Basic Income Forum

Registration and coffee at 8:30am

9:00am- Welcome

9:05-10am- Resilience of the Human Spirit: Melanie Willard

Adventurous, passionate, and a fighter who is no stranger to adversity, Melanie has overcome many life threatening battles such as cancer, loss, eating disorders, domestic abuse and addictions. In her 20s Melanie traveled to the U.S., Europe, and the Middle East as a missionary working with schools, native communities, prisons, churches, women and homeless shelters. For over a decade she pioneered and managed a national network of chaplains the “Billy Graham Rapid Response Team” who deployed to assist victims of crisis and disasters across North America including Hurricane Katrina 2005, Vancouver Olympics 2010, Southern Alberta Flood 2013, and the Moncton RCMP Shooting 2014. She recruited and developed these responders and trained over 2500 individuals across Canada from 2006-2014.

10am-10:15am- Break

10:15 - 11:00am- Basic Income: Why, What, and How: Rob Rainer, Basic Income Advocate, Chair, Ontario Basic Income Network, Member, Advisory Council of Basic Income Canada Network

Born and raised in North Vancouver, Rob Rainer has lived for extensive periods of time in New Brunswick and the National Capital Region. He now resides in the countryside near Perth and devotes his work primarily to two passions: basic income and biodiversity conservation. Since early 2013 Rob has been a driving force for the current Canadian basic income movement and prior to then was, for nearly six years, the executive director of Canada Without Poverty. Rob is the inaugural Chair of the provisional steering committee of Ontario Basic Income Network and is a member of the Advisory Council of Basic Income Canada Network. One of his favourite quotes about basic income is "A no-strings basic income? If it can work for the Royal Family it can work for us all!"

11:00-11:45pm- A Basic Income for Canadians: What would change?: John Stapleton

John Stapleton worked for the Ontario Government in the Ministry of Community and Social Services and its predecessors for 28 years in the areas of social assistance policy and operations. During his early career, John was senior policy advisor to the Social Assistance Review Committee and the Minister’s Advisory Group on New Legislation. His more recent government work concerned the implementation of the National Child Benefit. He is a Commissioner with the Ontario Soldiers’ Aid Commission and is a volunteer with West Neighbourhood House and Wood Green Community Services of Toronto. John was Research Director for the Task Force on Modernizing Income Security for Working-Age Adults in Toronto and was the co-chair of the working group associated with this project. He is undertaking an Innovations Fellowship with the Metcalf Foundation. He teaches public policy and is a member of the 25 in 5 anti-poverty group. He sits on the Minister of Community and Social Services advisory group on social assistance reform and Toronto’s advisory group on poverty reduction. John serves on the Board of Directors of the Daily Bread Food Bank, West Scarborough Community Legal Services, and a member of the Council on Aging of Ottawa’s Expert Panel on Income Security. He is the President of the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame.

11:45-1:00pm- Lunch: Leather Works Catering

1:00-2:30pm: Discussion, Debate and Questions: Richard Shillington

Richard Shillington has post-graduate degrees in statistics from the University of Waterloo. He has been engaged in the quantitative analysis of health, social and economic policy for the past 30 years. His research has covered several policy fields; health manpower planning, program evaluation, income security, poverty, tax policy and human rights. He has worked for several provincial and federal departments as well as commissions studying the economy, unemployment insurance, human rights and tax policy. He appears regularly before committees of the House of Commons and the Senate. He also provides commentaries regularly for television, radio and newspapers on issues of taxation, human rights and social policy.

2:30pm: Wrap up