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To: livingrant group toronto@livingrant.ch



GLI Toronto Newsbreeze Sept 25

The Mowat Center has come up with **Pilot lessons for the Provincial government**. They are a bit naive about the province. A BI/GLI movement should be firmly opposed to any pilot. But it is worth a read.

https://mowatcentre.ca/wp-content/uploads/publications/126_pilot_lessons.pdf

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BITO meetup September 20

So now we have a regular meeting room at Metro hall. We can book it any time we want. All are satisfied with it. Seven people attended.

We now have 334 members on Facebook.

City Councillor Mike Layton will not be coming in October. Suggestion; meet on his schedule? Notoriously hard to arrange meetups with politicians. Sometimes wonder why bother? (Until we get POWERFUL and they will be trying to meet us.)

Canadian Initiative for a Basic Income has a petition with now 25 000 signatures on it. BICN is trying to find these people and set up lines of communication. They are based in Toronto.

We talk about a **grass roots strategy**. Most people presently have no concept of BI. It is still an elite thing. How do we grow a membership? I rant a bit about how one problem is that people advocating BI are not really clear. There are too many versions around, confusing people. They assure me they are all on the progressive side of it.

It needs to be explained what the end result is for ordinary people. A question that comes up is; how to finance it? The general agreement is, from General Income tax.

All this is why what **Robyn Peterson** is doing is so important. General agreement on that point. (Developing her presentation on BI)

Some discussion of structure of a BI, especially how to do it in a federal system. The work of Robin Boadway is cited in that regard.

But conversation why, I asked? The conversation was really over long ago; the concept is sufficiently well thought out to present to the government for implementation. Some people seem to be obsessed with conversation for the sake of conversation, and to insure that nothing ever actually gets done.

The new website is coming along. It will be really advanced and the url will be www.BITO.org . It's not live yet.

Content; Kingston Charter and our missions statement are okay. Once that is up we will start an e-mail campaign. (Aimed at city Councillors)

One of us is working at setting up a table at York University. But to do that you need to be a recognized club. He is working on that but it is slow going.

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HSAG September 22 meetup

I was not able to attend. HSAG group is progressing. Some leaflets and posters have been printed for the event of October 6th. Not clear if button making party actually happened.

Robyn is concerned about the presentation being posted on youtube, so would prefer that it not be videotaped. October 6 is still very much GO.

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As for the BITO standard letter to councillors, here is the draft and a comment from the author. I think the idea is to hold off sending it until the website is live, but the author is concerned to have it posted on this newsbreeze.

Improvement suggestions can be returned to livingrant mail list for forwarding.

My own opinion is it is excellent.

Hi All,

I've received word that Mike Layton will not be able to attend our October meeting as planned, and I am waiting to hear back from him about rescheduling. We had talked about waiting to talk with him about strategy for our city councillor email campaign, however I think we are ready to go ahead.

I have linked to and copied below our draft letter to councillors. I have just made a few edits and added some links to some studies. I think it is ready to go. Can you guys read it over and make sure it's good to go. please make any edit suggestions using the google doc (linked to below) or email me back. Once we've confirmed it as a final draft lets go ahead and start emailing it out.

(I wonder what might be the best day of the week to send it - maybe not between friday-monday because it will likely get buried)

(And I have just had a final thought, maybe it would be best to wait until our website is up, so that we can include a link to that in our email?)

*Note: All of the councillors voted in favor of the Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy, with the exception of Rob Ford, and Giorgio Mammoliti

To (Councillor's Name Here),

Mv name is (Your name here). I'm contacting you on behalf of Basic Income Toronto (BITO). BITO is a citizen's

action group dedicated to advancing the cause of Basic Income through promotion, education and advocacy. We are interested in finding out what your position is on a Basic Income policy now that the provincial liberals are running a pilot project in Ontario over the next few years.

Poverty and income inequality in Toronto is a serious issue, arguably approaching crisis level. David Hulchanski's 2010 study "[The Three Cities within Toronto](#)" highlighted growing income inequality in Toronto over the past four decades, and since then the problem has only worsened. A 2015 Toronto Public Health report "[The Unequal City](#)" confirms this growing inequality and demonstrates the correlation between lower income and poorer health. And a [study](#) this year from the Martin Prosperity Institute lists Toronto as the most unequal city in Canada, and shows it has one of the world's largest 'super-rich wealth gaps', ahead of so-called 'billionaire' cities such as New York and London.

When you voted for the Toronto Poverty Reduction strategy, you endorsed a moral imperative with the goal of reducing and preventing poverty. The implementation of a Basic Income is the most efficient and cost effective way to achieve this goal. It has already been tested multiple times - in Manitoba, India, Namibia, and Brazil - each time with favorable outcomes. It's been so successful the Canadian Medical Association [officially endorsed](#) the idea to combat their number one health concern: poverty.

Our ultimate goal is to have a motion pass through the Toronto City Council endorsing Basic Income. We acknowledge that enacting this policy is outside the jurisdiction of the Toronto City Council. However, we believe that a City Council endorsement would give strong support, and direct further interest to the Basic Income pilot project being planned for Ontario. If a City Council endorsement for Basic Income passed, Toronto would be joining many other Ontario municipalities, such as Kingston and Waterloo, who have already officially shown support for Basic Income.

As we are the largest city in the province and the country, it is very important for Toronto to join others in endorsing Basic Income. We hope that we can count on your support for a policy that will make great strides towards ending poverty in Toronto and across Canada.

Sincerely,
(Your name here.)