



*The Honourable Kim Pate, C.M. | L'honorable Kim Pate, C.M.  
Senator for Ontario | Sénatrice pour l'Ontario*

## News Release

### **Equality Can't Wait: Basic Income Canada Network Says Guaranteed Livable Income Needed and Feasible Today**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2019—A report released this morning by the Basic Income Canada Network (BICN) urges Canada to immediately enact a fair, effective and feasible national guaranteed livable income.

Guaranteed livable incomes and related initiatives for those most impoverished have been studied for at least 50 years as potential solutions to the untenable human, social and fiscal costs of financial, racial and social inequality in Canada.

The costs of inaction are clear: [1 in 2](#) illnesses in Canada are linked to factors including poverty, housing, employment conditions, job security, and social exclusion. About [4 in 5](#) women in Canadian prisons are incarcerated for poverty-related crimes.

The Senate of Canada has long taken interest in the concept of guaranteed livable income. From the 1971 *Report of the Special Senate Committee on Poverty* to the 2009 *Report of the Subcommittee on Cities*, its work has highlighted a role for guaranteed livable income in Canada.

The BICN report focuses specifically on turning these types of recommendations into reality. It offers as a roadmap examples of affordable, fully funded models, tested through simulation, that achieve near elimination of poverty as well as benefits for middle-income groups.

“Canada is a resource-rich, culturally diverse and human-rights-promoting democratic country. Despite this reality, far too many people in Canada do not experience equal access to resources or opportunities,” said Senator Kim Pate. “BICN’s work makes clear that we have no excuse for inaction. It is time for all Canadians to be part of healthier, more equal, safe and resilient communities.”

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