

# Toronto Guaranteed Living Income Newbreeze January 8th, 2017

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## Happy New Year!

I have been looking back over the 2016 editions of this mini-publication, which can be found at <http://www.livinggrant.ch/oldbreezes/top.html>

I started it soon after coming back from the BICN congress in Winnipeg. I could see there was a need for something which could keep BI/GLI activists informed about what was going on in Toronto. We had several groups working and yet they had to go to Winnipeg to find each other.

I also started a blog at about that time and put up part of my notes on the Winnipeg congress. I just realized I never finished this; never put up the last day's notes. These had a great deal of interesting and discouraging information about the Dauphin experiment for "pilot" enthusiasts. I have to get that finished soon.

There is a good reason for calling it the Guaranteed Living Income Newbreeze. That is something like the proper name for the idea I want to promote. For more on this vector, consult my friend Cynthia's article on this "basic question" <http://www.livableincome.org/abasicquestion.htm>

I have continued refining just what the income guarantee should be called. I have it down to "Constitutional Living Grant." Meaning; it must be guaranteed by the constitution of the country so that any right wing jerk-off cannot get into office and erase it the way the Canada Assistance Plan was in 1995. Also, it must be enough to actually live on and come in the form of a demogrant, not some sort of tax rebate con game.

As 2017 progresses, I will be discussing this in more detail at <http://blog.livinggrant.ch/> . This will of course put me in conflict with those who

buy into the negative income tax and conditional Basic Income scheme of these “pilots”. The thing to get into people’s heads, besides the above principles, is the no income guarantee scheme is testable. I mean, whatever it supposedly shows cannot be scaled up to the full society. Therefore, any “pilot” or “experiment” is a manipulation, a diversion, a cooptation.

Over the year, a membership has slowly built up. This week’s post is going out to 67 subscribers. There have been few cancellations although I have had a few cranks.

Someone went nuts because I ended up mailing her a notice for the October 6th meeting three times, due to conflicting lists I had acquired. She also thought I should put all this on MailChimp. I will not do that because MailChimp will sell your metadata to your good friends the marketers.

I found an app called Hoolie which can work on Mac and enable a non-proprietary e-mailer. It even has some facilities for composing newsletters. However, I have discovered that Bell’s system has some incompatibilities with it. Also I need a better contact manager. When I get enough money clear I will get a Contactizer or maybe a whole MAC office suite. It will make a lot of things simpler for me.

Someday. Meanwhile I continue to work this way. People generally seem okay with it. It will do until I have something with which I can do snazzy layouts and graphics but still use links. Links are vital or this.

No matter what I do or how I do it I will get attacks from nasty narcissist types. Their real problem is the anything they think anything they do not control is illegitimate; anything that does not conform to their narrative. So I have had somebody tell me to take a “course in etiquette” about what I should publish.

This was accompanied by a veiled threat; that some people do not appreciate my remarks. This came from someone “in” with the BICN as well as the “BITO” local group. This is a problem with any kind of social group; creeptard networks who are mostly interested in control.

I will discuss these sorts of problems in subsequent editions of Newsbreeze. All I will say now is that I am here to move the development of an income guarantees movement in an effective way by creating effective communications among legitimate activists. Anyone with a problem with that has a problem with the truth and better not try to interfere with me. I will also say that when a good collective develops, of people with good sense and a real commitment, these types of people go away.

During the past eight months we have seen the embryonic income guarantee movement in Ontario almost totally coopted by the provincial pilots. This is in line with what is going on world wide and is not unpredictable. With the global breakdown of capitalism people are starting to look to alternatives that allow people to live without being dependant on a job market or a social “welfare” system.

The system has reacted to protect itself from democracy in the way it usually does, by working to co-opt social movements. The way to co-opt income guarantees is by creating studies and tests and etc. Also, by framing the concept only as a replacement for the welfare system.

You can see the same kind of people who are always at work in anti poverty groups, steering them into “consultations” on “poverty reduction strategies”. They are working now inside the Basic Income groups to pilot us into... They always seek to control communications within and between groups; the big reason why they do not like what I am doing.

During the year I kept this project going despite some minor calamities. I had to replace my desktop PC in October which caused the usual sort of “pig in the python” financial problem. Then in December my web sites including Livingrant were down for three weeks due to some complicated problems regarding the international transfer of money.

I can make some more predictions about how things will work next year and further into the future. It is just possible that if I feed my python another pig I can make it to the 2017 BIEN congress in Portugal in September.

Other than that, I will work on trying to draw the serious antipoverty people, the ones who refused to be drawn into the provinces games, and who are now rightly contemptuous of the BI Pilots, to engage in the income guarantees movement. This is so the people who see through the manipulation are not completely outgunned by the pilot cult. As I keep saying, the fight is over a real income guarantee or a bad and false one; rejecting all income guarantees is not a real option.

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## **About HSAG group.**

We had some confusion about when the first meet up of the year would happen. Some people did not want to start on the 5th because it conflicted with something else they wanted to do every other Thursday. Some people were puzzled about how one person's availability decides the whole groups schedule. So we held an informal meeting and had some interesting discussions.

Attendance was pretty good despite the weather; actually better than the "Christmas party". We consumed some of the nibbles which did not get consumed then. They had been stored in the SRCHC kitchen and somebody made off with the ladyfingers. The custodian insists it was because they were not labelled properly. Hm.

We heard a tale of the "Put Food in the Budget" group. They started out at South Riverdale Community Health Centre (SRCHC) as another offshoot of HSAG a couple of years ago. They got forced out of there after pissing off premier Wynne.

They held an event at Daniels Spectrum in which an actress played Wynne, and got "put on trial". Wynne heard about this and began putting pressure on the management of SRCHC to remove them. SRCHC depends a lot on provincial funding. They were not formally kicked out; they just had a very hard time booking space, and got some other low level harassment, until they moved elsewhere. This is the kind of BS which HSAG/SHAPE must be wary of.

There was also debate about the HSAG name; Health and Strength Action Group. There was a consensus that it should be changed to SHAPE. I am not sure what that stands for, but it is no relation to “Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers Europe”. However, this decision must be confirmed by the regular session of HSAG on the 12th.

Robyn referred us to her lobbying handbook, which she believes is still on the social planning council’s web site. They do not know anymore that she originally wrote it for the “Spacing” group. Actually, it seems no longer to be on SPCTs web site, but maybe it can find a home on the Livingrant site.

We also learned about the basic problems with the Social Planning Council. The board contains many people who are also city staffers, who tend to put the damper on anything SPCT might do which might perturb the city bureaucracy.

Also, they keep bringing in all new people every few years, who have to recreate everything from scratch. So you have all these young people on staff who do not realize that most of the council are city staff, and so they have no institutional memory.

Paul and I were still unable to get the button maker to work. We are so brilliant! As well, the printed button faces are still the wrong size. It looks like if we want some buttons we better get some professionals to make them. If we keep messing around with that machine, we are going to wreck it.

We also did Robyn’s ‘thinking styles’ questionnaire and learned what type of thinkers we are. She also showed us the Neoliberal checklist and the Guaranteed Living Income Concept check list. She did not give us the answer key, but maybe next week. Readers are invited to try out the neoliberal checklist at <http://www.livingrant.ch/curdocs/Neoliberalchecksheets.pdf> on worthy subjects.

Other projects connected to HSAG/SHAPE are going ahead. We will soon be able to start training speakers for a GLI speakers bureau. Also,

we have negotiations going on with people at OISE ( Ontario Institute for Studies in Education ) to conduct a presentation or workshop on GLI for the benefit of the University of Toronto community.

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## Events coming up

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Of course, a HSAG/SHAPE meeting Thursday January 12 at South Riverdale Community Health Center , 955 Queen street east. 1:30 to 3:30 PM.

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Sometime in January, there will be a Basic Income Toronto Organization ( BITO ) meetup. I have had no word about it yet. The usual date is the third Tuesday of the month. This falls on the 17th.

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On January 12 at 12:30 there will be an information session on the Basic Income pilot at 40 Oak street in Regent Park. This is organized by the Yonge street mission group. Of course, this conflicts with the HSAG/SHAPE meeting.

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## Here are a couple of very interesting Videos

Something good to start off the New Year with. **Guy Standing's "Lady of the Future" video.**

<http://basicincome.org/news/2016/12/video-guy-standing-impending-revolt-precariat/>

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**Here is the Campfire Convention panel “Universal Basic Income: A Utopian Vision or a Viable Reality?”**

This is very much worth sitting and listening to on a cold winter's night. What strikes me is how much better these people are at having a discussion than most North American people. Also, they are far more advanced on the concepts related to an income guarantee; just so much better informed! A true GLI is not going to happen first in Canada.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WVciD5iJ150>

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**Here is some good BI/GLI reading**

**John Clarke's latest**

[www.socialistproject.ca/bullet/1350.php](http://www.socialistproject.ca/bullet/1350.php)

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**Here is CCPAs reader on BI in danger of being overlooked. The 6 principles from Anita Khanna are especially useful**

[https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National%20Office,%20Ontario%20Office/2016/10/CCPA%20ON%20Basic%20Income\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National%20Office,%20Ontario%20Office/2016/10/CCPA%20ON%20Basic%20Income_FINAL.pdf)

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**Next GLI news breeze January 15.**

