I come here today to suggest, that it is time to openly and honestly confront the *increasingly* dysfunctional co-dependency which has developed between governments and employers practically everywhere. A co-dependency Adam Smith would have been appalled by.

That is to say, it is time to move *beyond* the very short-sighted perspective of “jobs at any cost”.. and to.... instead embrace a fuller and more realistic understanding of the concept of a *free population,*  an understanding that is far more compatible with that of *free enterprise*.

Consider that the ever expanding world of *free* trade has provided business *and* industry the *incredible* *freedom*  to seek out markets, resources, workers and opportunities virtually anywhere on the planet.

Yet our various levels of governments and their respective communities remain mired in the extremely provincial perspective that a person’s economic participation... , is determined primarily by their exchange of *labour* for wages and/or their wealth.

*However*, given the growing number of destitute citizens haunting our mean streets, and workers piling on debt because wages have not kept pace with the cost of living, for those without wealth.... it seems apparent that our “labour” markets are as glutted as the oil markets and just as outdated.

Meanwhile our various levels of government with classic co-dependent fervour are begging and even bribing employers with all manner of subsidies at taxpayer expense simply to retain and/or “create” jobs which, more and more often ... are for the very same workers whose tax dollars end up paying for the subsidies in the first place!

Local employers are likewise ensnared in this short-sighted dysfunction when they find *themselves* *criticized*for mass layoffs and even **vilified**  for shutting down operations regardless of market conditions and lack of profitability.

Many see all this as extremely parochial thinking, when markets and opportunities are going global, and, has most certainly, resulted in all manner of lost opportunities and wasted human potential within our communities.

Lest we forget, science and technology are constantly finding ways to replace the human component in the workplace. Machines never need vacations, pay raises or health care – other than regular maintenance and upgrades -, never complain, never take time off and never become despondent or dependent when replaced . Quite honestly, many of the jobs already automated were mind numbingly boring and/or repetitive injury prone tasks anyways, making their lose a good thing for everyone in the long run.

Consequently, because business and industry now enjoy more trade, market and economic *freedom*  than ever before ........ be it resolved that all Canadians deserve a similar *freedom* so that we too can pursue our own needs, interests and desires wherever they might lead and finally move beyond the terribly myopic view that *only our purchased labour* has value.

These thoughts are especially poignant given the fact that *none of us* know *just* how long or how short our lives will be.

Consequently, *the real* value of a Basic Income, one that does more than simply “sustain life” is found in the *personalized freedom* to*..*  *self-employ* our *time*and energiesas the need arises..... to befull time parents... or to provide care and comfort to our elderly and/or infirm friends and family or to adequately mourn their passing....

To *freely* volunteer our skills and *our time*... and thereby enrich both ourselves *and* our communities.. in ways that mere money never can.

To support and participate in amateur sports and community events... to pursue educational interests as they arise... The arts community, in particular... would experience an explosion of creativity once the artists are *freed*  to actually focus full time on bringing their gifts to their communities.

Of course it is families and the communities that they live in that will benefit the most from such *freedoms*  and make no mistake, this ***is*** about *personal freedom* because that is where the value and the integrity of a community is fostered.

Least we forget ... it is the people of this great nation who are the guardians of its resources it is the people who possess the skills, the abilities and it is the people who represent the markets the world is seeking. *Surely....* the economy, *the wealth......* that flows from those resources, those skills, those abilities, and those markets... should serve that population and not the other way around?