Building & Mobilizing Local Support for Basic Income

NABIG CONGRESS-2018
Why we decided to present...

- Our shared vision for Basic Income and NABIG themes
- Recognised value and power of local organizing
- To share our experiences and enthusiasm
- To encourage conversations about building & mobilizing local support
Basic Income Peterborough Network (BIPN)

Who we are

- Formed in 2015 at a grassroots workshop
- Response to depth of poverty in Peterborough
- Planning team of community volunteers and organization reps
- Dozens of supporters
- Linked to OBIN and BICN
- People coming together with a shared vision and commitment

Image from: https://grassrootsinnovations.org
Shared Vision

“The Basic Income We Want”
“The Basic Income We Want”

An income to meet life’s basic needs
Our Goal

Build public support in the Peterborough area for a provincial & national Basic Income Guarantee
Basic Income Peterborough Network (BIPN)

Our activities are guided by three main objectives:

- Raise awareness
- Secure and maintain support from local agencies and political leaders
- Build capacity
Awareness - Raising

Almost 4 million Canadians live in poverty...

A Basic Income Guarantee means that everyone has an income that meets life’s basic needs, guaranteed by the government to all.

Why is a Basic Income Guarantee better?
- Simpler to apply and administer
- Encourages paid and unpaid work
- Supports dignity and equality
- Proven to reduce poverty rates
- Proven to reduce health care costs

What can you do?
- Learn more about BIG and help spread the word
- Volunteer to help with our work locally
- Go to www.biencanada.ca to learn more
- Current income assistance programs trap recipients in poverty.

Local contacts:
Jason Hartwick - jason_hartwick@yahoo.ca
Susan Hubay - hubay@sympatico.ca

What’s the problem?
Almost four million Canadians live in poverty - one quarter are children.
Current income assistance programs trap recipients in poverty.
People working two or even three part-time jobs can’t make ends meet.

What’s a Basic Income Guarantee - BIG?
A BIG provides an income sufficient for life’s basic needs, guaranteed by the government to all. Like universal health care, it’s unconditional.
Awareness - Raising
Awareness – Raising
Web and Social Media

http://nourishproject.ca/basic-income-peterborough-network
Awareness - Raising

- Newspaper articles, newsletters
- Community Webinar
- Presentations to agencies, networks
- Exciting speaker series
THE TOWN WITH NO POVERTY
BUILDING THE CASE FOR A
BASIC INCOME GUARANTEE
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2016  7:00PM - 8:30PM
185 King Street, Peterborough

@NourishProject  @NourishNews  www.nourishproject.ca
Awareness – Raising Speaker Series

BASIC INCOME & THE RIGHT TO HEALTHY FOOD

Monday October 16, 2017
7:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.
Peterborough Public Health
185 King Street, Peterborough

PUBLIC TALK

Josephine Grey
Human Rights Activist and founder of Low Income Families Together

Join us for a community talk that will connect the dots between basic income and the human right to food.
LINDSAY BASIC INCOME PILOT PROJECT

THURSDAY MAY 3, 2018
7:00pm-8:30pm

Peterborough Public Health
195 King Street, Peterborough

The Basic Income Peterborough Network presents a panel discussion about Lindsay’s Basic Income Pilot Project.

Free. All welcome.

In April 2017, the provincial government launched a basic income pilot project. Out of 4000 participants in Ontario, half will come from Lindsay. This means that Lindsay is at the heart of this innovative pilot. What happens there will tell us how receiving higher incomes will impact not only the lives of people involved in the project, but also
Securing & Maintaining Support

- Developed a local BIPN Resolution → endorsements
- Arranged timely and ongoing meetings with municipal, provincial and federal representatives
- All-Candidates meetings, Political Party Resolutions
- Working to engage local business leaders
Municipal Endorsements
Education & Capacity-Building

- Learning from each other with mutual respect and appreciation
- Local discussion group
- Literature and media tracking
- Contributing to Ontario Basic Income Network, Basic Income Canada Network
Key Lessons Learned
Co-chair model & inclusive BIPN membership

- Shared leadership & involvement of people from diverse backgrounds creates synergy
- Involvement of people with lived experience is key
Go to where people are
Create a culture of engagement

- How can we engage people in conversations about BI?

- Create opportunities for voices to be heard
  e.g. community dinners with presentations; pop-up consultations at malls/shelters, attend festivals/events, BI videos, photo booth

Basic Income would mean... “buying everything I need without depending on charity handouts”
Keep building momentum & working for change

- Planning new activities/actions towards our goal:
  
  e.g. Lindsay Basic Income Pilot panel, meeting with local provincial candidates, All Candidates meetings, working on updating and securing new endorsements
Make connections; working together

- Ontario Basic Income Network (OBIN), Basic Income Canada Network (BICN)
- Connecting with other local groups and learning from each other
Closing Comments

- Peterborough is experiencing the benefits and excitement of building & mobilizing local support for Basic Income
- People working side by side with a shared vision
- Hoping to contribute to conversations & learn from others about local organizing and building momentum

Image from: https://livinglifeinbetween.wordpress.com/2015/04/02/the-consciousness-ripple-effect/
More Information

Website: http://nourishproject.ca/basic-income-peterborough-network

Facebook: Basic Income Peterborough Network

Twitter: #basicincomextbo

Video of Panel Discussion: Lindsay Basic Income Pilot Project: https://youtu.be/O2rQTiTTAxQ

Video of Dr. Forget’s presentation: http://www.nourishproject.ca/video/town-with-no-poverty
Comments? Questions?