

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?

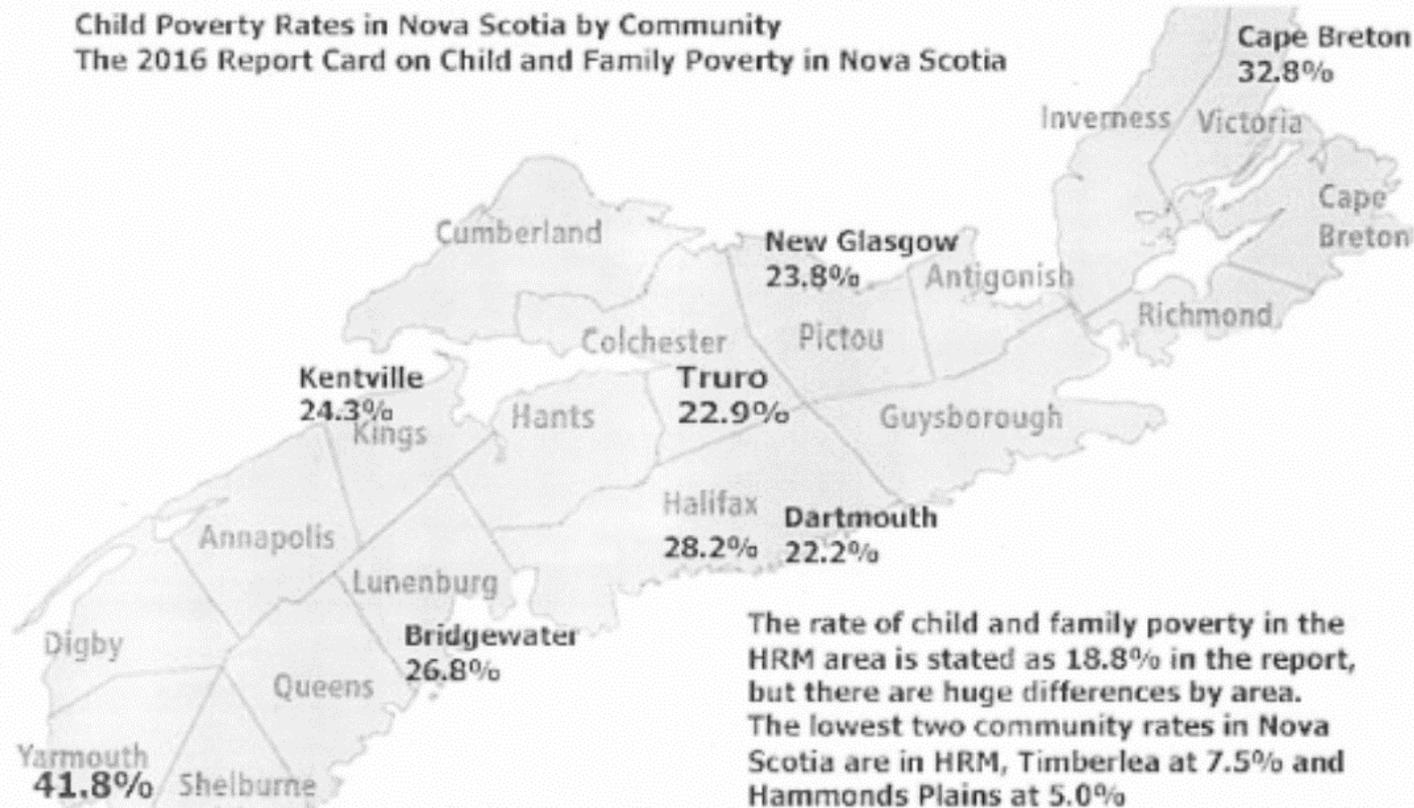
- A Basic Income can and should be financially viable (e.g., Boadway et al., 2016)
- It would not replace
 - Publicly funded health care
 - Disability support payments
 - Employment insurance (currently funded by employers and workers)
- But it might replace
 - Other systems of supports such as social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

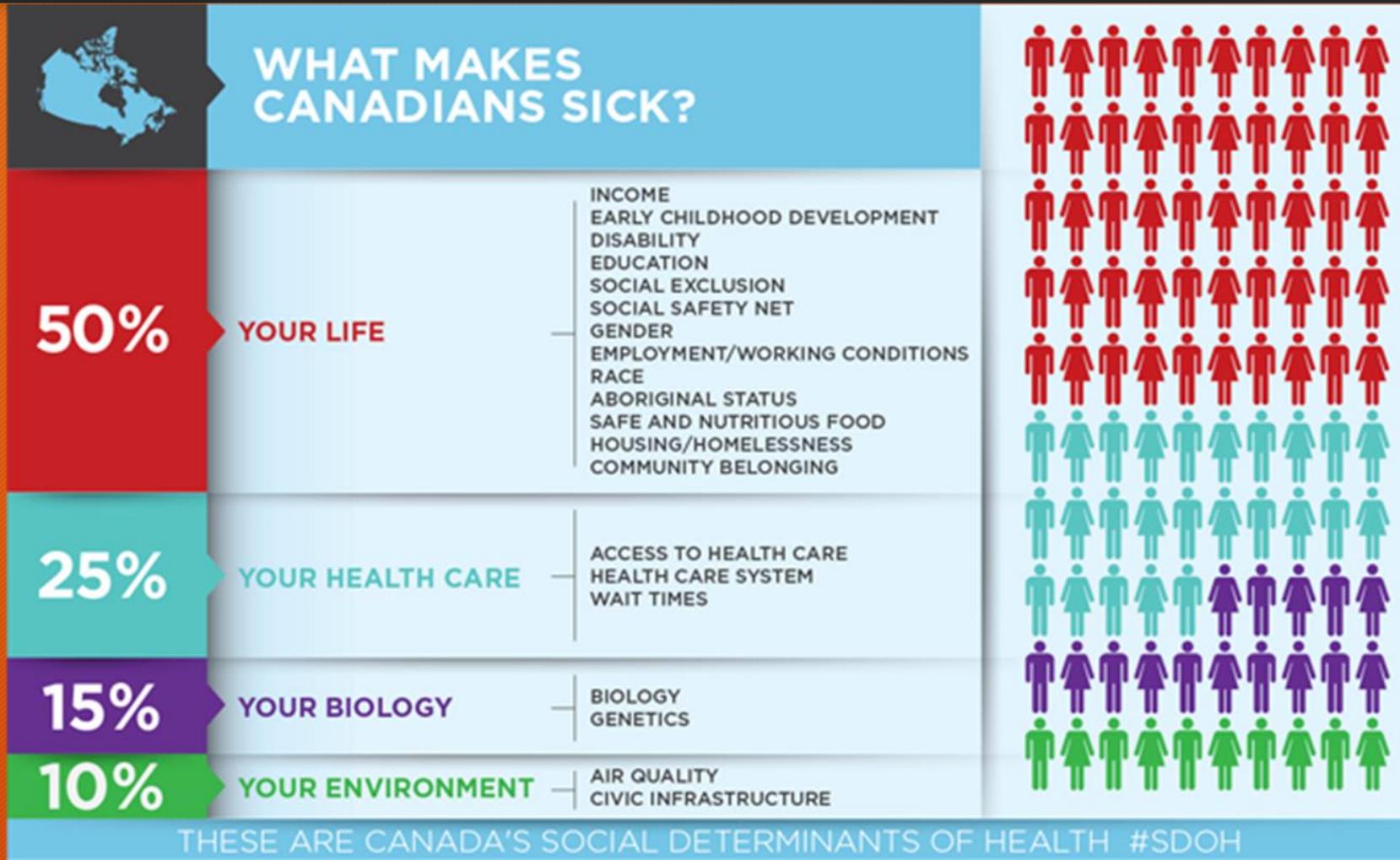
| NS | Total Welfare Incomes | 2014 LICO | Poverty Gap | Welfare Income as % of LICO |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| Single employable | \$7,182 | \$17,050 | -\$9,868 | 42.1% |
| person with disability | \$10,015 | \$17,050 | -\$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?