

Guaranteed Living Income Toronto Newsbreeze



May 28, 2017

contains;

Hot Links to;

my notes on the Winnipeg conference last year.

article about the Quebec BI plan

Mowat Center report on BI and Social Entrepreneurship

Event announcements

of two now sold out events, regarding a BI

of a conference call briefing from OFL about Wynne's labor

law reforms, promising to be very informative.

An article commenting on the BICN newsletter, with a prelude to some future topics in this newsletter.

An article commenting further on the Mowat Center report.

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HOT LINKS

The Winnipeg BICN Congress one year ago

setting the scene

<http://blog.livinggrant.ch/2016/05/22/about-the-bicn-congress-in-winnipeg-setting-the-scene/>

Part one

<http://blog.livinggrant.ch/2016/06/03/winnipeg-congress-sessions-part-one/>

Part two

<http://blog.livinggrant.ch/2016/06/20/winnipeg-congress-sessions-part-two/>

Brandy Moore's song

<https://vimeo.com/168468430>

I never did complete my notes on the 2016 congress. I will have more about it next week and some contemplations on what has happened to BICN in the past year.

An Article about the Quebec BI plan

This comes from the "Precarious Work Chronicle" It contains some interesting information about the Quebec BI plan. The author is one of those people enamoured with the Ontario plan. He seems a bit cool to the way QyQuebec is going about it. This newsletter will be looking into the Que, plan in future.

Quebec hints at basic income in recent budget, aims to

bypass testing

<http://www.precariouswork.com/2017/03/30/quebec-hints-at-basic-income-in-recent-budget-aims-to-bypass-testing/>

Someone drew attention to this piece in The Star.

Mowat Center Report on Basic Income and Social Entrepreneurship

"Basic income hailed as way to give people chance to chase their dreams.

Mowat Centre report says basic income could spark social innovation by giving marginalized groups support to become social entrepreneurs."

By LAURIE MONSEBRAATEN Social justice reporter
<https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2017/05/25/basic-income-hailed-as-way-to-give-people-chance-to-chase-their-dreams.html>

You can find the Executive Summary of this report here.
<https://mowatcentre.ca/basic-impact/>

A comment on the Mowat report is further down.

EVENTS

will be

There are a couple of events coming up; tomorrow and the day after.

The trouble is, they are both now sold out. A couple of

us will be going to the Center for Labor Management Relations conference on "The New Economy and the Basic Income Guarantee." Full report about it next week. It should be very interesting.

There is also the event sponsored by the Canadian Political Science Association at Ryerson University on Tuesday. It is their 2017 cafe pracademique workshop. The topic is; "Basic Income; toward a pracademique approach". Pracademique, or just plain pracademic, is defined as " someone who is both an academic and an active practitioner in their subject area.

Below is a link to a poster for it. It all sounds very intereting but it is pricey. I could get no response asking for a discount or at least copies of their materials. I will try again afterwards.

We have alot of academic aproaches to BI, but are very short of practical. WE do need the two linked up.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B1Q3AZxEQpj7czdjSUpXMklPNTg/view>

The Ontario Federation of Labor would like some help from us.

Get on their conference call about the province's changes to the labor laws. Then maybe you could look into helping them influence the Wynne government in a more positive direction.

Why? Because a big problem with the BI movement in Canada is it makes no effort to link with the labor movement. It is one of the elements in society which must be won over if we are to have a positive BI system. Right now our blind support of the provincial pilot plan makes us look to labor and related groups like skills

for the governments effort to delay and divert improvements to the social system.

Here is the text of the announcement

Province-wide briefing call on Changing Workplaces Review Recommendations

The Changing Workplaces Review final recommendations are out! In partnership with the \$15 and Fairness campaign, we are holding an emergency province-wide briefing call. We will be reviewing the recommendations in some detail. If you want to know what's up, get on the call.

As the Ontario Federation of Labour stated in our recent press release, the recommendations are an important first step in updating outdated employment and labour laws, but they do not go far enough. It is now in the hands of government to legislate decent work for all Ontarians. There is room for legislation to go further so we need to ACT NOW! We need to make it easier to join a union for all workers, not just some, and we need to raise the floor for all workers, including legislate a \$15 minimum wage. To RSVP click here.

Time: May 31, 2017 at 5pm - 6:30pm

http://www.makeitfair.ca/emergency?utm_campaign=2017_05_26_news&utm_medium=email&utm_source=ofl

Comment on BICN News with precludes to future topics.

Got another newsletter from Aunt Shiela at Basic Income Canada Network t'other day.

Very wide observation and discussion of the tendency of the established basic income movement, to obsessing over cheap support, never seems to deter them from this behaviour. Mostly this is what her newsletter is about.

They now have 15 000 supporters and are shooting for 25 000. A really strong social movement would have up over 100 000 members. In the 1970s many social advocacy organizations did have that many, and sending in membership fees, too!

BICN seems to be unable to raise enough money to keep itself running at a minimal level. It seems to have finally discovered a need for this. When I worked with them in helping to hold the Basic Income Earth network 2014 conference in Montreal, they were downright hostile to trying to raise any money to run the national organization.

They had no treasurer and did not want one. The conference was self financing, which could have created a personal problem for those who placed the orders and signed the "use of space" documents, if something had gone wrong. This not a responsible way to do things.

Their latest trophy is Paul Martin. He now supports BI, but it is not clear what kind of BI. And of course, he is a retired ex-prime minister. I will be interested when someone who is the PM or could be the next one expresses support for some form of BI.

The BC Greens have made a cheap commitment to a "Negative Income Tax" model of BI, like there is no other proposal for a BI out there. They now hold the balance of power with the NDP. It seems the British Columbians are soon to be subjected to a "pilot". But only the federal government can actually deliver any kind of BI.

What is interesting about this e-newsletter is what is missing from it. Shiela gave us a link to the BICNs annual report. Like the BICN web site, it is more noteworthy for what is missing.

Their 2016/17 annual report

https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/bicn/pages/297/attachments/original/1494007877/BICN_Annual_Report_2016-17.pdf?1494007877

There is very little information about the governance process within BICN. The board of directors are elected? Elected how, by whom? Where is this groups by-laws? Is it even incorporated?

They have 15 000 members and only raise \$21 000 a year?

I have been out of patience with this outfit and its secrecy since the Winnipeg congress last year around this time. I will write out my experiences there in more detail later. But I and a lot of other people were not very impressed when on the final day of the conference we were expecting to spend a half day at an annual; General Meeting. I mean, hearing the candidates, voting on them, and on resolutions and other business.

I was not impressed two years earlier at the Montreal congress. At that time I let them know it. I got reassurances that restructuring was on the way. If I give money to an organization, I expect to have a vote on who sits on its board.

Now, I am prepared to tell everybody I possibly can to not give BICN one nickel until it is opened up and made fully democratic.

Over the next few weeks I will be republishing my notes on the Montreal and Winnipeg meet ups.

I should say in conclusion that what I really blame for the dominance of bad organizations advocating a bad models of BI, is The Left. Over nearly 40 years, they have simply refused to engage with the issue, leaving the field to people with a Liberal kind of mentality and all that goes with that. There is a lot of work to do to restore the BI issue as a poverty eradicating, not poverty regulating, concept. This is a subject for discussions in future issues of this newsletter, and in face to face discussion.

As promised above, a comment on the Mowat Center Report

The full report is here if you are really into this kind of stuff.

https://mowatcentre.ca/wp-content/uploads/publications/148_basic_impact.pdf

The most interesting section is POTENTIAL RISKS TO SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS

Here is one interesting quote which inadvertently shows the flaw with the whole "pilot" idea.

By providing everyone with sufficient resources to meet basic needs, a basic income threatens to fatally weaken the political case for a robust minimum wage and could also reduce employers' incentives to pay decent wages.

This debate is far from being resolved and will likely remain so until a jurisdiction-wide basic income is introduced somewhere for a sufficiently lengthy period of time to allow for the labour market to reach a new post-basic income equilibrium.

In other words, a pilot can not really show anything. A BI can only be introduced all at once and the problems worked out as they arise. This is why a powerful social movement needs to be behind it to keep it on a liberating track or powerful interests will re-engineer it to suit themselves.

The headings for these considerations are;

1] A basic income could increase crowding within the social entrepreneurship community and encourage “zombie” initiatives to persist.

2] A basic income could influence the level of effort social entrepreneurs put into their social mission work

3] A basic income could limit social entrepreneurs’ access to training and peer networks

4] A basic income could enable and encourage an unhealthy reliance on low-wage and volunteer labour

5] The provision of a basic income could result in reductions in other sources of funding for the social mission ecosystem

These are all the stock objections to a BI expressed in a slightly different way. It shows why the “social entrepreneurship” argument for a BI can be a dangerous one. A BI is about keeping people alive and well, and able to live a decent life. It is not about funding anything else. Social enterprises must be judged on their own merits, and funded over top a BI.

...and that's it for this week, folks. The next newsbreeze is due June 4