

Guarantee Living Income Toronto Newsbreeze

April 23, 2017.

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I hope everyone had a happy Easter.

Some things have been happening since the last news breeze. There has been a problem with the HSAG group. It is in the process of working itself out.

At the April 4 HSAG, we decided we needed to get some people together to focus on preparing an application for funding. We would get together at the Ralph Thornton. Alas, at this meeting the person we needed out of the way for a bit in order to get this done, showed up there.

The trouble is he is an employee of South Riverdale Community Health Centre and we need him, or think we need him, to have access to the meeting space there. He had been talking about his idea that the earth is deteriorating at 1% a year because of all the salt in it and food will soon have no nutritional value in it.

Now, he suddenly declared the HSAG was going to forget about Basic Income and work on the idea of shorter work weeks. He also came up with the idea that "The Market" would decide what people's hourly wage should be.

In my long experience as an advocate for a Basic Income by its various names, and poverty elimination generally, I have seen this kind of thing a few times. The sane thing to do would be to just get up and move away from the disruptive nutcase, and start the project over again.

Unfortunately, people generally don't do that. Some of them always want to try to find out if some "compromise" is possible. Nothing could be a bigger waste of life than trying to find some "compromise" with someone like this. I know some groups that started out to do something specific, and ended

wasting all their energy coping with the toxic personality of a few of the group's members.

This syndrome is one of the big reasons why it is hard to get people involved in volunteer groups, especially ones dealing with a social/political issue like this. No one wants to have their efforts negated in this way. No one wants to have someone try to make them feel obligated to "compromise" with a disturbed individual's delusions. For these types of situations, there is a rule; it is the enabler, the person trying to find a "compromise" with the disturbed and disturbing individual, who is the problem.

All that is necessary to solve this problem and get the BI group with HSAG back to where it was, is for the people there to simply walk out, go to the managers of SRCHC, and demand that the disruptor be called off. My own problem with this is that I am not in the South Riverdale catchment area. It is up to the members of this group who are, to do as described above.

So, I leave the problem to work itself out. I did one thing which is really a bit manipulative, but I think it was needed. I changed the time of the Basic Income Salon at Ralph Thornton to about the same time as the HSAG. Actually, that Thursday was the only day of the week which was open.

This was to emphasize that I will no longer be participating with HSAG. This group, and it is not very big, can decide to work on Basic Income or on somebody else's mental problems.

They can easily do so; I do not think anything is stopping them from applying to SRCHC for that grant. It is a question of what they are really interested in.

Salon/free lunch society, April 20th

I was also hoping that changing this event to a week day would turn some participants up, but no such luck. The buzz from the LEAP manifesto group did not help anything, either.

I am not ending this "salon" just yet. I planned from the start to begin small, and gradually broaden and intensify promoting it. Besides, the space

at RTC is very nice to sit in and think deeply about things, away from distractions at home. I might keep doing this just for that.

Robyn's workshop; "Basic Income, where are we now?"

Things are not at a standstill on the BI front. Plans are grinding forward to hold this Robyn's first workshop in the Regent park area. As well, we are working on one at Metro hall this summer and somewhere on the University campus for late in the year. It is hard to arrange these things because you have to find the right people who can guarantee the space.

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Here are my notes from the **LEAP** debate on Basic Income at OISE on April 13. They are too big for this newsletter so I put them on my blog. [Very important reading!](#)

<http://blog.livingrant.ch/2017/04/25/the-leap-of-faith-at-oise/>

About the actual LEAP manifesto

https://leapmanifesto.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/leaplet_reading.pdf

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Since so much of the labour of caretaking – whether of people or the planet – is currently unpaid and often performed by women, we call for a vigorous debate about the introduction of a universal basic annual income.

Also, here is the Torontoist magazine's take on it

http://torontoist.com/2017/04/basic-income-no-silver-bullet-may-still-save-us/?utm_source=ISAC+Media+%26+Policy+News&utm_campaign=3e6c0b3e90-

[Media+and+Policy+News+emails&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_342c280cba-3e6c0b3e90-140445945](http://www.comicwisdom.com/why-work-for-living/)

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Some more interesting Reading

Why Do We Have to Work for a Living?

Here is something very much worth reading by BI advocates.
<http://www.comicwisdom.com/why-work-for-living/>

Financing Basic Income; Addressing the Cost Objection **Editors: Pereira, Richard (Ed.)**

Here is something from our old friend Richard Periera. He lived in Toronto a few years ago and was supportive of the efforts to start a BI group back then. He went to Ottawa to help the “Canada Without Poverty” group to get itself reestablished after the mess Rob Rainer made of it. Later he went to Australia for a few years.

I will get this book when I get the nickels together. I am concerned that he and his co-authors fall into the trap of dreaming up hundreds of different small revenue sources that will not involve seriously taking on the rentier class. Of course the main source of revenue which needs to be accessed is the huge pool of “dad money” accumulated by that class.

<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319542676>

Progressives must define the basic income we want

Here is something from our friend Toni Pickard in Kingston. It comports well with the message of the LEAP debate.

<http://leadersandlegacies.com/2017/02/06/progressives-must-define-the-basic-income-we-want/>

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....and at last we have the URL for **Government announcement about “The Pilot”**.

There will be some more detailed commentary on it next week on this newsletter.

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-basic-income-pilot>

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Next news breeze due April 30. PDF of this wile found at <http://www.livingrant.ch/oldbreezes/top.html>