

Basic Income: How Can City Council Help?

Presented by Mandy Kay-Raining Bird
on behalf of Basic Income Nova Scotia

Outline of Presentation

- What is Basic Income?
- Why a Basic Income?
- What can HRM City Council do?

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qlwyTtPY0vY>

What is a Basic Income?

- Basic income is an income adequate to meet a person's basic needs and provide other resources that facilitate social engagement such as travel and communication.

What is a Basic Income?

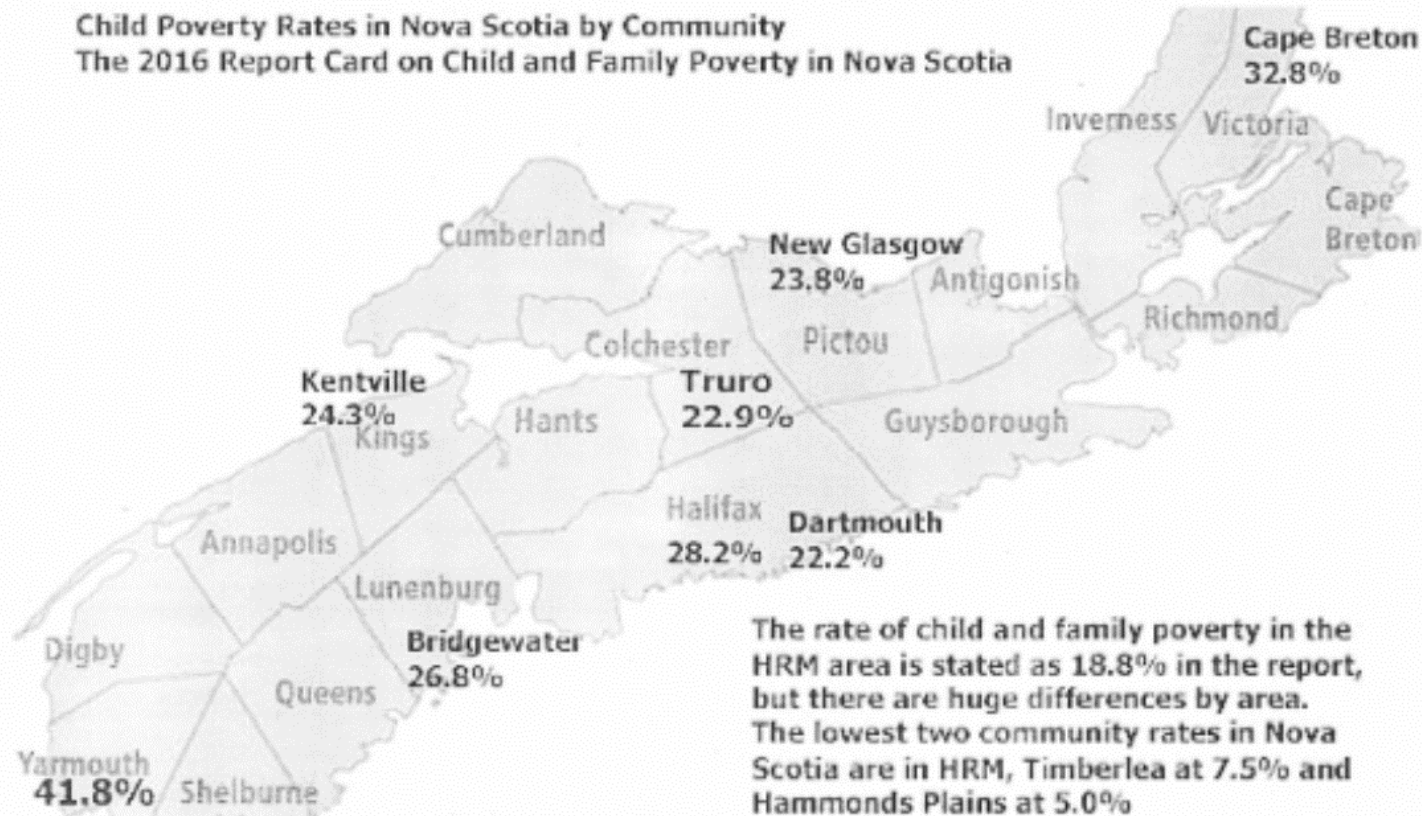
- A Basic Income can and should be financially viable (e.g., Boadway et al., 2016)
- It would not replace
 - Publicly funded health care
 - Disability support payments
 - Employment insurance (currently funded by employers and workers)
- But it might replace
 - Other systems of supports such as social assistance and old-age security

Why a Basic Income?

- Because poverty rates are high
- Because the current system is not alleviating poverty
- Because poverty puts people at significant risk
- Because work is becoming increasingly precarious

- We believe a Basic Income is the best way to address these growing concerns

Poverty Rates Are High & The Current System is not Alleviating Poverty



(Frank, 2016 CCPA;
<https://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/reports/2016-report-card-child-and-family-poverty-nova-scotia>)

Poverty Rates Are High & The Current System is not Alleviating Poverty

Statistical Indicators of Poverty (*Unofficial Measurement Tools*)

	LICO⁹ Low Income Cut-off After-tax	LIM¹⁰ Low-Income Measurement	MBM¹¹ Market Basket Measure	Food Bank Usage¹²	Welfare Recipients¹³
2000	105,000, 11.6%	144,000, 15.9%	129,000, 14.2%	20,917, 2.2%	73,700
2005	78,000, 8.6%	135,000, 14.8%	130,000, 14.3%	25,453, 2.7%	52,300
2009	73,000, 8.0%	153,000, 16.8%	142,000, 15.5%	20,344, 2.2%	42,300
2010	71,000, 7.7%	135,000, 14.7%	132,000, 14.5%	22,573, 2.4%	43,200
2011	64,000, 7.0%	123,000, 13.5%	131,000, 14.3%	22,550, 2.4%	43,100
2012	77,000, 8.4%	140,000, 15.3%	145,000, 15.8%	23,561, 2.5%	43,700
2013	*	134,000, 14.6%**	*	21,760, 2.3% ¹⁴	43,800
2014	*	*	*	19,664, 2.1% ¹⁵	43,100

Note: 2009 – poverty reduction strategy introduced

NS Poverty
Progress Profile,
Canada without
Poverty, 2015

Poverty Rates Are High & The Current System is not Alleviating Poverty

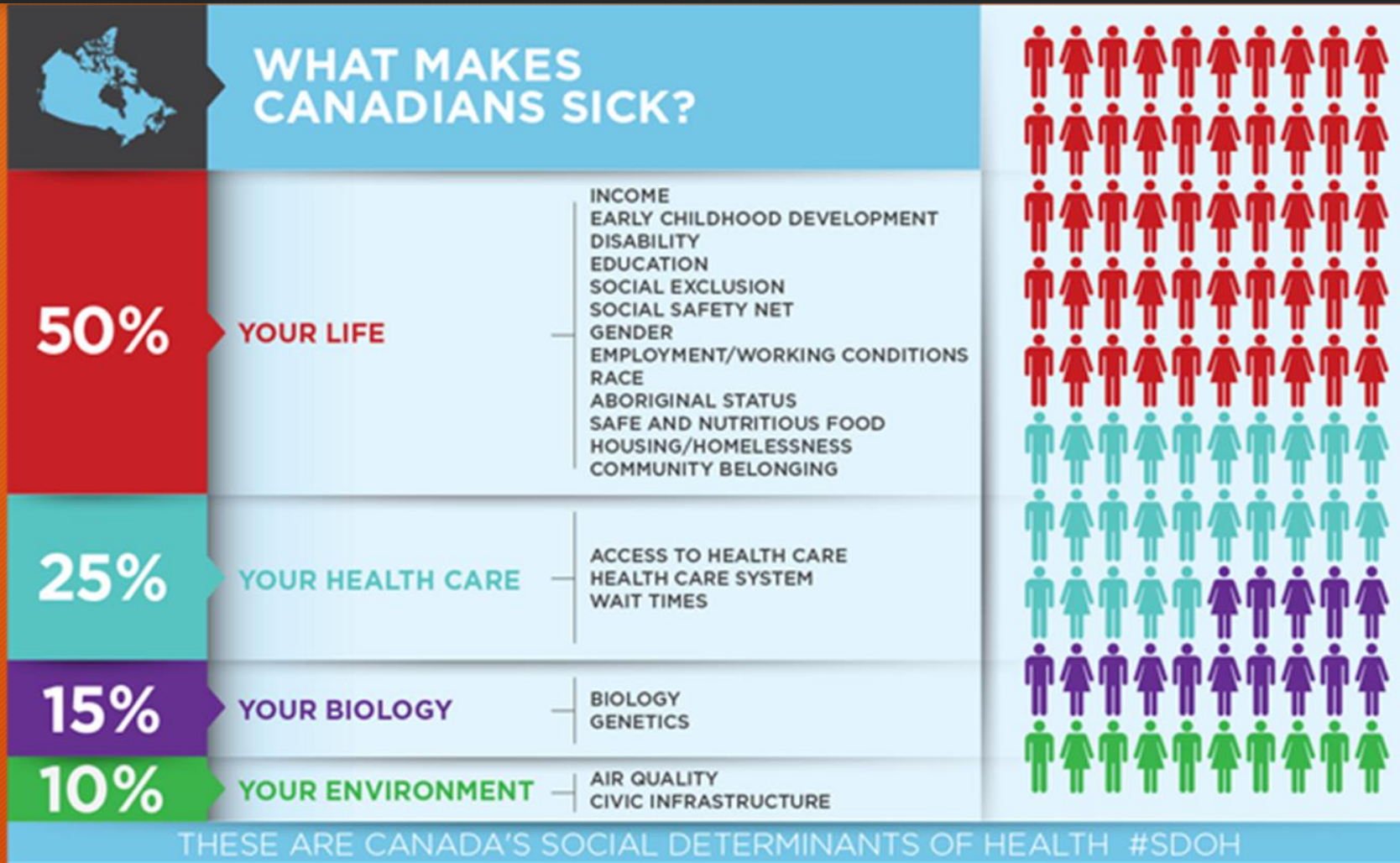
NS	Total Welfare Incomes	2014 LICO	Poverty Gap	Welfare Income as % of LICO
Single employable	\$7,182	\$17,050	-\$9,868	42.1%
person with disability	\$10,015	\$17,050	-\$7,035	58.7%
single parent, one child	\$16,384	\$20,750	-\$4,366	79.0%
couple, two children	\$23,431	\$31,835	-\$8,805	72.7%

Caledon Institute of Social Policy, 2015;
<http://www.caledoninst.org/Publications/PDF/1086ENG%2Epdf>

Poverty Puts People at Significant Risk

- People in poverty are more likely to
 - Experience mental or physical health problems
 - Have inadequate housing or be homeless
 - Be exposed to environmental toxins
 - Live with a disability
 - Experience food insecurity and malnutrition
 - Have less education
 - Be under- or unemployed
 - Be socially excluded
 - Children's development can be negatively affected

Poverty Puts People at Significant Risk



Work Is Becoming Increasingly Precarious

Table 1: Percentage of workers in precarious employment (total employed, all classes of workers, age 15+)⁴⁴

	1976	1989	1997	2007	2011	2014
Temporary employment	–	6.5*	9.4	11.0	11.6	11.3
Self-employed no employees	6.3	7.2	10.7	10.3	10.5	10.5
Total precarious employed	–	13.7	20.1	21.3	22.1	21.8

* 1989 temporary employment Vosko et.al. 2009 p. 30 (ages 15-64 only).

Source: Statistics Canada tables 282-0080; 282-0012.

Why a Basic Income?

- Research has shown that a Basic Income will
 - Radically reduce or eliminate poverty
 - Decrease health care costs
 - Increase work choices
 - Increase education retention and continuation
 - Stimulate urban and rural economies

Why a Basic Income?

- In a society as wealthy as ours, we, the members of Basic Income Nova Scotia, believe that no child or adult should live in poverty.
- We believe the best solution to poverty and the increasing precarity of work is to ensure that all people have a Basic Income.

What can HRM City Council do?

Consistent with your recently announced poverty strategy:

1. Issue a proclamation, pass a resolution, or in some other way publicly declare support for instituting a Basic Income in Nova Scotia;
2. Encourage other municipalities throughout Nova Scotia to do the same; and
3. Indicate publicly that the HRM City Council is willing to co-fund a feasibility study to determine how best to implement a Basic Income in Nova Scotia, subject to a similar commitment from the Provincial and Federal governments.

Thank you

Questions?