

Guaranteed Livable Income News Breeze August 21, 2016

=====

The meeting that did not happen.

Sorry about all the confusion over the August 16 meeting of Basic Income Toronto Organization. At first it was not going to happen, then it was, then somebody sent out a notice that morning that it was off again.

Now it seems it will be held on August 21st at 7 P.M. , at the 155 Crawford road community recreation center. However, it would be a very good idea to check with the convenor, matthew talsma <matthew.talsma@gmail.com> before coming, if you are not on his e-mail list.

There are some issues with this meeting space, as described in an abstract of an e-mail exchange with Matt.

This cannot be our permanent meeting place. I do not think we want to hold these things in Metro hall or city hall, either. Even if some politician will get us the space for free, that can come with a price. The history of new activist groups being co-opted by political machines is very long. A group like this needs to maintain its freedom of action.

We have available to us a nearly ideal meeting space at Ralph Thornton Center. It is free and the management there is very supportive of the Basic Income idea. They want to give us a space.

<snip>

If we are going to have a meeting, we need an agenda. That lets people know what the meeting is about. The agenda must come out a lot sooner than the day before the meeting.

<snip>

There are several issues which this group needs to get on with. One is the Ontario government's moves toward a "pilot BI". From this is a need for a meeting of Ontario groups to develop some sort of common approach to respond to the province.

<snip>

We cannot just wait until the province comes out with something. We are then left chasing our hat. We have to have worked out what our principles are and what kind of BI project would be acceptable. We also need to establish contacts with other anti-poverty groups.

One anti poverty group we do not need to establish any contacts with is OCAP. I detect some skepticism when I described them as a front group for hard core "vanguardist" revolutionaries who are waiting for the chance to start a violent revolution.

I know what I am talking about. I am an exponent of Marxism and class warfare. I was involved with OCAP but stayed on the margins and supported Sue Collis and Shawn Brant's "faction" which supported not getting poor people into trouble for no reason. I became fairly disgusted with the more extreme elements in OCAP after the Pope Squat in 2002.

The Pope squat should have worked. Hundreds of people donated a lot of time and money to it. This infuriated Clarke and the "1917 over again" faction, who sneered that we were all becoming a bunch of "real estate lawyers". Cheques were destroyed. Donated equipment was destroyed.

After Collis and Brant left Toronto people like me were pushed out of OCAP. I got drummed out in a kind of show trial. I think I was a safe target to make an example of. But I was having little to do with OCAP by that time. My web page on OCAP is at <http://www.whistlefiles.ch/ocap/top.html>

Why is OCAP so concerned about the Basic Income movement? Usually, they look for issues they can get people riled up about. Sometimes they become attack dogs for various interests. It may be that some the "New Socialist" groups inside social agencies, the city bureaucracy, or the unions have decided that BI is a threat.

Thus, pro BI people should be careful about attending events with a strong OCAP presence. Also the "No One is Illegal" group, the "International Socialists" version of OCAP. Keep an eye out for "reach around Phil".

To conclude about OCAP, they are a vanguardist front and a kind of "borderline personalities" club. It is best to keep a distance from them.

Two groups BITO need to liaise with are 'TTC riders' and 'Commitment to Community'. We should not be seen as people who want to wipe out all other social programs. We should work with the movement to increase government revenues in Toronto. This will help to center a Toronto Basic Income movement.

Something which would be very useful would be to start a speaker series about BI. These are hard to establish at first, but are a good way of attracting new members and donors and legitimizing an organization.

<snip>

from Mat;

Thanks for your constructive criticism RE the meeting venue. This board table was just a stop gap as I said in the original email "We will be able to book rooms at this centre with AV etc for future meetings."

So the board table was a one time use for our August meeting.

City staff move slowly during the height of summer (as do most everyone else). But our sponsorship from Councilor Layton has passed, and we can book full rooms at this community centre to meet any future requirements,(capacity, AV functionality for presentations etc.)

Also, I don't share your concerns (cooption, hidden costs?) about using city community facilities as meeting places. My understanding is that once it's all arranged we can have access to rooms at various city venues free of charge. I will have fully clarified info for everyone at next meeting.

By the way, I did go to this OCAP thing on the 18th. I have been to some things where OCAP was present lately, and they did not bother me. I thought they might have forgot about me, but they refused to let me in.

Okay, but I will have to have some words with Christian Resource Center. Organizations with "enemy lists" should not be booking publicly funded venues like that.

I will repeat again and again that the Basic Income movement in Toronto will have more trouble with radical left groups than from anything else. Doctrinaire leftists are positioned in places you would not imagine.

=====

Documents for August 23 meeting.

These are to be discussed.

http://www.livingrant.ch/currentdocumentsfolder/TheBasicIncomeWeWant_BICN.pdf

and

http://www.livingrant.ch/currentdocumentsfolder/Kingston_%20BIG_Charter.pdf

=====

Health and Strength Action Group

Next meeting is August 25, 1:30 PM at Riverdale Community Health Center, 955 Queen street East.

confirm with Susy Glass <susy@ralphthornton.org>

=====

some readings of interest to BI activists

There can never be too much said about the danger of cooptation

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/rockefeller-ford-foundations-behind-world-social-forum-wsf-the-corporate-funding-of-social-activism/5540552>

Will World Social Forum
become leader the Left needs?

<http://nickfillmore.blogspot.ca/2016/08/will-world-social-forum-become-leader.html>

Here is an abstract of a letter sent in from a livingrant list member. It is worth pondering about WSF and the oncoming Ontario BI pilot project.

Hi Tim,

If you haven't seen it already, I've attached information about an upcoming event in Montreal which will deal with the basic income concept. From what I can see at this point, they appear to be framing the concept correctly.

Unfortunately, the more I read, including between the lines, the more I believe Premier Wynne is pursuing an option that would be of the 'poverty relief' kind, not a universal kind. It also seems we'd be lucky with her approach to see anything come into being before 2020.

Her top economic adviser, Ed Clark, is a privatizing fanatic. He will push for something that fits his deeply neoliberal philosophy (fantasy?). Clark is, of course, a .1% person. Wynne is at least a one percenter.

A long and rocky road lies ahead.

R

Pitching a new social program? Ten things to know about central agencies in Canada

http://rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers/progressive-economics-forum/2016/08/pitching-new-social-program-ten-things-to-know-ab?utm_source=ISAC+Media+%26+Policy+News&utm_campaign=cee82fdd47-Media+and+Policy+News+emails&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_342c280cba-cee82fdd47-140445945