

May 28, 2016

There is enough going on that I think I will start putting out a message at a regular interval, like a week.

I think there is a need for some type of newsletter. I am not sure what type of platform would work best. I have been looking at mail chimp but I will have to download everybody into mail chimps maw. There is also Thunderbird, but it won't work with Mac mailer and could create problems with some servers, especially g-mail, if I start sending out to a large list.

How do people feel about getting a newsletter from mail chimp, every week or two, done by an assistant chimp, me?

## EVENTS

There is now a lot going on. The next meeting will be on June 2nd but neither organizer has specified a venue yet so I don't want to formally announce it.

This will be run by Paul, enabling Robyn to finish up her excellent presentation about the history and issues around BI.

I have my own thing going on June 5th at the Ralph Thornton. I am going to discuss the Winnipeg congress and I hope to be able to present a short power point type presentation about it, to go with the one I did for the Winnipeg conference. Other attendees of the conference may want to give their impressions of it as well. The web page for this event is at [www.livinggrant.ch/event3.html](http://www.livinggrant.ch/event3.html) and the poster has been sent out. I hope this draws a substantial crowd.

Now, for those who would like to hop the go-train down to Hamilton, there is an event on June 15th at Hamilton city hall. The Hamilton group is trying to convince the city government to formally support a Basic Income. There is also a chance to talk some more with the very active Hamilton group. Web site is at <https://www.facebook.com/BasicIncomeHamilton/>

## I JUST STARTED MY NEW BLOG WITH A SERIES ON THE WINNIPEG CONGRESS

The URL for it is <http://blog.livinggrant.ch/>

## NOTES ON MATT'S MEETING MAY 24

I have put up the documents generated by this meeting at . <http://www.livinggrant.ch/currentdocumentsfolder/top.html>

The meeting took place in an old building on the west side that was an artists colony of sorts, but they are all being evicted to recondition the place as luxury condos. The people at the meeting are mostly artistic types, younger men. So of course they already have a logo. Total attendance was ten.

This was their second meeting. They held one on April 26. The delay between one and two was due to Winnipeg. There was only one woman present, but she was fairly impressive. More about her. One person was just back from working on the Sanders campaign in the states.

The stance of political parties about BI/GLI was discussed. The Liberals have called for a pilot. The NDP is now leaning strongly towards BI, now that it was decided to move back leftward.

One participant understood well that the big impediment to progress toward BI/GLI right now was the lack of a coherent movement toward it. She has talked to politicians. She says that they say, in effect, "you guys are fucked! You are fragmented and all over the place about it". Her message was; " There has to be one ask!"

The response around the table was in effect, "oh, no, we have to have many points of view". This sounds a lot like Fair Vote Canada. I, on the other hand, will likely title my next big paper on BI/GLI, " One Ask!"

It was thought that perhaps coming up with a "vision statement" would help. As an old activist I once worked with would have said, "don't get a vision statement, get yourself a vision". There are enough arguments and enough ideas, someone said. The thing is to choose some and go with them.

There was discussion of whether we need to hold meetings regularly. I noted that while work does not happen at meetings, meetings are where work is organized. Or at least, should be.

There were concerns about poor communications between different groups. Someone was a big fan of nation builder. I hated to sound like a know it all, but I opined that nation builder was useless; just enough platform for internet chatter.

It was agreed that we are not communicating well. Someone noted that we keep getting confused with the "raise the minimum wage" people.

Someone wanted to get the names and numbers of BI groups across Canada. Someone else pointed out that there is already such a list; on the BICN web site. Communications, communications. Focus, focus.

There was some discussion of the mission statement. Someone thought it was a bit "run on". These things tend to be so. They decided to leave that for now.

Toward the end we got down to some ideas for potential actions. Someone wanted a "word by word" letter campaign for city hall endorsement. This involved identifying sympathetic councilors.

Someone talked about organizing on campuses. I have had some experiences with campus organizing, and not good ones. Believe it or not, university students are notoriously hard to mobilize. A better approach would be to campus organizations. They might want to join and kick some funding our way.

Now, here is a problem. We adjourned and went home agreeing to hold more meetings. I discover I am confused about the next meeting. Paul Vaughn's group is getting together June 2nd, not Matt's. I have it written down that the latter's meetings will be held the third tuesday of each month, which will make the next one June 21st.

Ah, summer. The air conditioning in my apartment will be out for three weeks, so I will not get great sleep for awhile. As for the two loose meeting dates, no venue for either has been set and I will not announce anything until they are.

I hope I did not create any needless confusion.

Here are the loose documents from this meeting. <http://www.livinggrant.ch/currentdocumentsfolder/top.html> The folder is not linked to anything else

To sum it all up, these are not unintelligent people. Many have university educations. But they are mostly quite young. But what strikes me is the lack of know how about running even the simplest organization. There is something wrong with the education system.

It reminds me of Jane Jacob's statement in "*Dark Times Ahead*". People seem to be forgetting how to do things. What we need is some training. Also, a filling in of some startling gaps in general knowledge.

We shall see how it goes. And at least we have something going.

TR May 28, 2016

## POINTS OF INFORMATION

Here is something about the Iranian cash payment from oil revenues. Like the Alaska dividend, in has not come to a good end. You do not want to depend on resource revenues to fund anything. BI people should take note. I wonder how to bring it to the attention of the people running these info lists.

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2016/04/iran-cash-subsidy-payments-cut-parliament-24-million.html>

Here is something from Cynthia in Victoria about the "basic question".  
<http://www.livableincome.org/abasicquestion.htm>