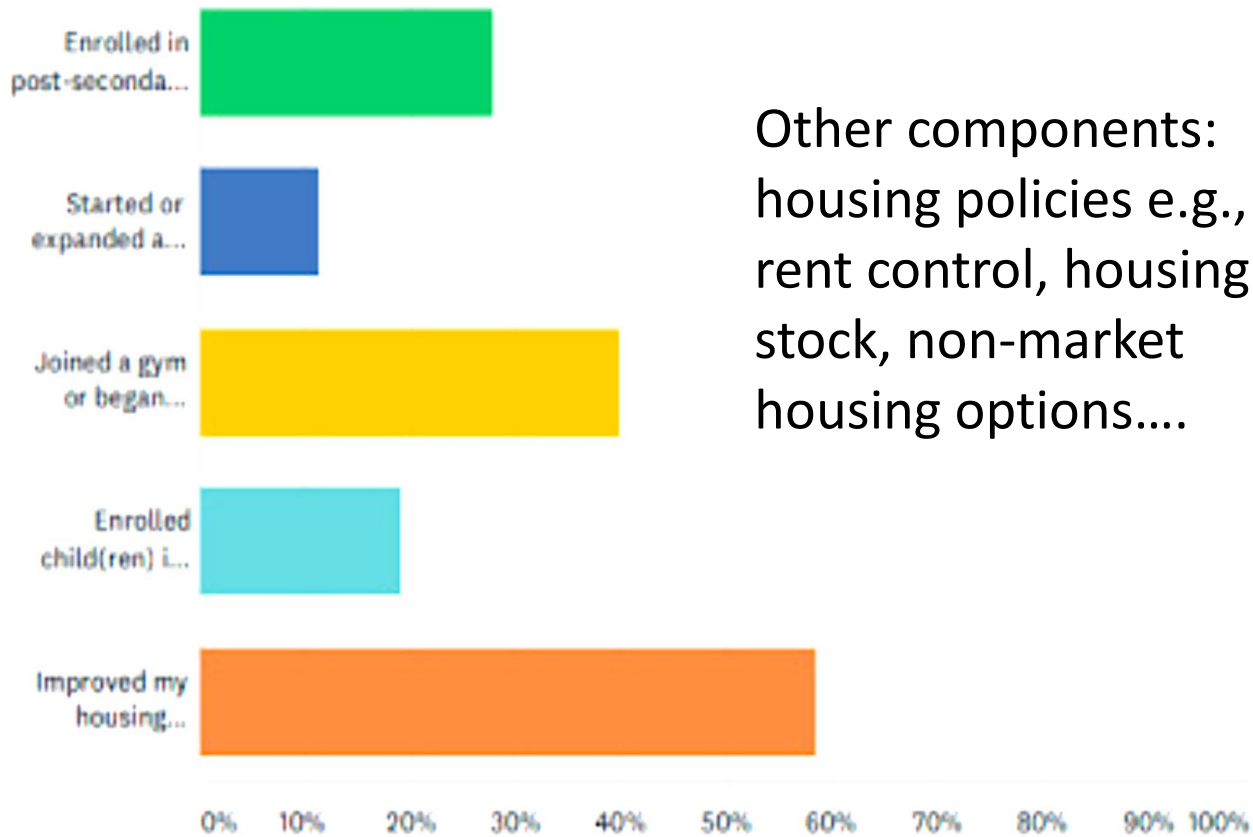


Ontario Basic Income Recipients:

“For a significant number of participants, basic income purportedly proved to be transformational, fundamentally reshaping their living standards as well as their sense of self-worth and hope for a better future.” (Ferdosi et al., 2020)

BIG is not a panacea, but it is an essential component of a just society

e.g., Housing



Other components: housing policies e.g., rent control, housing stock, non-market housing options....





ANSWERS TO FAQs

Will people
stop working?

No.

Finland study → employment
increased slightly

Dutch study: Less oversight →
more people find permanent work

Because the benefit declines
gradually with paid work, it
incentivizes employment



Some research shows slight decrease in
employment engagement

Continue school

Provide care for
family members

Can we afford it? Yes, with political will

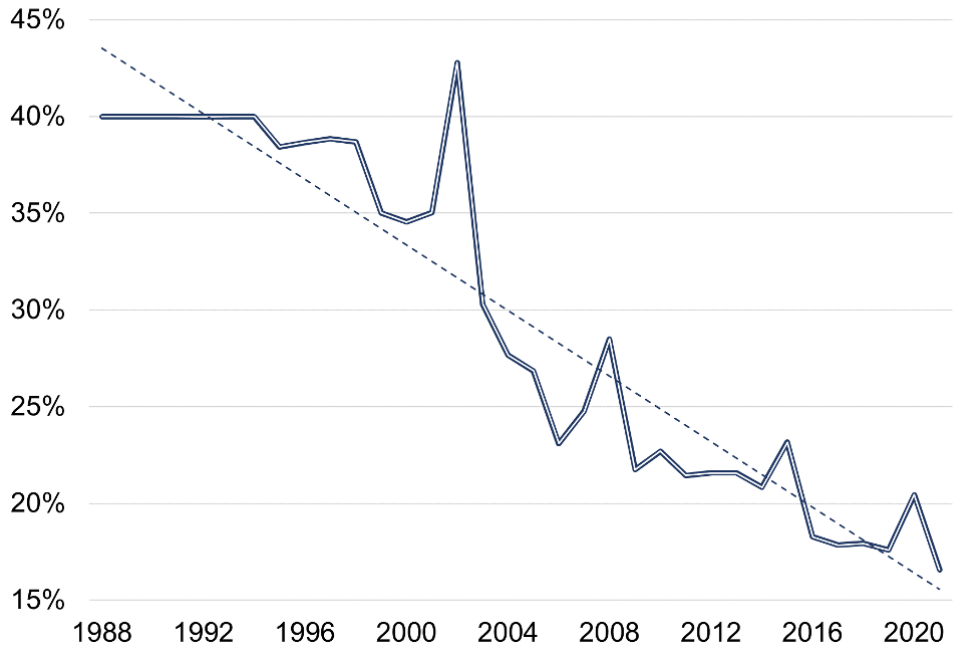
Cost

- Canada: ~ \$89 billion
([PBO, 2021](#))

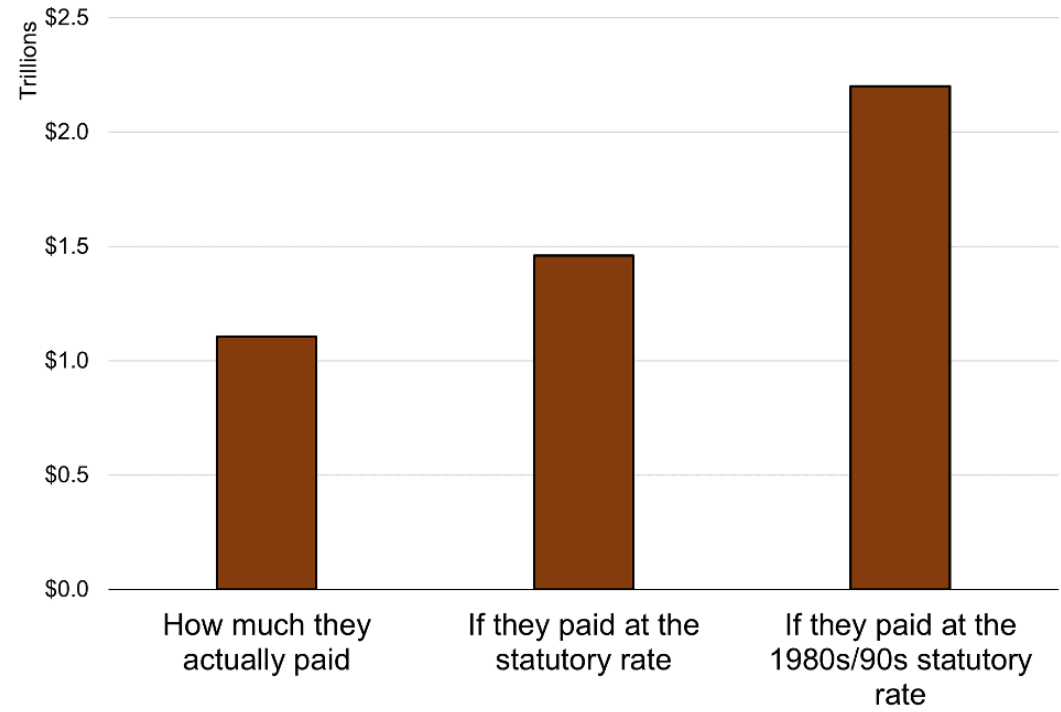
Financing options

- PBO
 - Cost offset by eliminating some refundable and non-refundable federal tax credits and 44% of the provincial basic personal exemption
- Other options
 - Make the tax system fairer
 - UBIWorks, [Who pays?](#)
 - BICN, [Policy Options](#)
 - Deficit spending - CCB

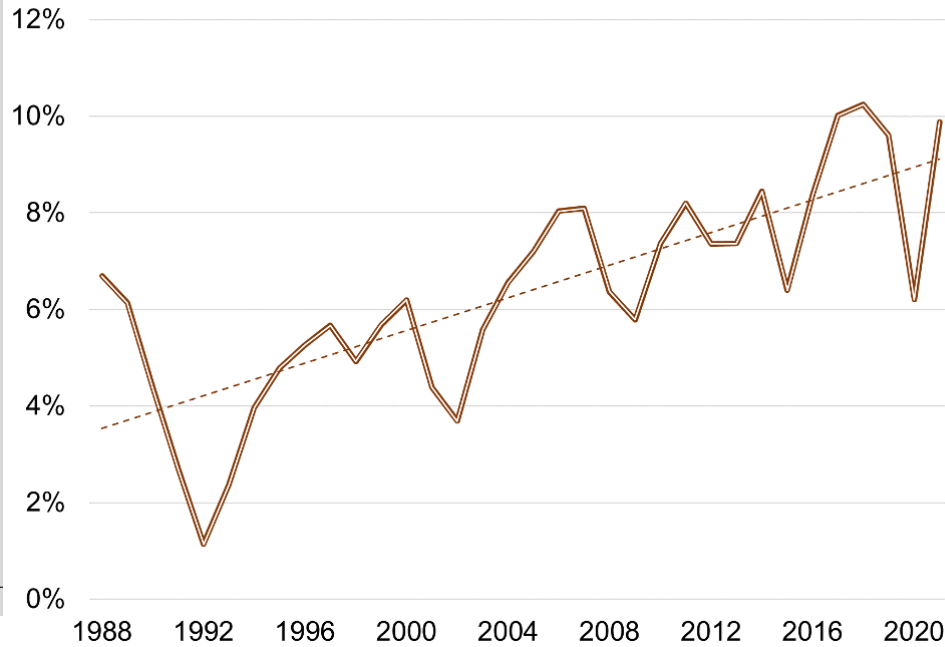
Effective corporate income tax rate



Total corporate income taxes, 2000 to 2019



Corporate profit rate



Example: a fairer tax system!

[Canadians for Tax Fairness report, 2022](#)

Also consider:

Many investments made

- Health care: **~\$308 billion**
- Oil and gas subsidies: **>\$22 billion** (provincial & federal)
- Dept. of National Defense: **~\$858 billion**
- Ukraine: **>\$8 billion as of July 2023**
- Canada Child Benefit: **~\$23.7 billion**
- OAS/GIS: **~\$76 billion**

Significant social return on investment in BIG

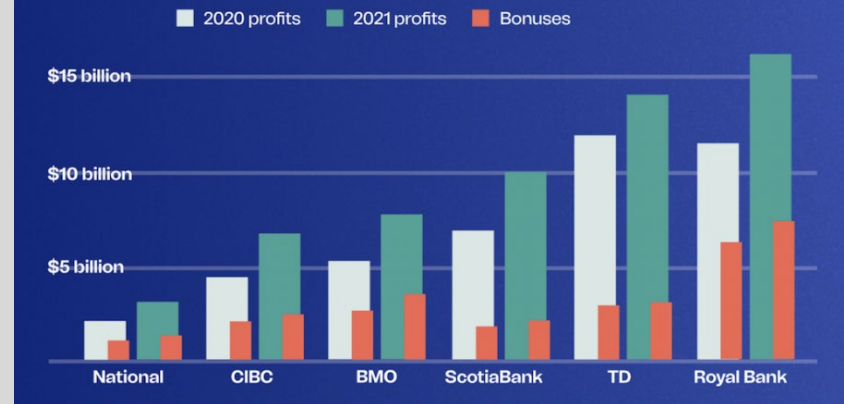
Downstream savings on costs of health, policing, incarceration, etc...

Will BIG Cause Inflation?

No.

- OAS/GIS and CCB have not led to inflation
- “High inflation [is being] driven by ... strong demand, post-pandemic economic recovery, geopolitical unrest and supply chain disruptions” ([Rush, 2022](#), KPMG)
- And corporate greed

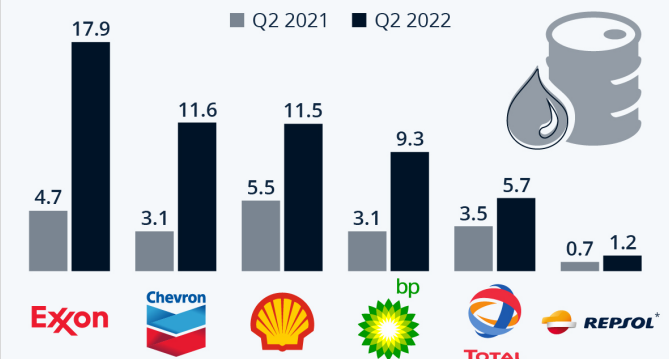
Canadian bank profits and bonuses: 2020 vs 2021



[MacLaughlin, 2022](#), Ecojust

Oil Companies Profit as Fuel Prices Soar

Net income of oil and gas companies (in billion U.S. dollars)



* Converted from euros to U.S. dollars at the average exchange rate for the respective 2nd quarter.

Source: Company reports



statista

[Fleck, 2022](#), Statista

Is There Support for BIG? **Yes.**

[PEI report](#)

MMIW&G
Calls for Justice

National
Farmers
Union

CMA & 167
Health
Professionals

~ 1
million
youth

50 Senators

Faith Groups

75,000 arts &
culture
workers

Canadian
Women's
Chamber
of
Commerce

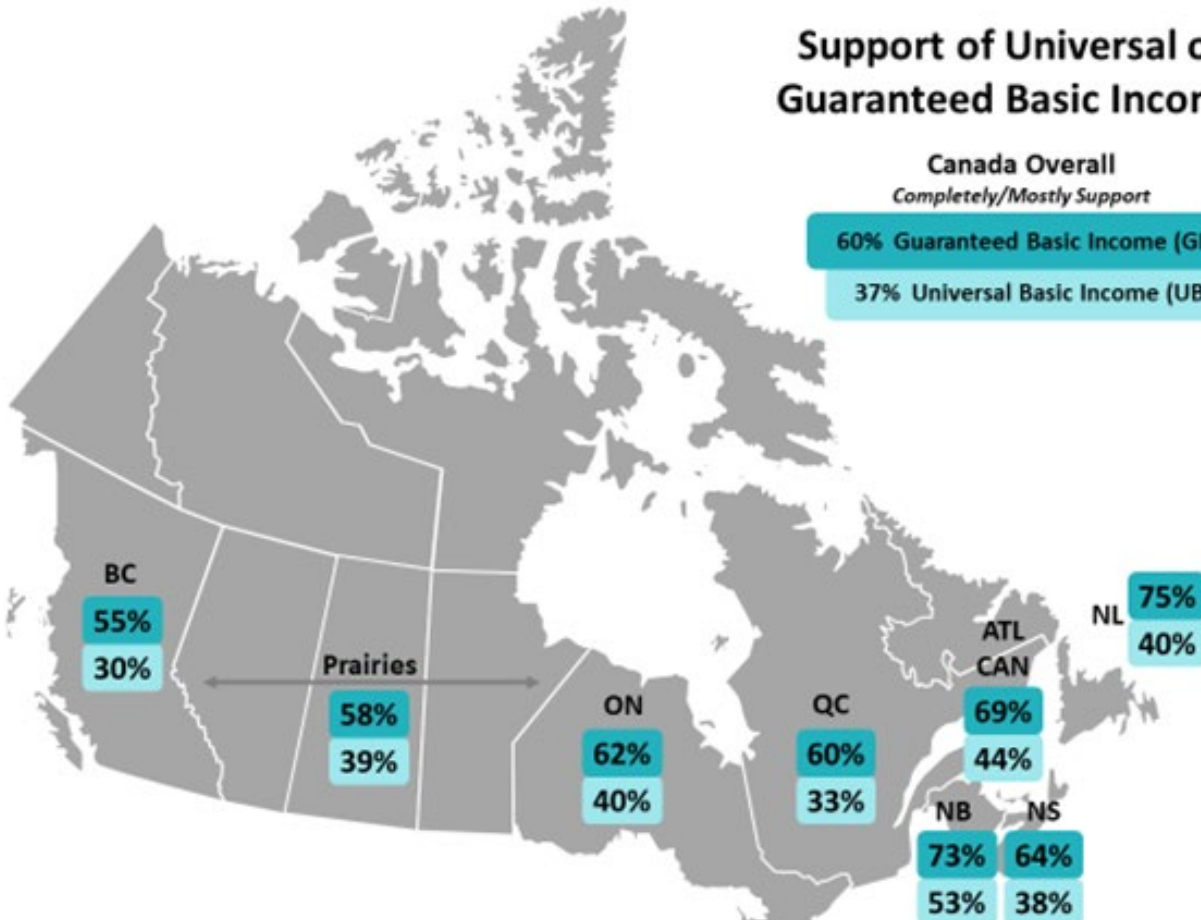
Bills
[S233](#) & [C223](#)

Support of Universal or Guaranteed Basic Income


Canada Overall
Completely/Mostly Support

60% Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI)

37% Universal Basic Income (UBI)



[Narrative Research](#)



11 NS
Municipalities
are calling for
a BIG

~65% of NS population

- [Halifax](#), June 28 2022
- [Pictou County](#), Feb 6 2023
- [County of Annapolis](#), March 14 2023
- [Wolfville](#), March 21 2023
- [Antigonish Town](#), May 16 2023
- [Antigonish County](#), June 27 2023
- [Town of Yarmouth](#), July 13 2023
- [Cumberland County](#), July 2023
- [Cape Breton Regional Municipality](#), October 11, 2023
- [Kentville](#), November 27, 2023
- [Colchester County](#), February 15, 2024
- [Atlantic Mayors Congress](#), June 2023

Atlantic Consensus Statement - NS Organizations

- A Roof Over Your Head (NS)
- AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia (NS)
- Ally Centre of Cape Breton (NS)
- Annapolis Community Health Board (NS)
- Antigonish Coalition to End Poverty (NS)
- Antigonish Community Transit Society (NS)
- Antigonish Women's Resource Centre & Sexual Assault Services Association (NS)
- Basic Income Nova Scotia (NS)
- Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Halifax-Dartmouth (NS)
- Cape Breton Coalition for Social Justice (NS)
- Circle of Trust Canada (NS)
- Coady Institute (NS)
- Community Advocates Network (NS)
- Conseil de santé de Clare / Clare Community Health Board (NS)
- Creative Action Digital Video (NS)
- Digby and Area Community Health Board (NS)
- Eastern Shore Musquodoboit Community Health Board (NS)
- Facilitators for Social Change (NS)
- Halifax Food Policy Alliance (NS)
- International Association for Premenstrual Disorders (NS)
- Kings County Community Food Council (NS)
- Leaside Society (NS)
- Martha Justice Ministry, Sisters of St. Martha, Antigonish (NS)
- Nova Scotia Action Coalition for Community Well-Being (NS)
- NS Community Health Boards Basic Income Group (NS)
- Peer Outreach Support Services and Education (NS)
- Pictou County Women's Resource and Sexual Assault Centre (NS)
- POSSE Project (NS)
- Sisters of Charity of Halifax (NS)
- Social Justice Committee, St James United Church (NS)
- Springhill Oxford Amherst and Area Community Health Board (NS)
- Tri-County Women's Center (NS)
- Truro Housing Outreach Society (NS)
- Urban Jars Halifax (NS)
- Women Centres Connect (NS)
- Yarmouth County Community Health Board (NS)

What you can do.

- Learn more
- Read and sign the consensus statement
- Pass a resolution in support of BIG
 - Mayor write a letter encouraging PM and Ministers to immediately engage with Provinces & Territories to create a national BIG
 - Mayor write a letter to the Premier and MLAs calling for the immediate formation of an all-party committee to study BIG and how it might be implemented in NS
 - Mayor encourage other municipalities to do the same through the NSFM and FCM



BASIC INCOME HAS OPENED
A DOOR BACK INTO MY LIFE.
AFTER DEPRESSION AND A
STRING OF INJURIES KNOCKED ME OUT.
THE RELIEF IT BROUGHT ALLOWED
SO MANY POSSIBILITIES TO RISE UP
OUT OF TWO YEARS OF
DARKNESS & ANXIETY

Thank you

We invite
questions.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 22/23/24

NOW

1. WILLOW ST/MCCLURE'S MILLS TRAFFIC CIRCLE
2. ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN
3. VICTORIA PARK POOL
4. GREEN ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY PLAN
5. INDUSTRIAL PARK: BUSINESS CASE/MASTER PLAN

NEXT

- Sidewalks and Paving - Bylaw, Paving Ford/Cross/West Prince
- TAAC Grounds - Provincial & Federal Advocacy
- Legacy Fund - Revenue
- Public Washroom Strategy - Pilot
- Equity Support
- Tree Committee Programs/TOR's
- Railyard Master Plan - Implementation
- Communication - Mayor's Quarterly Update
- Community Engagement - Youth Council
- Complaint System - Feedback

ADVOCACY/PARTNERSHIPS

- Relationship with Millbrook/Agreements
- REN Partnership - Additional funding in budget
- Dept. of Justice - Justice Centre
- NSFM - Urban/Rural Equity, Summary Offence Tickets
- Shared Initiatives with County - Regional Police Service, Flood Plain Plan
- DTP - Support Local
- Federal & Provincial Gov't - TAAC Grounds
- Department of Municipal Affairs & Housing, THOS - Affordable Housing, Homelessness
- Dept. of Lands & Forestry - Deer Management Strategy

STATUS

- Continued into 24/25
- Continued into 24/25
- Complete
- Continued into 24/25
- Ongoing - Winddown of TIDS/South William Barnhill Land Sales Strategy

- Complete
- Provincial and Federal funding secured. Continued into 24/25
- Fund has been established, promotion TBD
- New VP washroom open, applied and denied for other funding. Continued into 24/25
- ANS Committee active, New TOR drafted for Diversity Committee
- Evolving plan with staff changes, more to be done. Continued into 24/25
- Federal funding secured, ongoing implementation, in year 2 of Phase 1 & 2. Continued into 24/25
- Not yet in place
- Previous members graduated, reconstitution (Recommend to cease)
- New system developed, implementation issues

- Meeting 24 Jan 23, planning for regular meeting, re-establishing regular maintenance meetings, TPAC, AFNWA
- Draft bylaw, Strat Plan being developed, Implementation 01 Apr 24
- Proposal concept and location sent to Province
- Service exchange agreement Mar 23
- Working on County agreements, WWTP Agreement

- Provincial and Federal funding secured, construction underway
- Supporting local initiatives
- 2 successful hunts '22/planning for fall '23

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES CHART

2024/25

CORPORATE PRIORITIES (Council/CAO) - STAFF RECOMMENDED

NOW

1. TAAC REVITALIZATION PROJECT
2. COLCHESTER LEGION STADIUM
3. ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION
4. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
5. HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS
6. MCCLURES MILLS ROAD/WILLOW STREET ROUNDABOUT

NEXT

- Employment Contracts
 - Police Service - April 2024
 - Fire Service - November 2024
- Community Energy and Emissions Plan
- Municipal Election 2024
- Diversity/Immigration Strategy
- Natural Assets Strategy
- Public Washrooms
- Economic/Business Development Strategy

ADVOCACY/PARTNERSHIPS

- Province of NS - Justice Centre
- Regional Collaboration - Marketing Levy, Public Transit, Accessibility
- NSFM - Urban/Rural Equity and Service Exchange Agreement
- DTP/TCPEP/Chamber - Business Development
- DMAH - Affordable Housing, Homelessness
- DNRR/Millbrook/Dalhousie/Feed NS - Deer Management
- Police Service Exchange w/PNS for Centralized Services

STATUS

Construction underway, should be complete Fall 2024.
Construction underway, should be complete Fall 2024.
Seeking Funding for Engineering, Feasibility and Implementation Plan
Seeking Funding for Regional Feasibility Study w/Colchester
Affordable Housing Framework underway
Tendering in Winter/Spring 2024, Construction expected 2024

Initial proposals have been exchanged

Funding received and plan underway

Regional Tourism Strategic Plan - ACOA STEP
Regional Strategic Sectors - TCPEP - Phase 2

Successful Fall 23 hunt, Minister DNRR, Letter to expand into urban core.

Operational Priorities

OFFICE OF THE CAO

Land Sales Strategy - South of William Barnhill Drive

Marketing Levy Implementation

Urban Deer Management

Winddown of TIDS (Truro Industrial Development Society)

Communications Planning

Employee Engagement

Policy and Bylaw Gaps

WWTP Agreement with Colchester

CORPORATE SERVICES

Sale of Financial Services

Research on Inventory / Asset Management Software relevant to all departments

Operating & Capital budgets for General Gov't, Water Utility

Formal Salary Review

Water Utility Rate Review

Insurance and Audit RFP's and award

5S Lean Efficiencies in all Departments

Solar Garden Project with Cumberland

ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS

Asset Management with GIS

Succession Planning and Staffing

Water Utility Rate Review

Safety Program/Procedures

Sewer Use Bylaw/Policies

Internal Process Review/Permitting (w/ Planning)

Service Request/Inquiries Process

New Permits - Work in ROW/Sewer & Water Laterals

Dam Safety Report

Water Distribution System Capacity Study

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Community Plan Implementation

Accessibility Plan

Subdivision Bylaw

Downtown Master Plan (audit of downtown signs/streetscape improvements at Queen/Walker St)

Public Art Policy

Expedite Development

Victoria Park Signage (w/ Parks, Recreation & Culture)

Operational Priorities Cont.

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE

Railyard Master Plan - Final Phase of ACOA Agreement

Long John Festival

Victoria Park Playground (2026)

Long-term Strategic Plan for Recreation

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Plan

Park Ranger/Tree Technician Staffing

Facilities Management Review

Develop System for Asset/Inventory Management

Staff Position Review - Key Vacant Positions

Campaign with NS Health - Preventative Health

Forest Management Plan for Victoria Park

Tree Committee Programs and TOR

POLICE SERVICE

Hybrid Electric Vehicles

TMR Police Radios

FIRE SERVICE

Victoria Park Wildfire Management Plan

Bylaw Review

Fire Inspection - Contract Negotiations

Potential Fire Training Grounds