

Discussion Topic 1 – What Model of Universal Income to test?

Wrap up



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How BIG should a b.i.g be?

1. If the goal is to eliminate poverty, how do we measure poverty and is there a universal way we can/should do this? (LIM vs LICO)
2. Cost of living varies from city to city and region to region. How do we account for these variances?
3. Scale is important. Needs to be big enough to get appropriate measures but not too big that it bogs down the system



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In assessing our ability to pay for a b.i.g, do we use only the fiscal capacity of the Ontario government? Or do we consider the combined capacity of the federal and provincial governments together?

1. **First Nations. Challenge of administering and delivering basic income on-reserve Indigenous communities.**
2. **Federal-provincial collaboration is key for the success of the delivery**
3. **Regardless of the combined capacity of federal and provincial governments, it cannot supplant or replace local services.**



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What, if any, provincial, federal or municipal programs should be considered for “inclusion” in or replacement by a guaranteed income during the pilot period? This choice, as with the discussion from item 2 above, will have important impacts on the size and cost of any provincial pilot.

1. OW and ODSP should be replaced, but nothing beyond those two
2. Can we tie basic income to a current transfer like EI for administration and delivery
3. Basic income should be integrated into the transfer of other payments such as child benefit

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Assuming we will need more tax revenue than currently collected to pay for a b.i.g.; how high are we prepared to raise taxes? Which taxes should we consider? Does this analysis apply to a pilot period, or could a pilot be deficit financed?

1. Taxes could/should be increased on higher income individuals
2. These questions raise some challenging optics and would probably be political unpalatable
3. Other taxes should be increased. For example, sales taxes or corporate taxes could/should be increased as multiple tables felt Canada's corporate tax rate was too low



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Should a basic income be universal or targeted? If not universal, how do we target it? By age? Income? Should the benefit be taxable? Is there a preferred or ideal claw back level or rate? What goals should that claw back be attempting to achieve?

1. It should be targeted
2. There are some benefits to individualized delivery but it should be family-based
3. Clawback should be progressive and should not be higher than 50%

