

Basic Income Series Speaker List

July 8th



Tom Cooper – For the past nine years, Tom Cooper has served as Director of the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction - a collaborative organization formed to tackle the City's unacceptable levels of poverty. Through the Roundtable's work, Tom has engaged governments at all levels to invest in poverty reduction initiatives and worked to give people experiencing poverty a voice in the decisions that affect their lives. He's advocated for social assistance rates that reflect the real costs of living, fought to end to predatory lending in Ontario and helped co-found the Ontario Living Wage Network - an initiative of 30 Ontario communities endeavouring to address working poverty. Tom, was involved in helping to establish Ontario's first basic income pilot: a critical research project testing whether providing a

basic income could stabilize housing, improve health and enhance social inclusion opportunities for low income residents. That pilot project was pre-maturely cancelled last summer by a new government, and Tom continues to advocate on behalf of 4,500 pilot participants for a political or legal resolution. In 2017, the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction was recognized with the national 'Leadership in Poverty Reduction Award' by Vibrant Communities Canada for "stellar leadership in advancing poverty reduction".



Evelyn L. Forget is an economist and professor in Community Health Sciences at the University of Manitoba. She is best known for her work on Basic Income, which includes a re-analysis of the Mincome Basic Income Experiment. She has published widely and often advises governments, international bodies and First Nations on health policy. Her most recent book is Basic Income for Canadians: the key to a healthier, happier, more secure life for all.



Sheila Regehr is a founding member of the Basic Income Canada Network, and its Chairperson since 2014. She is also a former Executive Director of the National Council of Welfare, an independent advisory body to the federal government that published comparative reports on Canada's provincial and territorial social assistance systems, comprehensive poverty profiles, and analytic reports focused on solutions. It consulted across the country with governments and civil society from 2006 to 2012 as provinces, territories and municipalities were undertaking poverty reduction strategies. Its last and most in-demand report was The Dollars and Sense of Solving Poverty.



James Collura is a former UBI participant, aspiring artist and entrepreneur, and a McMaster University Economics graduate. He is fascinated by and well versed on the effects that technology and automation are having on job markets, and how they are changing the way people derive a sense of meaning and purpose in life.

https://www.raisethehammer.org/article/3626/my_experience_with_ontarios_basic_income_pilot

July 22



Jim Dunn is a Professor of Health Aging and Society at McMaster University and holds the Senator William McMaster Chair in Urban Health Equity. He has been researching socio-economic inequalities in health for over 20 years and until its cancellation, was co-leading the evaluation of the Ontario Basic Income Pilot. <https://hamiltonpoverty.ca/preview/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/OBIP-Baseline-Survey-Preliminary-Analysis-1.pdf>



Mike Perry: A lawyer and social worker by profession, Mike is Executive Director of the City of Kawartha Lakes Family Health Team. Mike has taught at Carleton University and was most recently recognized as "Citizen of the Year" for his community building work. Mike is a proud past member of the Canadian Armed Forces Reserves and has presented work at Oxford and Yale universities. Following the provincial government's cancellation of the Ontario Basic Income Pilot in 2018, Mike represented four basic income participants from Lindsay at a judicial review. [https://globalnews.ca/video/4981192/a-class-action-lawsuit-is-being-launched-over-the-ontario-governments-decision-to-scratch-the-basic-income-pilot-project-a-year-before-it-](https://globalnews.ca/video/4981192/a-class-action-lawsuit-is-being-launched-over-the-ontario-governments-decision-to-scratch-the-basic-income-pilot-project-a-year-before-it-was-set-to-end)

[was-set-to-end](https://globalnews.ca/video/4981192/a-class-action-lawsuit-is-being-launched-over-the-ontario-governments-decision-to-scratch-the-basic-income-pilot-project-a-year-before-it-was-set-to-end)



Laura Cattari works with the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction as campaign coordinator and was a participant in the Ontario Basic Income Pilot project. She was previously a member of Ontario's income security working group co-authoring, [Income Security: A Roadmap for Change](#). Cattari serves as Board President of Canada Without Poverty; its goal the relief of poverty through the realization of human rights. Laura also sits on the board of the Hamilton Community Foundation.



Dana Bowman is a Lindsay resident on disability support. She suffers from chronic pain due to fibromyalgia and osteoarthritis. She participated in the Ontario Basic Income Income Pilot and was a representative plaintiff when a group of Lindsay pilot participants challenged in court the provincial government's decision to cancel the Ontario basic income pilot. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/i-m-hoarding-ontario-s-basic-income-recipients-prepare-for-program-s-early-end-1.5066771>

August 12



Scott Santens is a writer and advocate of basic income for all. He's a member of the U.S. Basic Income Guarantee Network, moderator of the /r/BasicIncome community on Reddit, and founder of The BIG Patreon Creator Pledge. He lives in New Orleans and blogs at scottisantens.com.



Jamie Cooke leads the development of the 'Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce' activity in Scotland, through innovative partnerships, projects and programmes of activity. He works with Fellows to strengthen RSA Scotland's impact, and to open up new ways to develop opportunities in Scotland which contribute to the RSA's strategic objectives. Particular areas of interest include basic income, inclusive growth, the role of cities and Scotland's relationship with the rest of the world. RSA recently released a report proposing basic income pilots in Scotland: <https://www.thersa.org/discover/publications-and-articles/reports/basic-income-scotland>



Jessie Golem has been involved in photography, from weddings, to portraits, to events, for almost ten years. Her passion for adventure has led her to a number of exciting and unique photography experiences. In 2018 Jessie used her skills in photography to produce a photo series called Humans of Basic Income that amplifies the stories of the recipients of the prematurely cancelled Basic Income Pilot Project in Ontario. Her photos have been featured on CBC, The Huffington Post, the Toronto Star, the Lindsay Advocate, the Moonshot Podcast in Australia, and Kyoto News in Japan.