

Introducing Hoolie

I have succeeded in acquiring a Hoolie program to set up this newsletter on. It is a simple and interesting app, which seems to have been invented in Ireland. A hoolie is a house party there.

The advantage is that I do not have to go through mail chimp or something like that and submit all recipients of the newsletter to the market in everyone's metadata. The recipient list stays on my computer. I use a mac, so it is fairly unhackable.

This is the first test run of this product, so I am a day late in getting it out. I am still going to send it through the livingrant list the first time. Later I will promote it and try to build up membership, and a specifically Hoolie list. The Livingrant list will still be available for general discussions for people so inclined.

The Health and Strength Action Group July 28

This group is becoming one of the more dynamic actors on the BI scene in Toronto. It has been around for awhile, and chooses its campaigns. It has done specific projects to support TTC riders and the "Fight for 15" group, but is now looking into BI. It has sat through three sessions of Robyn Peterson's presentation on BI, and has a good understanding of the issues.

The group's convener is Suzy Glass who works out of the Ralph Thornton center. Members include the former "mayor" of the tent city by Keating Channel.

This group meets at the Riverdale Community Health center at 955 Queen street East, every other thursday. This will make the next one on August 11th. Meetings start at 1:30.

talk about success

This week, there was a talk about what success would look like. Suzy Glass did a short presentation on the book "Getting to Yes" by Roger Fisher. We will pursue this inquiry in subsequent weeks. The "yes" we need right now is one from the city government, endorsing the BI concept.

Suzy did a brief summary of this, especially about when to play a soft game and a hard game. They seem to be pretty good rules; especially to "yield to principle, not to pressure". Many community groups trying to influence power have no idea what to do when they face intransigence, when being polite and reasonable does not work.

brochure presentation and naming the concept

Suzy showed us the second effort at a brochure stating our position on BI/GLI. It is accepted but still needs some slight modifications.

There was also some discussion of the exact term to use to describe the BI concept. Someone pointed out that the word "basic" has negative connotations to people under 25. Somebody "basic" is stupid. As well, many present inadequate programs are "basic". Even the statement people on ODSP get with their cheque every month says "Basic" or "Basic Needs".

Otherwisely is the term "Guaranteed Living Income." This is the title of this Newsletter. It is also the term the Green party uses for its Basic Income policy. Most people in this group seem to prefer the term Guaranteed Living Income.

There is a story to both these terms. When the original BIEN was formed in Belgium in 1986, there was a fierce dispute about what to call it. This was because there was no clear agreement about the philosophical aim of a BI. Rather than work this out before going further, they just used the neutral title of Basic Income.

The worldwide BI movement has grown. It has gone from Basic Income European Network to Basic Income Earth Network. But it has never solved the underlying problem of the conflict between different ideological perspectives of a BI. There are the moral philosophers who want a capitalist way of achieving socialist goals, which is a tad otherworldly. There are the left wing anarchists and right wing libertarians who claim to want to see less government interference in people's lives. There are social engineer types who see it as a more efficient way of delivering income assistance.

From the point of view of the actual societies, the people who would receive the BI, it needs to be seen in terms of people's right to exist. Grounding BI this way would keep in on an even keel. Failure to resolve these ideological arguments at the start has prevented BIEN from being as effective as it could be. This holds true of national affiliates of BIEN, such as Basic Income Canada Network.

The Guaranteed Livable Income title comes from the group in Victoria responsible for the <http://www.livableincome.org/> website, the best on the web. About 2008, the two founders, Cynthia L'Hirondelle and J.S. Larochelle and their group, did a brainstorm session and came up with the term 'Guaranteed Livable Income' to describe their project. 'Living income 4-all' is also used on their web site. The Green party has picked it up; see their website at <https://www.greenparty.ca/en/backgrounder/2014-06-12/guaranteed-liveable-income>

However, the HSAG group has a couple of problems with the term. "Living" not only flows better, but indicates really living instead of just 'livable' as in 'survivable'. As for Guaranteed, every kind of commercial pitch is 'guaranteed'. Guaranteed how and for who? The concise '4-all' may cover that meaning well enough.

Framing the concept is very important. This writer undertook to do a short presentation on Framing and bring some materials about it, to the next HSAG meeting.

support for Basic Income

Another subject at this meeting was talk of campaign strategies. What kind of support was there for local organizations? Does it look like such a campaign can be successful? There were no conclusions, but we will look into what other organizations are working locally on a BI. Suzy is working to arrange a joint meeting with other BI groups in Toronto.

One question was, can we center a petition around it? But there is one group in Toronto doing an online petition, and an abundance of petitions all around the country, such that they create confusion more than support.

The last topic was outreach to other community organizations. There was particular talk about the Fair Fare coalition and the lead up to its action day on September 28. The question is, how do we work with these groups?

The great trove of Youtube videos about Basic Income

For those of you who would like to hear everything that could possibly be said about BI, here is enough to keep you busy full time until next year. It would be nice if more people put stuff up on Vimeo so we could download and keep the best stuff.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLN8WjRGdzP3plAahs8oCKmOibDz4ipzmF>

Other Toronto Groups

Basic Income Toronto Organization

Has cancelled its last meeting due to problems finding a venue. It will meet the third Tuesday in August. The venue is not yet known but will likely be at Metro hall or City hall.

They will be participating in a "creathon" at the World Social Forum in Montreal. They are also working on a documentary film.

Next C2C Steering Committee meeting

The next C2C steering committee meeting will be held on Thursday, August 4 at 10 am-noon at Social Planning Toronto, 2 Carlton Street, suite 1001. The focus will be to approve our fall advocacy campaign to oppose 2017 budget cuts and support progress on affordable transit, housing and services. All are welcome

Fight for 15 and Fairness

is holding another organizing meeting tomorrow at 6pm at 720 Spadina Avenue, suite 223. They would like you to RSVP at <https://www.facebook.com/events/1055689937854140/>

The big question is, how can these groups work together with BI?

!*SUBJECT*!

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