

## GLI News Breeze July 17, 2016

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**from the Waterloo region group**

*"Five things you need to know about guaranteed basic income"*

<http://apolitical.co/guaranteed-basic-income-pilots-canada-finland-holland/>

Waterloo region seems to be the most active group in South Ontario

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### **Notes on Encounters with other organizations**

I attended the planning meeting of the "Fight for \$15" minimum wage group last Tuesday. I found no resistance to giving out my GLI leaflets.

But I talked with the organizer at the end of the session. She had interesting information for me. The union people who are the core of this group are aware of Senator Segal's appointment to oversee a "pilot" of a Basic Income.

There is not much point trying to convince them that Segal is a "red" Tory who was pushed out by Stephen Harper. To them a Tory is a Tory. And what they have been getting from the government lately when they talk about raising minimum wage, as well as increasing OW and ODSP rates, must be discouraging to them.

They are told that they do not need to worry about that, they are going to get a Basic Income. This should concern advocates for a BI/GLI as well. It is hard to see what kind of BI the province could be imagining, because it does not have the fiscal capacity to operate a proper one.

I told her that, and also that a proper BI will require a high minimum wage to insure employers do not use it as a wage top up. Also, a housing program and rent controls will be needed to prevent landlords from using BI as a housing subsidy.

I said that there is inevitably going to be a BI, because the economy will not work in future without one. As the slogan goes, "jobs won't pay the bills in future". How an income guarantee is implemented will shape society in the future so it is an important thing which needs to be got right.

We can have the good, left progressive kind of GLI, or the bad, neoliberal kind of BI, but no BI is not an option. If the left, unions, social movements do not get into the

fight for a GLI, they will get the neoliberal version, with dire consequences for future society.

I am not sure how much impression I had on her. But here is where the rubber hits the road for building a BI/GLI. This is the kind of conversation we will be having.

BI in Toronto needs to get an outreach committee and a flyer force operating.

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### **The Riverdale Community Health group**

This group held another meeting on Thursday the 14th. A first draft of a leaflet based on the brain storm session last meeting, was critiqued and some changes made. This group is making some progress.

They will also continue liaising with the TTC riders group.

Their next meeting would be on July 28. They hold them every two weeks, at 1:30 on Thursday, at 955 Queen street east, the health center.

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### **The Basic Income Toronto Organization (BITO)**

BITO has a meeting due next Tuesday, the 19th. However, they are having trouble finding a venue. It may be postponed. Contact Matt to find out if it is on. matthew talsma <matthew.talsma@gmail.com>

We now have the minutes for the last meeting. Find it at <http://www.livinggrant.ch/currentdocumentsfolder/BITo-june28.pdf>

Note that planning is underway to attend the Social Forum in Montreal, and questions about sharing costs of travel and accommodation.

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### **For anyone with questions about what World Social Forum is about;**

<https://fsm2016.org/en/participer/sinscrire/>

The housing bureaus is here. Anyone who is going should arrange accommodations early <https://fsm2016.org/en/participer/hebergement/>

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**The best Twitter group for BI**

Cynthia in Victoria is the communications master in Canada for BI. She runs the #basicincome hashtag group. Her account is at <https://twitter.com/Livable4All>

Her website, the best in Canada, is at <http://livableincome.org/>