

## **JULY 3, 2016 Toronto GLI-full newsbreeze**

=====

### **Three recent events in Toronto.**

One I could not attend due to political blacklisting. More about it below.

1) June 28 meeting of BITO group. Awaiting minutes for the event. Was held in a kids ice cream cafe. A very interesting venue. Next meeting should be at city hall or metro hall. Matt is arranging it.

Topics include a desire to do something to support the Quebec Revenue de Base group at the World Social Forum in Montreal in August. The world social forum began in Brazil about year 2000 and has been meeting around the world every two years. The aim is to keep all social movements connected world wide. Tens of Thousands of people from all over the globe attend these forums.

Revenue De Base is trying to organize a workshop or presentation around Basic Income in Canada. It has invited English Canadian groups to participate. This is a change form where they used to just ignore English Canada.

Some of the BITO group would very much like to participate but do not know what they would like to do. There will be some discussions about this.

A new member of the group, with a background in web site design, has undertaken to set up a web site for the group. This should be ready to show at the next meeting of BITO.

Some members of BITO are concerned that we should be at various labor and poverty events with leaflets, but others are not so enthusiastic. Some would like to begin lobbying politicians as soon as possible.

2) The June 30 meeting at South Riverdale community Health center. I do not think there is any formal name for this group. However, they have been around for awhile and have participated in various campaigns, including the \$15 an hour minimum wage.

Robyn has finished her presentation on Basic Income. They now would like to begin doing something to further it. In order to clarify the strategies they would like to use, they did a brainstorm session about what was the most significant aspect of a Basic Income from the point of view of really poor people. They seem to want to focus on the human rights aspect of it.

3) A debate was held June 29 at Metro hall. John Clarke was going to debate M.P. Adam Vaughan as well as Josephine Grey of Low Income Families Together (LIFT),

a long time advocate of a Basic Income, and Sheila Regehr, chair of BICN. However, Vaughan had a priority commitment in Ottawa and could not attend.

I am waiting for notes which one of our group made there. It was apparently a rather lack luster debate. Clarke is the long time head of Ontario Coalition Against Poverty, noted for some direct action tactics. I am told he just kept repeating his main points over and over.

I am familiar with OCAP, and was involved with it for awhile. The problem is that it is run by people who are hard core revolutionaries and focussed on preparing the proletariat for a revolution. This involves inducing other people to get into trouble with the police for no good reason. This is what offends me about OCAP.

Clarke's argument is that a BI is something being proposed by the ruling classes, therefore it must be something bad for the proletariat. There is something to this argument. Until now, most low income people are unaware of the concept of a Basic Income. It is an idea played around with by intellectuals and activists.

This is a strong argument against BI which must be answered. The text of a paper by Clarke against BI can be found at; <http://www.socialistproject.ca/bullet/1241.php>

=====

## **About Political Blacklisting**

Most people involved in the Basic Income movement in Toronto are new to the politics of left progressive groups. Something we are all going to run into as we work to develop influence locally is the hyperpartisanship which goes on in Toronto.

There are lists circulated of people who loyal apparatchiks are expected to attack anywhere they are encountered. I am on many of these lists. It is too big a topic of this newsletter, but I am going to write a series of articles about it which I might turn into a manual of how to deal with blacklisters and other political cadres.

Basically, I was sent a very nasty and unsigned e-mail the day before the event, threatening me if I attended. I talked with Metro security about it but the staff who were on duty that particular night were not very cooperative. I was barred from entering by a very nasty individual called Tim Maxwell, with a reputation for assaulting and harassing people as an attack dog for various super-left groups in Toronto.

The Kensington Bellwoods legal clinic which he works for was the main organizer for this event. It is one of the more problematic clinics within the legal aid clinic system. It organized opposition to reform of the clinic system last year, delaying these reforms for a couple of years.

The reforms are needed to deal with the tendency of these clinics to become taken over by radicals and much of their resources diverted to promote radical agendas. I have written blog posts about these legal clinics and supporting these reforms. So, I am on The List.

I have no respect for anyone who would listen to defamation, especially accusing others of criminal behavior, and who would not immediately report it to the target of the defamation, and stand ready to be a witness to any defamation suit.

I am examining what kinds of action I can take about this incident, including legal actions.

=====

### **Things are happening at BIEN**

Basic Income earth Network, as the name implies, is the world organization for the Basic Income movement. As I saw in 2014 in Montreal, there are some internal problems with it. It seems some of this is starting to be straightened around. This is good news for BI proponents world wide.

We will hear more about this after the BIEN 2016 general meeting in Korea next week.

Here are some interesting links;

BIEN needs to have yearly meetings. So does BICN, actually.

<http://www.basicincome.org/news/2016/06/bien-needs-to-have-yearly-congresses/>

As I noticed in 2014, Widerquist and Haag are the two smartest people in BIEN. Their vision for BIEN;

<http://www.basicincome.org/news/2016/06/our-vision-for-bien-2016/>

=====

### **Things are happening in Montreal**

Too bad we can't get something like this going in Toronto.

<http://rabble.ca/whatsup/creative-conversation-about-basic-income>

