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To: livingrant group toronto@livingrant.ch



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## Guaranteed Living Income Toronto Newsbreeze, November 20, 2016

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**Additions to “pilotless page”** <http://www.livingrant.ch/pilotless.html#p>

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### Join Toronto’s Lived Experience Advisory Group.

<http://www.livingrant.ch/curdocs/Lived%20Experience%20Advisory%20Group.%20Poster%202016.pdf>

This should be a good place to try to turn Toronto activists and Toronto government toward the idea of a BI/GLI. In applying it is best to not identify yourself as being wrongly affiliated to any group. You are just an impoverished citizen with an open mind and some experience being poor, who would like to help.

However, you should get into contact with the Social Planning council’s “Commitment to Community” group. Get up to speed on the history of the city politicians and bureaucrats bad faith and manipulations toward the group as it sought an “anti-poverty strategy” from the city. Contact me regarding that. [racoon@bell.net](mailto:racoon@bell.net)

Also, a good way to get up to speed and get some useful skills, would be to attend C2Cs deputation training on November 24. <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/stop-city-budget-cuts-deputation-training-workshop-tickets-29336365860?aff=es2>

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**The Videos of Northern Institute’s B.I.G. congress** are now up on the Livingrant web site.

<http://www.livingrant.ch/big2016/top.html>

This was clearly a very successful meeting, which got in to discussion of the tax and revenue implications of various modes of BI. Well worth listening to by BI/GLI activists in Ontario, despite the buzz in some of the audios.

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**The “Put Food in the Budget” group.** <http://www.putfoodinthebudget.ca/>

They think we should pay 45\$ just to be their “ally”?

BI groups need to make clear we do not support BI pilot or delaying tactics

Also, endorse their statement at [https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/putfoodinthebudget/pages/91/attachments/original/1473676327/Why\\_Wait\\_Raise\\_the\\_Rates\\_format\\_of\\_joint\\_statment.pdf?1473676327](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/putfoodinthebudget/pages/91/attachments/original/1473676327/Why_Wait_Raise_the_Rates_format_of_joint_statment.pdf?1473676327)

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### The Food Bank Canada Report.

Excellent! In one page, gives the BI/GLI movement its marching orders for the next 5 years. Needs discussion in all groups!

[http://www.livingrant.ch/curdocs/HungerCount\\_2016\\_final\\_singlepage.pdf.aspx.pdf](http://www.livingrant.ch/curdocs/HungerCount_2016_final_singlepage.pdf.aspx.pdf)

Go after federal government with a demand for a GLI in five years, run through the tax system like the GIS, Child Benefit, etc. But not a “Negative Income Tax” or “Claw Back” system. Meanwhile, go after provinces to stop “pilot” nonsense and do all possible short term changes to existing benefits as a stop gap.

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**HSAG november 17**

Here are my notes on the very unstructured discussion.

Drew had his first run as a facilitator. Susy will be away all of December.

We talked quite a bit about the US election, like every other gathering for the past week.

We got on to the letter we want to write to the Maytree foundation. Maytree seems to be “discomboobulating” the Basic Income issue. It is about human rights, not economics. It is suggested that if human rights are got right, the economy will balance itself.

But what do we need the letter for? Perhaps what we really need is a template for BI activists attending these provincial consultations.

As for these consultations, what has to be made clear is that the consultations will not lead to a BI, it is just a delaying tactic. Minister Jascik says she is Hoping to bring improvements to social assistance in January of 2018 only if there is no deficit. The deficit will never be cleared up so a BI or any other social allowance measure is a red herring.

Also, why something so far below the “poverty line?” They had said it would be at the “Low Income Cutoff Line”.

The slogan of Pilot resisters should be; “A living Income not a Killing Income”.

The problem with all these consultations is how to get critical people into them; to prevent cherry picking of those who of those who the consultation directors can manipulate. That is, those who frame BI not as poverty reduction but as a human right.

There is some suggestion of producing, instead of or in addition to just a latte, an “infopack” for agencies about BI and Human rights, and how to resist manipulation. Wonder where there is some funding to print the info pack.

A suggested she would like to write about Canadian culture and how there is no respect for poor people. Also, how all these manipulations prey on people’s ignorance.

There is a rally at city hall at 9:30, for people to demand a more reasonable attitude about TTC fares. It is suggested we attend that and then come back here for a meeting if there is time.

The next meeting, on December 15, we can hold some type of Christmas party of the potlatch variety.

Sue Kwong from the social planning council would like to talk with HSAG on December 1. However, the rally makes that problematic. Perhaps she would like to come on the 15th and be feted at our Christmas party? Check with her.

Finally, the button situation is getting a bit pathetic. It has taken us a couple of months to get a few buttons out. At least nobody else needs the button machine. There are limited supplies of button materials left with he machine. Need to inquire how to buy more to make a stock of buttons to be sold to help fund activities.

It was noted that OCAP and John Clarke are holding another event at 40 Oak street about possible action against possible cuts to social spending. It was thought that someone should attend.

And that is how the merry HSAG band is carrying on.

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**OCAP at 40 Oak on November 17**

We did not get to find out why John Clarke thinks some cuts to OW and ODSP are in the works. Or, what he and David McNally had to say exactly. They are usually very predicable.

But one of our informants tried to sneak in. Unfortunately she arrived early and could not get anyone to open the door for her. The place was locked. She was afraid to rap on windows for fear someone would call the police. It was too cold to wait standing outside so she left, declaiming “what a world!” .

OCAP has other things going on. One of its members is launching a book on December 8, about the history of working

class revolt in Toronto. This should be interesting. You can find out about it at their web site; <https://ocaptoronto.wordpress.com/> I would love a signed copy of this one, but the OCAP security force still does not like me.

( About 15 years ago I got "court martialled" and drummed out of OCAP. Not sure exactly why; I think I made too many of the wrong kind of suggestions. TR)

This is their temporary web site. I wonder what happened to their regular one. Awhile back, they had a problem when their chief web designer got annoyed and took it all down, including domains, etc. Have they still not been able to fix that problem?

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### **Basic Income Toronto Organization November 22**

I had my own problems this week with meetings I was unable to attend. I could not go to the November 19th event in Peterborough, which I really would have liked to get to. I had thought I would be able to, but the organizer messaged me and said that the venue was smaller than she thought, and late registrants like me had to be dropped.

If I had just known about this in time, I would have been one of the earliest registrants. I learned about it late, and then had a very hard time getting specifics about it from BITO. Finally the event organizer called me with information and a registration form well after the original deadline.

I also went down to Metro hall on the 15th, which is the third Tuesday in November, assuming that a BITO meeting would be happening. Nothing there. I suspected there might be a problem because I asked for the agenda and confirmation of the meeting and could get no answer.

I wrote another e-mail to the whole group, all on the message header, asking what was going on. I finally got a response from someone who also attends the HSAG group. It seems the person responsible for communications in BITO did not notice that my address was not in the header he was sending out. Also, he failed to realize that November 1 counts as a Tuesday so the third Tuesday falls on the 15th, not the 22nd.

I was asked why I took such an angry tone in my message. Well, that was only because I was, like, angry? I missed out on the November 19 event and probably a lot I do not even know about, just because of this. I am touchy about not being kept in the loop. It is a problem with some activist organizations, especially when there are internal disagreements. A tactic of "co-opters" is to get control of the communications links in order to weed out whoever does not fit in with their agenda.

I also suggested that there were some problems with BITO. There are fewer people at each meeting. I have seen this before. There is no project and no structure to this group. If it does not get one it will disappear like countless groups before it. The mortality rate of new anti-poverty and Income Guarantee groups is very high. It will be sad if this one disappears now, because it has some things going for it. It has clearance to book meetings in Metro hall, and someone has done up a pretty good looking web site for it.

I think my fulminations are being taken to heart, because a meeting is now scheduled at Metro hall 7 PM on the 22nd. There will be no agenda, but a free discussion about the direction of the group. I hope this meeting is well attended, and successful.

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**Next GLI breeze will be due November 27.** Whether it actually gets out then is uncertain. I am whacking busy these days.

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