

2020-11 Livable Basic Needs Benefit as a part of a Comprehensive Poverty Reduction Plan

Mover: Social Planning Council of Winnipeg

Whereas: Far too many Manitobans continue to live with inadequate incomes and face multiple barriers, which impacts their health and wellbeing, and prevents their full participation in the community. Indigenous people, newcomers, people with a disability, people who experience mental illness, single parents, seniors, women, trans people, Two Spirit people, and gender non-conforming people are more likely to live in poverty.

Whereas: The Province of Manitoba passed The Poverty Reduction Strategy Act in 2011 and an updated Pathways to a Better Future: Manitoba's Poverty Reduction Strategy was launched in 2019, which included a suite of 13 indicators to track progress.

Whereas: A comprehensive and integrated approach must be taken to effectively address the multiple and inter-related causes and consequences of poverty and social exclusion. Such an approach is outlined in The View from Here 2015, a community-based poverty reduction plan for Manitoba that was endorsed by more than 100 organizations. It calls for investments in food security, childcare, housing, job training, wages, income supports, education, mental health and other social services.

Whereas: Make Poverty History Manitoba (MPHM) is a collaborative coalition working for the elimination of poverty in Manitoba. It is leading a campaign based on community consultation that among six main policy priorities, is calling on the Province of Manitoba to ensure that Manitoba's comprehensive poverty reduction plan include an increase to the basic needs benefit in Budget 2020.

Whereas: EIA's basic needs budget has barely increased in two decades while the cost of living has gone up by more than 40 percent. Single adults and persons with mental or physical disabilities on EIA have not been supported as much as families, and live in deep poverty with total incomes that equal 53% and 68% of the poverty line, respectively.

Whereas: Replacing EIA's basic needs budget with a new and enhanced portable benefit for low-income Manitobans, on and off EIA, could bring the total incomes of all Manitobans to at least 75% of the poverty line. This enhanced benefit would target single adults and persons with a physical or mental disability as families already have total incomes above 75% of the poverty line.

Be It Resolved That: the Province of Manitoba increase the basic needs benefit through a new and enhanced portable benefit for people on and off EIA, as part of a comprehensive provincial poverty reduction plan.

How the Resolution will be Advanced: The Make Poverty History Manitoba coalition's Livable Basic Needs Benefit campaign will advance this resolution throughout the year. A chapter on Employment & Income Assistance will be included in the 2020 Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives - Manitoba Alternative Provincial Budget that details how this enhanced portable benefit would work. CCEDNet Manitoba is encouraged to advance this campaign at every available opportunity and encourage CCEDNet Manitoba members to consider endorsing the campaign.
