

Letter to the Editor: Social Safety Net

The coronavirus has laid bare the flaws in our social safety net. It has shown the perilous position of many people living “pay cheque to pay cheque” and highlighted the challenges many face in having to hold several part-time jobs to earn a living.

It is time to formalize the CERB ('Basic Income') program, but at the level of a decent standard of living – probably around \$40,000/yr. Administered through the tax system, it would be much simpler than the current complex and constraining social safety net. It could also induce people to have some savings before expecting government support.

It is also time to limit the fraction of a workforce that can be part-time or contract, while also ensuring that all workers get a basic core benefit program.

I believe changes like these are long overdue for a society that includes everyone.

Sincerely,