

# Guarantee Living Income Toronto Newsbreeze April 30, 2017.

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**Mayday! Mayday! Mayday!**

It is May day again! Traditionally this was the day of Labor. Some of the more leftie organizations are trying to move labor celebrations back to May 1st. But the more orthodox trade union types still hold the main labor celebration in September. Labor day in September was originally made an official holiday as a way of dividing the labor movement.

Proponents of a Basic Income, properly understood, should have some regard for Mayday. The aim of a BI properly understood is to free people from servile labor for other people. That is the same as the aim of the original trade union movement from back in 1886.

We are not going to make progress toward a real BI until the BI movement starts working at getting labor onside. Labor is going to continue to decline until it gets its head out of industrial age thinking and adopts BI as key to achieving their goals. I mean a real BI, not the nonsense the province and many people in BICN have come up with.

Here is something about the history of Mayday. <https://www.socialistproject.ca/leftstreamed/ls348.php>

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Also on May 1st;

**Hugh Segal is holding an event in downtown Toronto.** It costs \$20 to get in the door. Some of us don't have that kind of money to throw around.. If we had more advance warning, we could have asked about reduced rates or free for people with small incomes.

Someone on this list with some money could go into this meeting and give us a report on it. If we were better organized, we could leaflet this event.

If we could get a few BI/GLI people into the room we could ask a number of questions which need to be asked about this project. My favourite one would be; why was the only model of a BI considered, the one shown in the “experiments” of the 1970s to not really work very well?

As well, why is the logical way to establish a basic income, a demogrant delivered by extending the Guaranteed Income Supplement to everyone, never considered?

Obviously, Ontario cannot afford by itself to deliver any kind of useful BI, only the federal government can do that, so what is the point to this BI experiment?

[https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/a-basic-income-pilot-project-an-evening-with-hugh-segal-tickets-33870284934?ref=eattnewsrecs&utm\\_source=strongmail&utm\\_medium=discovery&utm\\_campaign=newsletter&utm\\_content=EBrecommend&utm\\_term=eventcard&afu=18953771119&rank=1&aff=eattnewsrecs](https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/a-basic-income-pilot-project-an-evening-with-hugh-segal-tickets-33870284934?ref=eattnewsrecs&utm_source=strongmail&utm_medium=discovery&utm_campaign=newsletter&utm_content=EBrecommend&utm_term=eventcard&afu=18953771119&rank=1&aff=eattnewsrecs)

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This is the **problem with the present BI movement in Canada**, based on the Basic Income Canada network and allowing on the worldwide BIEN movement. It cannot produce any critical analysis of anything because the people behind it have no idea what they really want, what a real BI would look like.

To illustrate this, here is their “Basic Income We Want” document. I read it and am no further enlightened about what their vision is. It could be used to support almost anything.

<http://www.basicincomecanada.org/the basic income we want>

And they do not even stick to that! There are elements of the provincial pilot plan and even the proposals of some NDP candidates, which do not comply with it. In particular, these will not leave people in deep poverty substantially better off. The amounts attainable will still be well below the poverty line.

The worst thing about this document is that it does not spell out what kind of BI they don't want. It does not rule out stuff like a wage clawback, and so that is exactly what we have with the "pilot". Most importantly, it does not require that a BI be funded by a tax on wealth, so that the deeply impoverished are not being subsidized by the somewhat better off, while the really wealthy pay little, and thus keeping the poor at each other's throats.

Also, they can't get it that different ideas of BI are incompatible with each other. They come from fundamentally different conceptions of society which will not be reconciled. Mainly, libertarianism, neoliberalism, and socialism.

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## **UBIE springs forward- Much to learn from them**

But there is hope! In some areas, people are switching from passively and abstractly philosophizing about BI to active advocacy and strategizing about it. There is the new UBIE group in Europe. This grew out of the effort to organize a petition and referendum in the European union about it.

The effort was squelched by the famously anti democratic European Union bureaucracy in Brussels, but it sparked a more activist approach. This led to the referendum campaign in Switzerland, which also failed but was very valuable to the development of a BI movement. It kept the idea alive that the BI needs to conform to the actual cost of living.

Here is their new web page.

<http://mailchi.mp/basicincome-europe/ubi-europe-springs-forward-after-london?e=d274e3c516>

Here is a bare bones example of some of the strategizing models they are using. It is worth looking at by BI activists in Canada.

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Long-term outcomes: what is the outcome the organization seeks to accomplish?

Precondition: What steps are needed to achieve this?

Causality: How is this action sufficient and necessary?

Hypotheses: on what beliefs is this causality based?

Intervention: What can the organization do to cause the desired causality?

Indicators: How can we verify that causality works, that the desired result is achieved?

Phase 1:

On what preconditions can the organization bring about change?

What are the unattainable preconditions for the organization?

Are other organizations already working on certain preconditions?

What are the domino preconditions?

Phase 2:

What activities / projects are underway or planned that are contributing to change?

What are the strategies for accelerating / contributing / influencing change?

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## Canada poverty reduction strategy

More on activism, why are more people not trying to get the BI idea into this “strategy” ?

[http://esdc-consultations.canada.ca/poverty-reduction-strategy?mc\\_cid=bfce5fcdc4&mc\\_eid=fd0607d7a8](http://esdc-consultations.canada.ca/poverty-reduction-strategy?mc_cid=bfce5fcdc4&mc_eid=fd0607d7a8)

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## More argumentation on BI,

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Four (more) arguments against “real-world” basic income

<http://rozworski.org/political-eh-economy/2017/04/25/four-more-arguments-against-real-world-basic-income/>

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George Orwell on “Useless Work”

<https://shift.newco.co/george-orwell-and-useless-work-2a6a1878b13e>

This is something from earlier in the last century that speaks to the present day discussion about “bullshit jobs”. Jobs are about control. Orwell explains well the immobilizing effect of poverty upon the mind.

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Basic Income and the Left: The Political and Economic Problems

[www.socialistproject.ca/bullet/1402.php](http://www.socialistproject.ca/bullet/1402.php)

The left arguments against BI are valid. However, they are valid against the BI that is being proposed, not against the proper expression of the concept.

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### **The Basic Income “Salons” are still on.**

The next one is scheduled for May 4, 2 to 4 pm at the Ralph Thornton Center, 765 Queen street east.

Another one will be at the Ralph Thornton on May 18 and this one will be in the evening, 7 to 9.

We will eventually find the secret to getting people up off their asses to learn about, and start to do something about, a Basic Income .

After May, we will take our show on the road for awhile. Robyn is preparing to present her “workshops”. I am working on a presentation of my own which can work on power point or just as a standup talk.

We can take these to community groups around the city.

I think our approaches complement each other. People should hear Robyn first. Her approach is more philosophical. Mine is more practical.

Coming to your neighbourhood this year. ( We hope)

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**Next Newsbreeze will be due May 7th.**