

The Social Construction of Food Insecurity: A Canadian Perspective

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Eating Agendas

Food and Nutrition
as Social Problems

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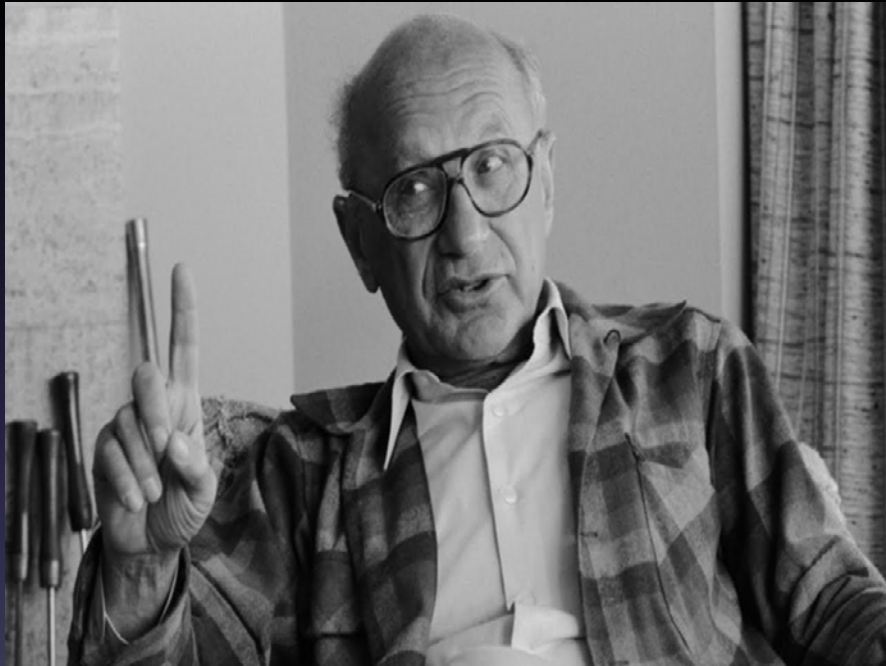
Hunger in America: Typification and Response

JANET POPPENDIECK

The “Discovery” of Social

Problems

1. “awareness of the possibility of a ‘solution’ is a precondition for the perception of a problem” (p. 29)
2. “the nature of the available remedy contributes to the content of the typification.” (p. 30)
3. “the typification that ‘wins’ the competition for public attention tends to obscure competing typifications and foreclose the possibility of alternate solutions.” (p. 31)



“Only a crisis – real or perceived – produces real change. When that crisis occurs, the actions that are taken depend on the ideas that are lying around... Our basic function [is] to develop alternatives to existing policies, to keep them alive and available until the politically impossible becomes the politically inevitable.”

Three “discoveries” of hunger in the US

(Poppendieck, 1995)

- 1930s Great Depression: “paradox of want amid plenty”
- 1960s/early 1970s: Civil Rights & the right to food assistance
- 1980s: “emergency” food



Image from the Food Banks Canada website





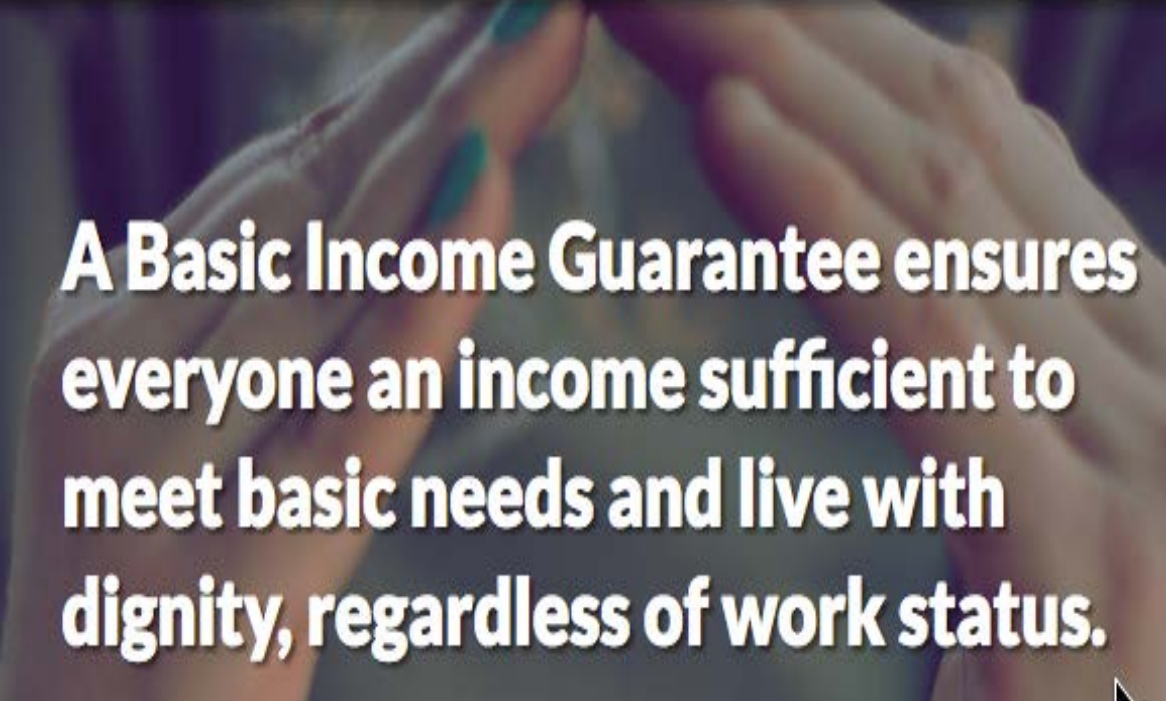


Basic Income Canada Network
Réseau canadien pour le revenu garanti

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A Basic Income Guarantee ensures everyone an income sufficient to meet basic needs and live with dignity, regardless of work status.