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To: toronto@livingrant.ch

GLI Mail Breeze June 19

Hoolie

As for the Mailchimp idea, I have discovered an application called Hoolie which is MAC compatible and enables design and transmission of e-mail newsletters. I think I will be downloading it next month when I get some money again.

Something like that will solve a lot of communications problems among Toronto BI people and some other folks I work with occasionally. Everything will stay on my own computer and I won't have to give all your e-mail addresses to Mail chimp. Ook! Ok!

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Brandy Moore

One of these days I have to finally remember and call all your attention to her song she played at the Winnipeg congress. I have had it on my cell phone and desktop but haven't figured out reliably how to send it out anywhere else.

It is now also on the NABIG video files at <https://vimeo.com/168468430>

Brandy is one of these people trying to make it as a singer /songwriter in the twenty first century. She is originally from the west coast but moved to Regina. She seems to make her living as a data entry clerk, and has a lot of resentment about the way she is treated.

She said that she had to scrape the money together to get here form Regina and isn't sure how she will get back. She set up a bowl and a lot of people put money into it, including me. That should have been enough to get her home.

But she had an idea that BICN might like to pay the studio costs for her to record her song "Because I'm alive". It was well received and some people talked about making it BICNs unofficial anthem. This got her allowed to do an encore att he plenary, which was recorded.

Previously, she had been lumped in with me and Elizabeth McGuire from Hamilton, who did a good presentation on local organizing. We were one of these 'paper sessions' into which the presenters who did not fit with the agenda of the BICN leadership were put. We were not recorded.

When I get some time, I might contact Brandy and see what can be done to help her get that tune recorded. I do not expect much support from national BICN.

But as many of you will notice, the structure of BICN is not very democratic, and controlled by people who are focussed on academic discussion of BI. They want to get together and present papers every two years, but throw a wet blanket over anything resembling organizing and activism.

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An Eventful Week

There are plenty of interesting things going on that should interest BICN activists this week. I think we should be using every opportunity to attend events of anti poverty groups and try to turn them to a more productive idea of addressing poverty. It helps to have some leaflets to hand out and a sign sheet for people who would like to start receiving this newsletter.

Here you can download masters for said documents.

Sign up sheet. <http://www.livingrant.ch/currentdocumentsfolder/>

and leaflet [http://www.livingrant.ch/currentdocumentsfolder/new leaflet copy.pdf](http://www.livingrant.ch/currentdocumentsfolder/new%20leaflet%20copy.pdf)

You can find these and many other events at the calendar I do at [It is getting kind of obsolete](#) and I will remove it soon in favor of something new. Everything I put up there also goes on #livingrant. twitter hashtag.

On Monday, the 13th; Next C2C Community Meeting

Monday, June 13 at 6:30-9:00 pm at the OPSEU Hall, 31 Wellesley Street East (at Yonge).

C2C is "commitment to community". They are set up by the Social Planning Council of Toronto to try to get the city to spend more on "poverty reduction" programs, which involve giving more funding to the agencies which make up social planning council.

They utterly failed to influence the last budget cycle. It was not a good time to be doing that, because the city council was mostly focussed on its budget crisis. I am going to present them with a short think piece about strategy.

Basically, they are not going to get anywhere with poverty reduction as long as this budget crisis persists. We would not have much luck getting support for a Basic Income either. The need is to increase city revenues, especially to reform the property tax, and stand up to the "tax bullies."

On Tuesday, the 14th; the Social Planning Toronto Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Tuesday, June 14, 2016 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.
Native Canadian Centre of Toronto, 16 Spadina Rd. (north of Bloor St.)

By the 2017 social planning AGM, I would love to be in a position to speak to these people about why a BI would be better for most of them in the long run. The most useful programs would continue under a Guaranteed Income, and would be able to deal with the hard core problems, not cope with the masses of people who just need an income.

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/social-planning-toronto-agm-tickets-25432098090>

On Tuesday, Fight for \$15 and Fairness"

On Tuesday, at the same time and down the block from the Social Planning thing, the labor council and its "Fight for \$15 and Fairness" is holding an event. This makes me wonder if all this nonsense from the 1990s is still going on, where rival groups would schedule their meetings at the same time in order to undermine each other.

The message to "fight for 15" is that "15" is not going to help anybody. It won't help the unemployed, it won't help people who are "on call" who need more hours and more stable hours more than an hourly increase. It's real "last century" thinking.

June 14, 2016 5:30 pm Snacks | 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Suite 223, 720 Spadina Avenue

<https://www.facebook.com/events/567165910119833/>

On Wednesday;

Introduction to Basic Income in Hamilton and beyond

Hamilton City Hall 71 Main Street West, Hamilton,
Wednesday, June 15 at 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Is it worth the trip out to Hamilton? Yes! It is only twelve bucks. It is at the city hall in Hamilton, close to the Go train station. We can meet the people behind the very effective Hamilton BICN group.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/506604652867920/>

On Thursday Afternoon

Robyn's presentations on Basic Income continued

(very much worth going to)

South Riverdale Community Health Center 955 Queen street east.
1:30 to 3:30 Thursday, June 16

Robyn Peterson will continue her presentation on the history and logic behind a BI. This could be developed into a presentation or study course. She is almost done, and has a problem of people who were not at the first sessions asking questions already covered. So, if you go, be patient, please.

On Thursday evening

Foodshare sez:

EAT & VOTE AT OUR AGM

When: Thursday, June 16th from 5pm to 8pm
Where: FoodShare Toronto 90 Croatia St (entrance off Brock Avenue)

Debbie Fields has spend 20 years now building Foodshare into a very effective organization against hunger. It does a lot more than the foodbanks ever will. They are very interested in the idea of a BI/GLI but are restrained by the terms of their lease on the building they use. They are not allowed to do political activity.

However, this summer they will be moving into heir own building. I expect they will become strong institutional allies of BICN.

They do some really terrific organic food here, too.

[http://foodshare.nationbuilder.com/agm-2016?
utm_campaign=may2016_eneews&utm_medium=email&utm_source=foodshare](http://foodshare.nationbuilder.com/agm-2016?utm_campaign=may2016_eneews&utm_medium=email&utm_source=foodshare)

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