

BASIS of AFFILIATION for JOINING OBIN

Purpose

The Ontario Basic Income Network's (OBIN) aim is to bring about the implementation of a basic income program that is adequately funded, universal*, unconditional, and will leave no low-income person worse off. Such a program will function as a complement to livable minimum wage laws and existing social support programs that are efficient and effective.

Objective

OBIN works to increase public understanding of and lobby governments for the implementation of basic income by building and strengthening the network of advocates in Ontario, as outlined in the Framework document below.

* At the present time, there are a number of significant issues subject to vigorous debate among progressive basic income advocates, such as the choice between the income-tested model of basic income (which is universal in access) and the universal demogrant model (which is universal in delivery). It is not the intention of this Basis of Affiliation to foreclose those discussions, but rather to provide a strong network within which colleagues can continue to explore the ramifications of different approaches.

The Framework

The structure for the OBIN includes the following elements:

- All affiliated individuals and groups in the Province
- A Coordinating Team (C-Team) composed of
 - A Facilitator
 - Five Coordinators
 - Optional topical teams that can be appointed by the Coordinators on either a short- or long-term basis as need be

In the event of competition for any of the above positions that cannot be worked out informally, there will be an appeal to OBIN to resolve the matter, using an on-line consultation and selection process and voting if necessary. The C-Team will work interactively with OBIN in whatever ways are mutually

agreeable. The C-Team will be kept as small as is feasible in order to encourage horizontal interaction and meetings as frequently as necessary. The C-Team will be accountable to OBIN, to which the Facilitator will report in writing at least twice each year. Areas of responsibility for the Facilitator and the five Coordinators (along with whatever co-positions are in place) are described below. All will be responsible for working to build and sustain the movement. Coordinators will propose a mandate and plan at the beginning of each year for review and approval by the C-Team.

Some activities are suggested below for each Coordinator, but the list is not meant to be compulsory or complete.

Term commitments for each position will be for a year at a time and positions will not have term limits. At least one month prior to year-end, if possible, position-holders will indicate to the Facilitator whether they are interested in continuing or whether they want to leave the position. If a position becomes vacant, volunteers should indicate their interest in taking on this role.

All Coordinators will be empowered to interact directly with OBIN as suitable

- by encouraging reciprocal communication about their areas of responsibility
- by receiving, proposing, and helping to coordinate collaborative initiatives for OBIN or with particular affiliated groups or solo activists
- by recruiting volunteer OBIN members to join short or longer term “Topical Teams” to work with them as circumstances require

More specifically:

1. Internal Relations Coordinator: promoting the expansion of OBIN through the active recruitment, education and mentoring of new volunteers and potential new group initiators; sharing useful materials and information regarding local initiatives; developing common actions and language; organizing meetings within the Network and discussions of various kinds, etc. By facilitating network communication and collaboration, they should foster a sense of community within OBIN.

2. External Relations Coordinator: building relations with other provincial allied organizations/campaigns, labour unions, BICN, governments, etc.

3. Promotions and Communications Coordinator: creating online and hard copy publications, promotional materials, and videos; developing and maintaining a website and database; developing tag lines, communications strategies and associated plans; organizing communications content; handling relations with the media, interviews, etc.

4. Special Projects Coordinator: responding to pilots, elections, and other major but time-limited projects arising from the current political and social environment in order to strengthen OBIN’s advocacy efforts and advance basic income on the political scene; promoting public understanding of the experiences of basic income pilot participants; conducting screenings of the Mincome documentary in Ontario communities; drafting editorials and op-eds in major media outlets to expand public awareness and understanding of basic income. This role will enable the C-Team to deal flexibly and in a timely manner with significant events that affect the basic income movement.

5. Youth Coordinator: increasing awareness of and support for a basic income among youth in Ontario; developing a network of youth advocates for basic income and liaising between the youth network and the C-Team; starting and supporting initiatives targeted specifically for youth; building

relationships with allied student/youth organizations. This person will work in collaboration with the National Youth Coordinator.

6. Facilitator: keeping the C-Team functioning effectively, focusing on avoiding overlap, troubleshooting, and planning C- Team meetings; acting as spokesperson for the C-Team as a whole to OBIN by preparing bi-annual reports, etc. This person will create topical teams as necessary to administer finances, compile minutes and action lists, proof-read documents, etc.

Note: The Facilitator and the 5 Coordinators are strongly encouraged to select people for co-positions as soon as possible. We consider the co-positions highly important for the ongoing functionality of the C-Team. As OBIN is a volunteer network, it is inevitable that changes in members' health, paid work, and/or family lives will interfere with their available time and energy for OBIN work. Co-coordinators will work and share responsibilities in whatever ways work well for them. Sharing responsibilities can both protect C-Team projects from languishing and spread out the workload when the work becomes too heavy for a single person.

Topical Teams

The Coordinators may enlist the help of one or more short- or longer-term topical teams to help them meet their general responsibilities. The Coordinators will propose a team mandate, recruit volunteers from OBIN, and disband the team when the work is completed. The topical teams will be accountable to the C-Team leader. Volunteers to fill them need to be selected by the relevant Facilitator/Coordinators to ensure the potential for effective working relationships.

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