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Subject: T.O. livingrant Guaranteed Living Income Toronto Newsbreeze November 27
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To: livingrant group toronto@livingrant.ch



Guaranteed Living Income Toronto Newsbreeze November 27

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Ontario is putting out a survey about BI/GLI. Find it here.

<https://www.ontario.ca/form/basic-income-pilot-public-survey>

What they should be told is to forget about using the LICO to design a BI. It is not appropriate. Even statistics Canada keeps telling people that LICO was not intended for that purpose. Nobody listens. We need a moving measurement of income sufficiency, one that tracks changes intends over time and in different localities.

Of course, no city is a good city to hold a BI Pilot in. We don't need a Pilot, we need the whole thing NOW. The province cannot do a proper BI/GLI. It can only come from the federal government.

However, we are informed that the province also puts out this 'Expert' Survey:

<https://www.ontario.ca/form/basic-income-pilot-expert-survey>

The significance of this is unclear. But it is clear from the questions they are asking what direction they are going. This "pilot" will be a "pay the tax man" type of thing with benefits being withdrawn as people earn money on their own, thus defeating the point of a Guaranteed Living Income.

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Here is a very useful article, titled "**Exposing a fragile coalition: The state of the basic income debate**"

<http://blogs.bath.ac.uk/iprblog/2016/10/21/exposing-a-fragile-coalition-the-state-of-the-basic-income-debate/>

In my opinion, this fragile coalition is destined to break apart into the factions which will decide what life will be like in the next century. We really do not want the libertarian notions to prevail.

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City budget consultations

Yes, the city is doing consultations too. BI people should hear about how they have played false with the campaign for a poverty reduction strategy. Our strategy should be as said last week, to liaise with poverty reduction people to demand that all three levels of government take all measures to relieve poverty in the short term, while demanding a full-out Guaranteed Living Income from the federal government.

Join SOCIAL PLANNING TORONTO and community partners to discuss the upcoming City Budget, and learn more about the City programs and services we all rely on.

• Water • Poverty Reduction • Social Services • Roads • Transit • Housing • Shelters • Public Health • Childcare • Parks

Monday, December 12 at 9:30 am-12 pm
YWCA Elm Centre
87 Elm Street

For more information contact Susan Kwong:
skwong@socialplanningtoronto.org or 416-562-8110

Register online at:
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/our-city-budget-matters-tickets-29625096461>

or call Mary Micallef at 416-351-0095x251

But the real battlefield with the city will be over the TTC. The TTC riders group is fighting for free bases for the disabled and \$50 passes for low income. The ugly Austerians seem to have a special hate on for transit and here is where they will be met and broken, or will prevail. There is even talk about a fare strike.

Most TTC riders people are very receptive to the GLI message. When I handed out leaflets at their rally they snatched them up. HSAG endorses TTC riders and TTC riders would probably endorse HSAG and GLI if asked. BITO and TTC riders could get connected.

The TTC riders web site is here <http://www.ttcriders.ca/>

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The city is convening a **Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG)** This is to consult with the city on matters to do with poverty. It is another effort at cooptation, but a good way to pick up information about what the city is up to. If the right people can get onto it, and can defeat efforts to manage it, it can become a real voice for low income people.

It would be good to get a pro Basic Income person onto it, along with people supporting Fair Fares, housing for everybody, etc., all from a rights perspective. The best chance of getting onto it is to sound articulate and reasonable, and not too political. Save your ammunition for later.

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

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Basic Income Toronto Organization November 22

This was a make or break meeting. Enough people showed up with ideas of how to proceed; at first nine, then eleven.

Matt will not be able to continue facilitating. He will be out of town part of the winter.

The original strategy was to draft a letter to councillors. Joey Caughey has been finalizing the content. This is to ask for council to endorse the idea of a Basic Income as the councils of Kingston, etc. have done. They wanted the web site to be ready first, before starting this with an e-mail campaign.

Mike Layton met with them. As they talked they looked through the net and discovered that councillor Mihevc has sponsored a motion to support a pilot. Some of them would meet Mihevc the next day, Wednesday, to discuss this and report back.

We got into some debate about the need for a pilot, which replicated arguments already made elsewhere.

Tim Ellis had a report from the Consultation in Peterborough which I was unable to attend due to needless difficulty in getting information about it. They shared notes from previous meetings and came to a decision that it was appropriate to start out with a wide group. They also discussed raising a fund.

They decided a province wide organization would be necessary. So, a board of seven directors was chosen, with Tim Ellis the only one from Toronto. He promised to send off his notes on the event with its various workshops.

Someone talked a bit about using blockchains for something to do with BI. What, was not clear. Finance it, perhaps? He said that because of a prophecy, we will all use it to reclaim our currency.

I discussed Robyn's idea of a speaker's bureau, and her presentation on the principles of a BI.. Three people expressed interest; Tim Ellis, Joey Caughey, and Matt Talsma. Also Duncan So. They hope she will give them more ammunition to take to the consultations being set up everywhere.

This led to some further discussions about what to recommend at the consultations. Someone from HSAG said that a BI has to be about Human Rights, not about poverty reduction. The present consultations are set up to fail and will start to break down. The messaging is all wrong.

I suggested that the question to ask is, what is the pilot supposed to show?

As for minutes and Agenda, Sasha has committed to do that. She will convene a conference call about it. Thus it

seems that Sasha and Tim Ellis will have responsibility to move the group forward for the time being.

It is not clear when the next meeting will be. They do not want to start doing it every two weeks. They may want to do something relating to Christmas.

After the meeting, I see briefly with Joey Caughey, who will liaise with the person actually doing the new web site. He is still unsure of what content he needs. I suggested a message board would be very helpful.

It seems the BITO group has solved some of its problems for now and will continue. The fatality rate among new social groups is very high, mostly because people have no idea of how to make one work. The people here do not know enough about the BI/GLI concept. They are making some big mistakes. The biggest is miscommunication due to obsession with inappropriate forms of social media.

However, they have achieved some things. They have access to space at Metro hall. They have a web site going. They are in communication with a few city councillors. It would be a shame if things fell apart now.

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BITO become Lobbyists!

The meeting between Matt and Mihevc went very well. He sent out a report about it. Here is a slightly condensed version of it, with much useful information about how city hall works.

UPDATE on BITO strategy to Lobby Toronto City Council for a BI endorsement

I had this meeting with Councillor Mihevc this past week at city hall and it was very productive. Mihevc is very supportive of the BI movement and was enthusiastic and eager to help us. Mihevc is a long time City Councillor and suggested what he thought was the best strategy, and volunteered to help us with this.

He suggested that before we want to bring any vote or anything to council, it's first best to get a signed letter of support from at least 23 sitting councillors (half (22) + 1 of the 44 total councillors). He said it is best to get signed commitment so that there is no flip flopping from "the mushy middle" (those city councillors in the political centre - neither outright progressive nor conservative).

Mihevc says that there are 10 -12 of his colleagues that are easy votes (progressives), and he has volunteered to gather those signatures for us on his own. So for this we need to produce a letter for him as soon as possible so that he can begin collecting signatures from the likely supportive councillors. I think this is a great opportunity that he has offered to collect these signatures for us and I think we should decide to follow up on it. I will draft up the letter and circulate it to everyone for feedback. I hope to get the letter finished for the councillor by Tuesday 29th Nov.

To collect the remaining 10 - 12 signatures required for majority support is going to be a bit more difficult, but Councillor Mihevc has offered to help us with this too. The strategy is to do a quick "elevator pitch" to the mushy middle councillors, and Mihevc said the best time to do this is during a Toronto City Council meeting. I didn't know this but the reason City Council meetings appear so chaotic (if you have ever seen one) is because that is the time that all the councillors are congregated in one place, and so, it is the best opportunity for lobbyists to efficiently make pitches to many city councillors.

The strategy is that a few of us members go to city hall on the afternoon of a council meeting, and are given a room where we can set up a quick presentation. Councillor Mihevc will go out and fish for councillors for us. He goes out and grabs one or two councillors at a time and convinces them to come listen to us for a few minutes. We deliver a quick pitch (we could have just a few powerpoint slides and a well rehearsed pitch), and we also have an information package to provide them. Either we can hopefully get a few more signatures on the spot, and/or follow up with the councillors once they have reviewed the provided information.

So for this second stage of the process (collecting the remaining signatures to make 23) we have a lot of preparatory work to do. Mihevc suggested at least 10 - 15-page information package that we need to make nice and professional looking. He showed me some examples of these from other lobby groups that were all flashy with branded portfolios/folders, with business cards, pamphlets, and colour printed and pictured info sheets inside. I dont think we need to do things so fancy, but we definitely need to get some good and professional looking material together.

Putting this information package together for the City Councillors will be a productive exercise in any case because it can also double as content for our website, info sheets we can bring to other events, and also just giving us some material to collectively work with as we go forward.

So this is something we need to work on over the next few weeks.

If you have time to contribute to this effort please let me know and we can put a working group together. Councillor Mihevc suggested we do the city councillor lobby at the next meeting....

I think this is a little ambitious,.... The next council meeting isn't until the end of January 2017, by which time I imagine we should definitely be prepared.

So, that is what is involved in getting an endorsement from city hall. It will be a worthwhile effort anyway for the BITO group, as it enables them to think about the information package. I think HSAG has some material they could use as well.

It is a good first project, something to bind the group together.

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“Put Food in the Budget” at the Hamilton Consultation

Here is the article in the local Hamilton paper about it

<http://www.thespec.com/news-story/6981562-minister-told-to-raise-welfare-rates-instead-of-consulting/>

Here is a short video of John Mills in action. He is also part of the Hamilton Basic Income group.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QLF3Co_RNFs&feature=youtu.be

Here is a copy of the leaflet given out. Someone in Toronto should print some more of them

http://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/putfoodinthebudget/mailings/46/attachments/original/joint_statement_handbill_FINAL_printer.pdf?1479909281

Here is the text of the emergency resolution

Whereas Senator Hugh Segal said: “It is hard to conclude that the income support that is now available for those living in poverty is adequate in any meaningful way”; Be it resolved that the Government of Ontario immediately raise the Ontario Works rate for a single individual to \$1,320 per month and raise ODSP rates by at least \$500 per month.

All in favour raise your hands!

Info on the next “Put food in the budget” campaign meeting is here.

http://www.putfoodinthebudget.ca/?utm_campaign=ba_backlash&utm_medium=email&utm_source=putfoodinthebudget

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Thats it for this week. The weightiest Newsbreeze yet. Things are getting exciting in Toronto. Next breeze is December 4.

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https://lists.livinggrant.ch/mailman/listinfo/toronto_livinggrant.ch

