

GLIful Newbreeze July 10 2016

Oh, flying farticles! I forgot to send this out on Sunday.

Korea 2016

I have been busy, with too many things going on. I would like to have followed the Korean BIEN congress more closely. It is now wrapped up.

The hashtag is #BIEN2016

The url for the congress site is at <http://bien2016.org/en/>

From what I have gathered, the Koreans did a very good job of hosting the event. The general assembly seems to have gone off well. That pleases me as I remember the rather sloppy assembly of 2014.

It seems they have decided to do these every year. The next will be in Lisbon, Portugal in June of 2017. After that, Tampere, Finland, in 2018. Personally, I would really love to get to the Finnish one.

They seem to have resolved their issue with the wording and description of a BI. Widerquist made a posting about it, with the new text. His message is at the bottom of this newsbreeze.

Widerquist is also said to have made a "thumping" speech about the need for BIEN to become a more effective organization.

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Linking Income Guarantee with Proportional Representation.

Now, the federal government wants to invite us to host an electoral reform dialogue in our community. That is timely because I have been talking with my old friends at Fair Vote Canada about holding a discussion on how BI/GLI and Proportional Representation could support each other. Especially, would proportional voting reform make it easier to achieve a Basic Income?

If you need a refresher about what FVC and proportional representation are about, their url is <http://www.fairvote.ca/>

Host a Canadian federal electoral reform dialogue in your community

<https://www.canada.ca/en/campaign/electoral-reform/participate-in-canadian-federal-electoral-reform-consultations/host-a-canadian-federal-electoral-reform-dialogue-in-your-community.html>

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Things are happening in Ontario

Ontario Establishing Income Security Reform Working Group

<https://news.ontario.ca/mcss/en/2016/06/ontario-establishing-income-security-reform-working-group.html>

The Basic Income groups around Ontario, including Toronto, should be making inquiries about this working group and how it links with the "pilot" of a Basic Income.

As well, Waterloo region is the latest urban government in Canada to endorse a Basic Income.

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Events coming up

The working group at Riverdale Community Health continues to meet every two weeks. The last time, they discussed how they could best define and promote a Basic Income. The next meeting is Thursday the 14th at 1:30 pm, at 955 Queen street east.

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The Korea Compromise

The compromise the definition & description of Basic Income worked out by a small-group yesterday (see below) was not as widely accept as we hoped. After wider discussions, a small group came up with the following revised compromise proposal. It will be presented to the General Assembly later today.

Definition in the current AISBL charter [Basic Income is] “an income unconditionally granted to all on an individual basis, without means test or work requirement” ASIBL amendment proposal: Change the above to:

[Basic Income is] “a periodic cash payment unconditionally delivered to all on an individual basis, without means test or work requirement”

Motion 1: BIEN officially endorses the following elaboration of that definition:

That is, Basic Income has the five following characteristics:

1. Periodic: it is paid at regular intervals (for example every month), not as a one-off grant
2. Cash payment: it is paid in an appropriate medium of exchange, allowing those who receive it to decide what they spend it on. It is not, therefore, paid either in kind (such as food or services) or in vouchers dedicated to a specific use.
3. Individual: it is paid on an individual basis—and not, for instance, to households
4. Universal: it is paid to all, without means test
5. Unconditional: it is paid without a requirement to work or to demonstrate willingness-to-work.

Motion 2: A majority of members attending BIEN’s General Assembly meeting in Seoul on July 9, 2016, agreed to support a Basic Income that is stable in size and frequency and high enough to be, in combination with other social services, part of a policy strategy to eliminate material poverty and enable the social and cultural participation of every individual. We oppose the replacement of social services or entitlements, if that replacement worsens the situation of relatively disadvantage, vulnerable, or lower-income people.

In keeping with BIEN’s charter (as an organization to “serve as a link between individuals and groups committed to, or interested in, basic income”), this motion is not binding on BIEN’s members or affiliates.