



Basic Income Manitoba Revenu de base Manitoba

October 24, 2022

Six candidates pledge to support Basic Income *Would lead City Council in call for feds and province to end poverty*

Six candidates for Mayor of Winnipeg have promised that, if elected, they will immediately introduce a resolution at City Council calling on the federal and provincial governments to adopt a Basic Income for all Canadians.

The six candidates — Robert-Falcon Ouellette, Rana Bokhari, Glen Murray, Idris Adalakun, Shaun Loney and Chris Clacio — also agreed that a Basic Income would save the City of Winnipeg millions of dollars in police, fire, and paramedic calls.

The six candidates responded to a questionnaire issued last week by Basic Income Manitoba. The other candidates did not respond, with no one expressing opposition.

“We welcome this support from six of the candidates who aspire to lead this city. It’s one more indication that most Winnipeggers want all Canadians to live with dignity,” said Sid Frankel, chair of Basic Income Manitoba and social work professor at the University of Manitoba.

Media reports and studies have shown that vulnerable populations, especially the poorest of the poor, are responsible for a disproportionate share of the costs borne by the city for police, fire, and paramedic calls, as well as higher health care, social services and other costs borne by other levels of government.¹

“We have heard all the candidates say they have plans to ‘deal with’ crime and homelessness. The real crime is that any Winnipeggers are homeless!” Frankel said.

“It’s not the fault of these Winnipeggers that they have higher needs for emergency services. It’s the predictable result of not allowing all Canadians to live with dignity,” he said.

¹ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/data-911-calls-bus-shelters-winnipeg-1.6339794>
'Alarming' spike in 911 calls about bus shelters in 2021: Winnipeg fire-paramedic chief, by Sam Samson, CBC Manitoba, Feb. 4, 2022

“Basic Income Manitoba believes all residents of Canada should have an unconditional and sufficient income to live a life with human dignity, equity and wellbeing. The City of Winnipeg would save millions of dollars a year, as would the health care system,” Frankel said.

A study by Evelyn Forget, vice-chair of Basic Income Manitoba and Professor of Community Health Sciences at the University of Manitoba, showed that a Basic Income would reduce health care costs by a significant amount.

Forget based her conclusions on the Mincome pilot project conducted in Dauphin in the 1970s by the federal and Manitoba governments of the day.²

The pilot project showed a sharp decline in hospitalizations for mental health issues and injuries from accidents. The evidence showed the savings to the health care system of a Basic Income would be significant, Forget concluded.

All six candidates answered “Yes” to the following three questions:

Q. 1 — Do you agree that a Basic Income would save the City of Winnipeg millions of dollars a year?

Q. 2 — Do you support a Basic Income?

Q. 3 — Do you promise that, if elected, you will immediately introduce a resolution at City Council calling on the federal and provincial governments to adopt a Basic Income for all Canadians?

Attached please find the questionnaire results, including comments and links provided by the candidates. Candidates’ names appear in the order in which they are listed on the City of Winnipeg’s election page.

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For further information or interviews, please contact:

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² <https://utpjournals.press/doi/full/10.3138/cpp.37.3.283>

The Town with No Poverty: The Health Effects of a Canadian Guaranteed Annual Income Field Experiment, by Evelyn L. Forget, University of Toronto Press Journals, Canadian Public Policy, Volume 37 Issue 3, September 2011, pp. 283-305



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Q. 1 — Do you agree that a Basic Income would save the City of Winnipeg millions of dollars a year?

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Candidate	Q. 1	Q. 2	Q. 3	Comments
Robert-Falcon OUELLETTE	Yes	Yes	Yes	https://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42-1/FINA/meeting-30/evidence
Rana BOKHARI	Yes	Yes	Yes	I have been an advocate for Universal Income for much of my professional life, I believe it is an important path forward to ensure we are able to lift some of the most vulnerable people in our City.
Glen MURRAY	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Idris ADELAKUN	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Shaun LONEY	Yes	Yes	Yes	I've been an advocate for Basic Income for years. I wrote about it in my book "Army of Problem Solvers" in a section called Ending Welfare.
Chris CLACIO	Yes	Yes	Yes	https://christopherclacio.wixsite.com/formayor/platform

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