

Discussion Topic 3 – Where should Ontario test a basic income?

Wrap up



Discussion Topic 3 – Where should Ontario test a basic income?

On what basis should the size of community be selected? Total program cost? Necessary size for valid research /experimentation /extrapolation?

1. The pilot should be implemented in a communities that are large enough to make the results valid, but also not too large that the budget allocated by the province is not sufficient to provide the necessary income to each participant
2. The size of the pilot community should take into account privacy concerns – pilot should be big enough to ensure privacy issues can be addressed
3. Implementing a pilot in a First Nations community should be considered this would require local First Nation involvement and, likely, Federal involvement



Discussion Topic 3 – Where should Ontario test a basic income?

Should a test community contain a certain number of individuals already receiving transfers from government? Would your answer change if the pilot assumes that some of these programs will be temporarily replaced by the BIG during the pilot period?

1. Yes, the community should contain a certain number of individuals already receiving transfers
2. Replacing OW/ODSP would allow us to see if this new program can improve on what already exists. However, individuals should be no worse with BIG.
3. However, there are challenges with temporary replacing OW/ODSP during the pilot period, for example, many recipients require the support that comes along with receiving OW/ODSP – would this support still be provided?

Discussion Topic 3 – Where should Ontario test a basic income?

Is there an ideal mix of rural, urban, suburban and remote population required to validate the scalability of any pilot?

1. The pilot should be implemented in more than one community. This can allow for a mix of rural, urban, suburban and remote communities.
2. Although remote communities are very different and may not be 'representative' of Ontario, they may be still an appropriate location for a pilot

Discussion Topic 3 – Where should Ontario test a basic income?

Should selected communities be assessed on their social or economic representativeness? Either of Canada as a whole or of Ontario?

1. Should be representative of the kinds of communities that exist in Ontario – especially the kinds of communities that face poverty
2. Working to make the pilot representative of Canada as whole may increase federal buy in



Discussion Topic 3 – Where should Ontario test a basic income?

Are there community selection criteria that would allow government or researchers to more adequately control for external influences on the pilot findings? I.e: proximity to other centres or to large centres? Historical migration levels?

1. Need to be able to address what happens with individuals moving in/out of the community during the pilot period
2. Possible that individuals may want to move once they begin receiving BIG – how would this be addressed?

Discussion Topic 3 – Where should Ontario test a basic income?

Overall

1. An appropriate research team needs to be engaged by the Provincial government to address these questions
2. Working with local communities will be necessary to select and implement the pilot.
3. There are many communities in Northern Ontario that would be appropriate pilot sites, including First Nations communities.

