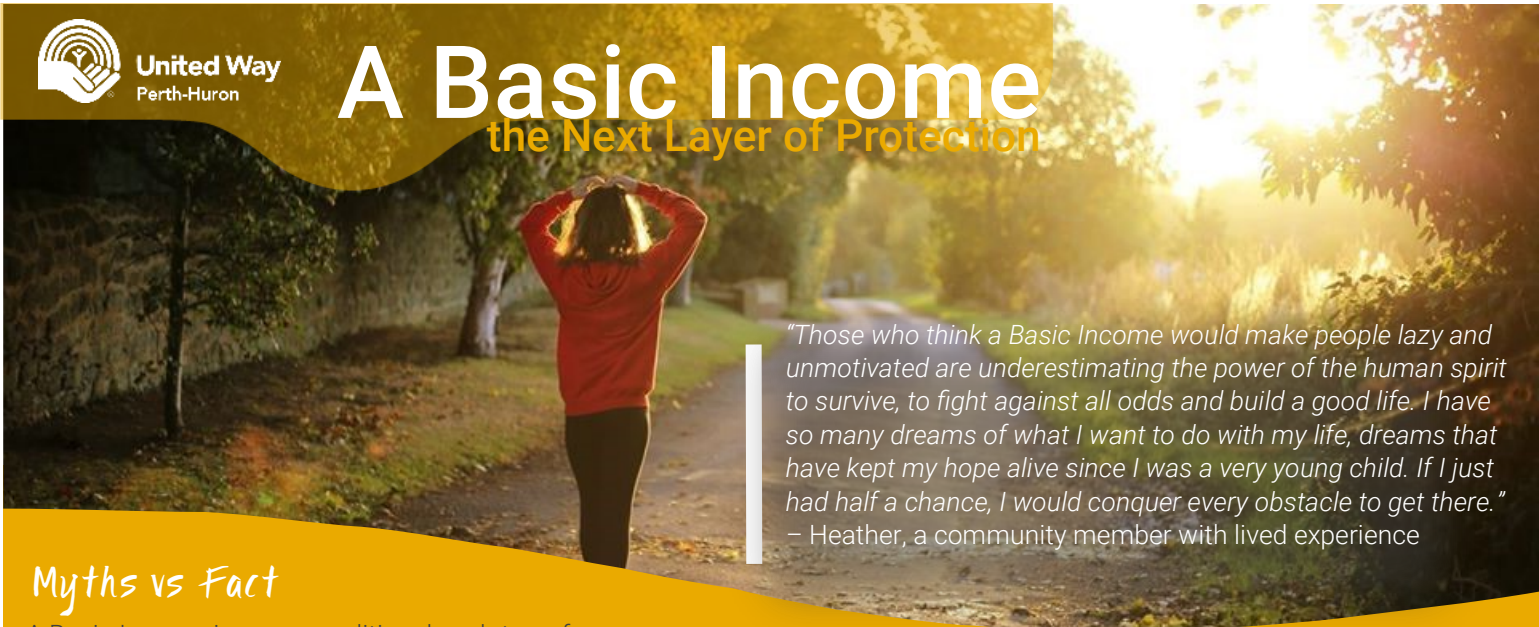




United Way  
Perth-Huron

# A Basic Income

## the Next Layer of Protection



*“Those who think a Basic Income would make people lazy and unmotivated are underestimating the power of the human spirit to survive, to fight against all odds and build a good life. I have so many dreams of what I want to do with my life, dreams that have kept my hope alive since I was a very young child. If I just had half a chance, I would conquer every obstacle to get there.”*  
– Heather, a community member with lived experience

### Myths vs Fact

A Basic Income is an unconditional cash transfer from government to individuals to enable everyone to meet their basic needs, participate in society and live with dignity, regardless of employment status

Misinformation about subsidised income is problematic because it contributes to the stigmatisation of a population that is already marginalized.

A Basic Income is an effective way to

- 1) help eliminate income and wealth inequalities
- 2) reduce or eliminate poverty and economic insecurity
- 3) improve health for individuals
- 4) address gender equality
- 5) and transform the relationship between people and work

### Myth: People will quit working

Evidence from Basic Income pilots reveal that people work differently, the same or more *not less*.

People gain options to return to school to increase job opportunities, start their own business, take calculated risks and plan for the future. The child benefit system in Canada is strong evidence of debunking this myth.

### Myth: Basic income will not fix everything

Life is complex, having resources and a family network to manage the demands on us are an advantage not everyone has. It's when resources are too few to meet the demand that some run into trouble.

Income is an especially powerful resource because it can be used in different ways by different people; from a driver's license renewal or gas for a car or tractor, to supplies for self-employment.

### Myth: Ontario can't afford it.

It is a matter of priorities; poverty costs communities one way or another. There are downstream savings from the current costs we are now paying for as a result of poverty and inequality, such as costs related to crime, healthcare and loss of human resource potential.

The cost of a Basic Income is *not a loss*—the dollars go directly back into the economy from spending on food, rent, home repairs, and other things needed for daily living.

### Myth: Other needed services will be cancelled

Services like healthcare and education are investments that reduce the costs to individuals and society that none of us could afford on our own; however, they aren't a substitute for a basic level of income.

Without a Basic Income, people are denied the ability to make their own choices and prioritize what is important in their own lives. Evidence indicates people who have a Basic Income put less demand on other tax funded costly services.

### Myth: People who don't need it will take advantage

There two main models of Basic Income. One in which everyone receives funding and those who don't need it return the funds through tax. Other models only provide Basic Income to people below a certain income threshold.

There will be many more hybrids and adaptations to consider if Basic Income is adopted.

Trying to solve inadequate income with anything other than income is impractical and ineffective.

The 4,000+ recipients in the Ontario pilot used their Basic Income in a variety of ways; a driver's license renewal; gas for a car or tractor; hospital parking passes; supplies for self-employment; a child's play structure; a gym membership instead of medication for depression; and an escape from the third job in a day that left too little time for sleep. These decisions reflected what mattered most to individuals and families instead of a dehumanizing, one-size-fits-all solution.