

**BICN White Paper**—excerpts from [https://www.basicincomecanada.org/policy\\_options](https://www.basicincomecanada.org/policy_options)

The benefit design in all options has similarities, based on Stats Canada modeling.

All options are for adults; children's benefits remain as they are. All options are based on a benefit of **\$22,000 per year** for an individual. The report details a number of assumptions about how the options will work including intergovernmental relations and administrative matters.

**Option One** - A benefit for 18-64 year-olds, **based on family income**

- \$22,000 for a single person; \$31,113 for a couple (divided between individuals)
- It works similar to existing child benefits and the Ontario pilot as benefits are reduced gradually as other income rises, in our case using a modest 40% reduction rate.
- Some tax changes affected low-income single seniors so we give a boost to the Guaranteed Income Supplement for them in this model.

**Option Two** - A benefit for **all adults 18+**, **based on family income**

- The benefit works in the same manner as Option One, with seniors now included.

**Option Three** - An individual, **universal benefit** for all adults 18+

- Each adult gets the same \$22,000 benefit amount, regardless of family status or other income—there is no reduction rate in this model.

**Net affordability of the options is fairly similar too.**

- Option One appears to have the lowest cost at **\$134 billion**—it also has the fewest adults. Our proposed tax/transfer resources generate \$136 billion in revenue.
- Option Two includes seniors but also comes with the money that goes to seniors benefits now, so this option at **\$187 billion** (resources of \$189 billion) isn't necessarily much more expensive than Option One.
- Option Three includes more people still because benefits are provided to every adult based on individual income, instead of family income. It may be somewhat more expensive but not nearly as much as it might appear from its upfront **\$637 billion** calculation because the money to pay for it is recouped at tax time (resources of \$639 billion). This option requires more extensive change to the way income is taxed. Because we will all have received \$22,000 of non-taxable income, we will all pay higher taxes on the first dollar of other income.

**BENEFITS OF ALL OPTIONS:**

**Greater tax fairness, simplicity, transparency, and accountability.**