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

But first:

1. Do you have other questions for Dr. Moffatt or Dr. Tedds that you would like asked?

2. Are you aware of research or evidence that you think either of the presenters should be made aware of?

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

Question 1

How BIG should a b.i.g be?

Question 2

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?

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Question 3

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.

Question 4

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?

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Question 5

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?

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Question 6

Should a basic income vary by geographic region in line with, perhaps, the cost of living? (Which would mean, for pilot purposes, calculating province wide regional rates and applying the one that fits the model community(ies)).

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Question 7

If we base the targeted income floor on a calculation of essential or reasonable human needs. How do we estimate that? Low Income Cut Off? Basket of Goods? Other approaches? If by income, should we target a basic Individual or family income? Or perhaps a basic individual income and a clawback tied to family income? Something else?

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Question 8

What other questions do you have about what model of income guarantee Ontario should test?

These questions, and the answers, will be posted on the BIG2016 website for the next 30 days. So you will have further opportunity to explore and comment on them.

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