

HI

As a reminder, I will not be at the GFSI board meeting on Tuesday as I will be attending a Tamarack workshop on Collaborative Leadership with Liz Weaver.

I did have a couple of updates though that will be of interest to the board.

I continue to work with the provincial groups on development of an Atlantic symposium on **Basic Income** aimed at elected representatives from all levels of government. The purpose is to rally support for the upcoming release of a report backed by all provincial parties in PEI requesting that the federal government implement a BI trial there. (Interesting to note that according to Herb Emery, they are recommending that the control case for a pilot be the Moncton region.)

Attached below is the working doc for an invitation. The hybrid event will cover:
5 things BI is and 5 things it isn't (myth busting)
The economic case for BI (purse strings)
How BI lends itself to improving the quality of life for citizens (heart strings)
Call for Action: how to keep informed on developments and the request to rally behind PEI

Here's an interesting report by the University of Calgary School of Public Policy on BI just released in June.

<https://www.policyschool.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/HSP101-Research-GuaranteedBasicIncome.pdf>

Also, I had a call with **Suzanne Johnstone, Trustee of the Health Authority**, in which I presented the case for the province to invest in programs offering folks on low income with chronic health conditions access to healthy food as a preventative medical intervention. In preparation for this chat, I did up a report on similar projects happening across Canada and noted that much is happening in this regard in the US and UK.

Close to home, NS has a program in which people with diabetes and other chronic conditions are given coupons by health care professionals and social workers that can be redeemed at farmers markets. The aim is to improve their health, reduce the need for treatment and to support local farmers. She responded supportively, and offered to share the report with her counterpart, Gerald Richard and with the DM of Social Development. Given what is on her plate, I was indeed impressed that she followed up on her offer to discuss this idea with me and that gave me 20 minutes of her time. Now to see where it goes.

Last update: Fredericton Region Solid Waste posted the position for a Social Inclusion Coordinator to which I have applied.

Cheers
Susanne

SAVE THE DATE!

Dear (Name),

On **November 9th from 9 am – 12pm AT**, we will hold a pivotal Summit in Atlantic Canada with government officials from all levels, that we believe can change the future of our communities.

Currently, many diverse groups are coming to the same realization: That a complex and challenging world requires the adoption of an expanded social safety net capable of preventing citizens from slipping into the inescapable trap of poverty. Sudden upheavals from job loss and the gig economy, market disruptions, health challenges - both personal and pandemic - rising costs of living, lack of affordable housing options, environmental disasters, and even global events beyond our control are impacting us all today.

Canada's targeted approach to supporting vulnerable individuals and families has repeatedly proven ineffective. The call for a more robust social safety net is growing louder from [economists](#), [business leaders](#), [physicians](#), [farmers](#), [youth](#), [faith leaders](#), [woman's rights groups](#), municipalities, [Senators](#) and [MP's](#), alike.

This is why we need you. As a change leader and decision-maker who cares about the economies and communities in our region being the best possible. We know this is a big commitment, but we also know if we take the time to come together with all levels of government to explore Basic Income, ask questions, test ideas and employ our influence, we can lift everyone up and make (xxxx community/region) greater than it already is.

We invite you to be part of this gathering of elected officials in Atlantic Canada. It's an opportunity for you to learn about Basic Income, it's potential for creating a truly caring and productive society, an economic analysis, as well as an update on the PEI all-party Basic Income resolution. This is also an opportunity to become equipped to respond to growing calls for action on Basic Income, now coming from communities across Atlantic Canada.

This meeting will be hybrid. Attendees are encouraged to join in-person at the nearest satellite location, but will have "virtual" options available for those with barriers to attending in-person.

We hope that you will join us.

Sincerely (*example signatures*)

- MP signature (Sean Fraser, NS?)
- Senator signature (Nancy Hartling, NB?)
- MLA signature (Hannah Bell, PEI?)
- Mayor signature (Mike Savage, NS?)
- Indigenous government signature (Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI?)
- Person with lived/living experience (Citizen Voices CSC NL?)
- Local organizer signature (ex. Susanne/GFSI; or Marie/PEI Livable Income Working Group)