

Loving Spoonful Resolution Regarding a Basic Income Guarantee

Whereas the Loving Spoonful's mission is to achieve a healthy food-secure community by facilitating fresh food access, skill development and community engagement in a collaborative, empowering and environmentally sustainable manner;

Whereas the root cause of food insecurity is poverty;

Whereas household food insecurity and homelessness adversely affects health;

- a. just under 5 million Canadians, approximately 15% of the population, including 1.15 million children, live in households where there is not enough money to buy safe, adequate, healthy food;
- b. most low-income households in Canada often have to make difficult budget choices that restrict access to fresh, healthy food;

Whereas a basic income guarantee would reduce income insufficiency, food insecurity, financial insecurity, and ensure everyone an income sufficient to meet basic needs and live in dignity;

Whereas a basic income guarantee would help increase the freedom of people to choose foods that are culturally appropriate, healthy and fresh;

Whereas a basic income guarantee would reduce the burden on the public health-care system and provide potential savings; Canadians living with low-incomes, given access to fresh food, become healthier;

Whereas there is currently a 2016 budget pledge by the Ontario government for a basic income pilot program; as well as an encouraging pilot project of basic income for working age adults conducted jointly by the Government of Manitoba and the Government of Canada in Dauphin, Manitoba in the 1970s, which demonstrated several improved health and educational outcomes.

Therefore be it resolved that Loving Spoonful:

Endorses the concept of a Basic Income Guarantee for all Canadians;

Commends the Ontario government for their statement in the 2016 Ontario Budget that they will pilot a basic income guarantee; and that this commendation indicate that Loving Spoonful looks forward to the results of a meaningful study of the long-term pilot project;

Calls upon the Federal Government and its respective Ministers, especially the Minister of Health, the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development; and the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, to prioritize joint federal-provincial consideration and investigation into a Basic Income Guarantee for all Canadians as a policy option for reducing poverty and food and income insecurity and for providing opportunities for people living in low income.

Moved and Unanimously Carried, 2016