



*The Honourable Dan Christmas, Jane Cordy, Mary Coyle,  
Stan Kutcher and Kim Pate*

## **Senators Applaud Calls for a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income in Nova Scotia**

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

JUNE 29, 2022 – We congratulate and applaud the enthusiastic support of the Halifax Regional Council for the implementation of a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income (GLBI) in Nova Scotia. It is highly significant that a major municipality is keen to explore the ways in which they can both relieve poverty and improve key determinants of health. It also underscores the need for the federal government to help make such an initiative a reality.

The initiative that the Halifax Council is promoting could not only help each individual living in poverty but could also help to alleviate the burden on municipalities that are having to fill in where programs like shelters, housing, food security and mental health are lacking. COVID-19 has emphasized the importance of robust income support. Many benefitted from vital federal support, yet many were still left to struggle during the pandemic. At this stage in the pandemic, roughly 50% of workers in Nova Scotia earn [less than what is considered a living wage](#).

GLBI is a form of income support that could replace measures like current social assistance payments. Unlike current social assistance payments, GLBI would provide enough money to live on and would not require people to be monitored to determine whether they meet degrading and invasive eligibility requirements. GLBI would ensure that no one has to fear suddenly losing everything through circumstances beyond their control, and that everyone has the means to make choices about how to best provide and care for themselves, their families and their communities.

This push in Halifax adds to the growing chorus of support within the Atlantic region. From the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council, interest expressed by the leadership in Newfoundland and Labrador, to the cross-party provincial government support in Prince Edward Island, Atlantic Canada seems poised to launch a Canadian demonstration of a GLBI.

Collaboration between the federal and Nova Scotia governments would allow the province to demonstrate how GLBI could both address poverty and promote the resilience of local economies. GLBI could deliver significant benefits to Nova Scotians and other Maritimers at a relatively low cost to the federal government.

The time for the federal government to match Halifax's commitment with action on a Nova Scotia guaranteed livable basic income is now!

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