

Guaranteed Living Income Toronto Newsbreeze April 9

<http://www.thecanadiancharger.com/page.php?id=5&a=2067>

Something to remember.

“The sad experience with Ontario’s NDP government carries an important lesson. Do not be lulled to sleep by a government labelled NDP, or socialist, or social democratic. Assume that, whatever government is elected, it is the enemy. Make it prove otherwise.”

Notice!

Special meeting of HSAG and all BI/GLI activists in Toronto

April 11, noon at the Ralph Thornton Community Centre 765 Queen street east, second floor meeting room.

Purpose; to perfect a funding proposal write up for HSAG to South Riverdale Health Centre. The aim of the funding is to build a campaign to promote the idea of BI within Riverdale. We need all the extra brain power we can get for a maximum effort.

See article on most recent HSAG meeting, below. For more information contact drew@ralphthornton.org

Here is something we should have a response to!

Public meeting; **Basic Income; a way forward for the left?**

Thursday, April 13 at 6:30 OISE Auditorium

<https://www.facebook.com/events/258911124518969/>

Here is a new Leaflet designed just for this event, but which should become our new basic leaflet.

<http://www.livinggrant.ch/curdocs/Basic%20Leaflet%20Basic%20Income%20TO.pdf>

The problem now is to get some significant numbers of them printed. My view is that until we have some money we do not need anything fancy. Black and white and flat sheets.

Also, I am puzzled why everybody wants to use Staples when there are print shops who can do it for less than half the cost. Anybody got a spare \$20 I can spend at the neighbourhood print shop?

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Something else is happening the end of May. It does cost some money to get into it but you can get a low income discount.

It is put on by Ryerson university; **the New Economy and a Basic Income Guarantee** It sounds like it might be worth going to, and bringing some leaflets along, and attracting some membership.

http://www.ryerson.ca/clmr/events/2017_05_29/

This is what building a BI/GLI movement is about folks.. Getting out there and explaining it to people. That is our approach to it. Getting some active members and eventually some funders.

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Other BI/GLI events in the works. Since I will not be doing a news breeze over Easter these need to be announced now.

The next HSAG meeting is April 20 in the usual place; South Riverdale Community Health Centre, 955 Queen Street east, from 1:30 to 3:30.

More info contact 2ways2saysmall@gmail.com

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The next Guaranteed Living Income Salon will be April 22nd. Ralph Thornton Centre, 765 Queen street east, second floor meeting room, 2 to 4 pm. More info, racoona@bell.net or see the web page at <http://www.livinggrant.ch/salon.html>

A notice will come out closer to the event.

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HSAG April 6

This was a less well attended meeting, but we got down to some business. We had better, because we are getting word that SRCHC is thinking of folding this group because there are so few core attendees. They have already cut off funds for social work people to 'help' us run this. I cannot say this is a help or hindrance, but the basic problems with the group are the lack of dynamic leadership and the lack of resources.

Perhaps some more resources, meaning money, will increase the dynamism of this group. But if there are three people who want to make the group work, that is a viable group. I do not know what the SRCHC people are expecting.

Some of us note that the HSAG group has seemed to have no real agenda of its own. It supports other campaigns. Lately, it dropped away from Basic Income and focused for awhile on supporting the TTC riders initiative. That has proven to be a dismal failure.

Side trips through other causes

I should comment briefly on the failures of all initiatives to get anything slightly progressive out of the city government. What we have in Toronto is a kind of “trasformismo”. This is an Italian word used to describe Italian politics in the period 1870 up to about world war one. The term is often used by political scientists. The elite had the partially “democratic” political process locked up so that any change was impossible and the whole society stagnated.

This is what we have had in Toronto ever since the amalgamation in 1997. Nothing is going to change until this mess is unravelled and we have a better governance system. For some reason, there is hysterical hostility to this idea from most “progressive” organizations. It is like they do not agree with the concept of democracy. To them politics is all about a few smart people like them mediating between the public and the political elite.

For myself, I am very offended by the attitude of a few groups like TTC riders and the “commitment to community groups” when asked what they are going to do about this Trasformismo. If they want to go on beating their heads against a wall year after year they can, but I will not be working with them. I will discourage groups like HSAG from giving them any further support.

A purpose for HSAG

What low income people who have gained some space in which to be active should focus on is something which can get somewhere and also give themselves some real freedom. The Basic Income movement fits that description pretty well, as long as they refuse to be coopted by the “piloters”.

So here is a ‘purpose in life’ for HSAG. That is, if it does not get killed off in the next few months by SRCHC.

So, we pursue the funding proposal. We need to have the elements prepared by April 20th. The decision on it will likely come in June. Thus, the extra meeting at the Ralphie this Tuesday the 11th at noon. People who

would really like to see a BI/GLI movement get going in Toronto should attend this meeting and do all they can to help get this funding approved.

Further on the future of HSAG and a local BI/GLI movement, we need to figure out other possible sources of funding, as well as how to get some more people participating. People seem to think that they understand. They either reject it or they decide the government is taking care of it. What this means is there is a need for a strong public education campaign. This requires some money and some boots on the ground.

framing of a BI

There was also some discussion of the problem of “Framing” a Basic Income. Some think there have been no fresh ideas about it since 1978.

There are now plenty of public meetings on BI, and people think they know what it is about but generally they do not. Those people who have some historical understanding of the concept can't get through the noise.

To be against a BI is absurd. How are people supposed to survive if there does not happen to be adequately paid employment available to them? The issue is what kind of a BI to implement. There are many models for it but people seem aware of only one; Hugh Segal and the liberal government's model. Even Basic Income Canada network has become part of the problem by doing no public education and then endorsing the Segal approach.

Another worry is the Leap conference this coming Thursday. People are not sure what LEAP even stands for, let alone what LEAP proposes as a BI, if anything. Some thought LEAP supported the idea of reduced work times.

BI gets used to support questionable things with a limited connection to the concept of an income guarantee. A good example of this is “climate” extremism. This drags us down.

The topics which really do comport with a Basic Income include; personal liberation, job security, deep democracy, and a steady state economy. These are reasonably well worked out concepts which strengthen support for a BI.

Miscellaneous

There was a bit of acrimony at this meeting as someone was determined to support a pet idea which had nothing to do with BI and was not grounded in reality. These kinds of scenes are part of the reality of public discussion.

There was some concern about the rents in Toronto going up right after the “tenants rights” levy was passed. That was not supposed to happen. Perhaps the tenant levy was not what it was presented to be.

In advocating for BI, public health needs to be given more emphasis. There is much documentation of the impairment to people’s health when they have to work too hard. As well, they become much less efficient per hour.

Finally, in advocating for a BI or anything else, we need to remember that we are supposed to be in a democracy. Therefore, government is supposed to work for us. Therefore, we do not go begging to them. They come to us.

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The Maximum Income Pilot Project

There is a little bit to say about the April 6 event by our friends with “Raise the Rates” and “Put Food in the Budget”. They put together an amusing and accurate leaflet and handed it out at the Royal Bank Shareholder’s meeting. I think they plan to follow up on this line.

I arrived too late to help but I got one of their leaflets. I do not think they were able to hand it out right at the door of Sony Centre as the shareholders went in. This disappointed them.

However, I was able to get into the meeting on a visitor’s pass. I snagged a muffin and a copy of their annual shareholder’s report. I stayed and listened for about an hour and a half. It was as inane as most AGM’s are.

It was interesting that someone presented a motion that the pay of chief executives of Royal bank be set “vertically” and not “horizontally”. That is,

not according to what executives at the corporations are getting, but according to the wages of the lowest paid employes. I could not stay to hear how the vote went.

Here is the interesting part of the document which RTR gave out.

https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/putfoodinthebudget/pages/114/attachments/original/1490466160/max_income_full-sheet-p2.pdf?1490466160

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No GLI Newsbreeze over Easter. The next one is planned for April 22nd. There will be much to report.