

BIG AND YOUTH: IMAGINING IMPLICATIONS

NOTES FROM NABIG MAY 2018 CONFERENCE, SATURDAY WORKSHOP ON YOUTH

IF BIG is achieved, then how (if at all) will it support youth in the necessary work of reconciliation of our colonial past/present?

- Need to make sure Basic Income isn't a replacement for reparations and building infrastructure
 - Clean drinking water, adequate housing
 - "You already get a basic income...what more do you want?"
 - Must be adequate for costs in reserve communities
 - Has to be seen in comparison to how many resources (timber, oil, etc.) has been extracted
- Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action (e.g. Health...prepare medical parties to be aware of Indigenous perspectives + needs)
- Could free up time for healing work (and the rest that requires) individually, as communities, and between indigenous, settler and immigrant youth
- Could be politically empowering
 - Allow organizers to focus on bigger goals
 - MLK/Poor People's Campaign talked about this
 - Alleviate racial tension based on scarcity?
 - Money for building toward self-government, going to school, finding employment, etc.
- Still will be behind in many factors such as job opportunities
- Indigenous youth suffer from the worst quality of life measures by all health scales
- Indigenous youth are the fastest growing population in Canada

IF BIG was achieved, then how could it support and/or hinder young people transitioning into more sustainable lifestyles individually and societally?

- Space and time for innovation and experimentation!
- Space and time for political empowerment to achieve reforms like caps on wealth, tax reform
- Freedom not to work "bullshit jobs"
- Time to create 'commons' sharing economy
- Increases choices such as not driving /commuting
- Veganism: BIG = more money to eat sustainably - help us move off meat; ability to eat well without meat which is a major climate driver
- BIG would support and encourage work for a better world
- Frees up mental and physical resources to allow people to do work they care about
- Time and space to understand better choices like less material greed
- Those displaced by automation can survive and thrive + new job creation

- If education is available, most youth able to learn. BIG will support taking green jobs and be invested in sustainable
- More power to workers to choose between conditions
- Could encourage more consumerism and waste
- Time to mend/repair items and goods and clothes rather than dispose and replace
- Time to garden/produce food and upcycle products
- Need to be educated better on use of money
- Possibility to change hearts and minds and free them from status quo
- Freedom from Debt Slavery – frees up choices to live well and wise

BIG can be executed in many ways. In the context of increased bureaucracy and reduced social supports, if BIG was achieved, then how can we see it increasing or decreasing access to (existing) support systems for youth?

- John fostered 3 homeless youth. If BIG existed there could be less need for fostering as they would have some income to support themselves – how young can youth access BIG? Especially when they leave home?
- BIG could encourage de-commodification of education (university)
- Can give young people time to learn about themselves
- Less entrapment of the system
- Less criminalization
- More music, more creativity
- Don't need to rely on government grants

IF BIG is achieved, what social structures and tools could we use or develop to further enable youth self-determination individually and as a community?

- Employment supports
 - Not everyone can be an entrepreneur on their own
 - Cooperatives
 - Networks for partnership and mutual benefit
- Support a time for fully engaged and informed parenting!
- Financial literacy in school
 - Taxes, mortgages, how to buy and maintain a car, investments, credit education
- Bartering and indirect bartering/community currencies such as time banking
- Co-operative economics – pool part of BIG to invest in projects, co-ops, etc.
- Time to invest in and cultivate community
- Education around care and planning
- Support in taking a gap year between high school and higher education
- Time to engage in innovation

IF BIG was achieved, what will change or remain the same for youth, thinking about our intersecting differences such as race, status, gender, class, etc.?

- Access to land
- Possibly opens more time to reinvent social fabric
- Income gives choice – could end generational cycles of poverty
- Opportunities for women to leave abusive home lifes
- Change the power structures in families
- Opportunity for parents to model career for children that is driven by passion not salary – follow your life path not just a job
- BIG is not enough to end racism or any of the isms
- Could give us more time to heal and to think as a society
- Could support more diversity across neighbourhoods and cities too expensive to live in for most