

## Basic Income alleviates poverty.

## Common Wealth proposes a better way to share and preserve Earth's riches.

We all have an equal stake in our country, but we aren't getting an equal share in its riches. By collecting value arising from our shared natural and co-created wealth, we could pay every Canadian up to \$16,000/year in Common Wealth Dividends, or we could use the money to eliminate all personal income taxes and still have enough to pay every Canadian \$5,000/year – while making homes more affordable and conserving the environment.

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# An introduction to Common Wealth for Basic Income Supporters



*Floyd Marinescu, founder of UBI Works, CommonWealth.ca; Owner of C4Media Inc.*

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Dear Basic income supporter,

Historically there have been two conversations in the basic income movement: one about basic income as a poverty alleviation measure and modernization of social safety nets, and the other about universal dividends as a form of property right – a share of co-created wealth that corrects the historical economic injustices which drive poverty and extreme inequality in the first place.

In Canada, basic income has come to mean a Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) to address poverty and support our most vulnerable. Making this a reality has been the professional focus of my life for the past five years and is why I founded and funded [UBI Works](#) and its activities. This is important work that must continue until poverty is eradicated.

During this time I asked many questions and learned a lot about the origins of the basic income movement. Why have hundreds of years of basic income advocates promoted the idea that citizens are owed dividends funded by land value tax as a reparation? Why do they argue that the value of the planet – our common heritage – has been hoarded and polluted, and that dividends arising from healing our relationship to the commons – earth's natural resources – is a way to reverse that? In our automated society, as income is increasingly earned by holders of property rather than by people contributing to society through jobs, how do we all participate in society's progress? Reforms that can answer these questions justify dividends to all.

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For that reason, we have created Common Wealth to separate these conversations. You won't see much about basic income on this site, even though a GBI and citizen's dividends are complementary rather than competitive, much like how the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) supports seniors by need, while Old Age Security (OAS) is given as a right – recognizing their years participating in the Canadian economy. In their advocacy, both GBI and universal dividends are justified on their own merits, and thus we have chosen to separate their respective promotion.

Common Wealth Dividends to citizens are an outcome, as opposed to the purpose, of the policies we will explore, which are all rooted in the idea that the *value arising from what nature or our communities create, rather than individual effort, should be collected to benefit all citizens directly through dividends and reduced taxes.*

At this time, we have a draft [40 page paper that quantifies this value](#) in Canada at over \$420B/year, and have produced explainer content on how collecting it would address many of the negative incentives driving our [housing](#) and [environmental](#) crises; and could fund [Common Wealth Dividends](#) of up to *\$16,000/year per individual.*

We welcome you to this work. The goal of this project is to expand our common wealth in order to create a society where progress benefits everyone. As you will see from the endorsements of basic income leaders below, we are not alone in this view and would like very much for you to join us in its advancement. So please, explore this site, email me at [floyd@commonwealth.ca](mailto:floyd@commonwealth.ca) with your feedback and envision a future where not only is poverty eradicated but we each have a stake in our shared prosperity.

Sincerely

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January, 2023

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"Throughout history the commons have been a vital part of societies, where collectively own a part of the land, providing a 'right to subsistence'... We need to take back the commons, give them back to the people, and ensure that the principles of sharing, solidarity and universality, and ensure that the returns from the commons are shared with the people' – are properly compensated for any loss." economic equality by distributing ret

[Read More Endorsements](#)

## Explore our issues

# Common Wealth Dividends

By collecting value arising from Canada's natural and co-created wealth, we could rebate every adult up to \$16,000/year — restoring each person's share of



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# Housing affordability

Canada's housing crisis needs a real solution. A land value tax would reduce speculation driving up prices, encourage new supply, and make homes affordable again. This could replace all taxes on income *and* pay us monthly dividends.

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# Conserving nature's gifts

By charging those who use and pollute the environment and returning that value directly back to Canadians, we build lasting incentives to protect nature and ensure a more sustainable future for all.

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[Common Wealth Canada](#) is a society, a think tank, a new community of like-minded individuals who share a vision of a future where everyone can benefit from the value of our natural and co-created wealth.

Prior to Common Wealth, members of our core team launched [UBI Works](#), a national non-profit with a mission to make basic income a key election issue in Canada and to see it implemented nationwide.

[Meet Our Team](#) →

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**>\$420B/year** of common wealth that  
could be returned to you, through  
dividends and lower taxes.

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