



Spinofff

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA
Graeme Fraser, President

September 7 2021 Editor: Don Butler

PROGRAM: Chloe Halpenny & Kendal David: Universal Basic Income and youth activism

Meeting Video: <https://youtu.be/ZT525NXd69Q>

President Graeme Fraser welcomed all to the to the 10th meeting of this Rotary Year and again acknowledged that we are meeting on traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinabeg people. We recognize and deeply appreciate their historic connection to this place. Afterwards **Brett Brooking** ran a video of O Canada played on bagpipes by kilted pipers from various regiments.

President Graeme then introduced the guests for this meeting: Theresa Jamone who has now submitted her application to join us (welcome, Theresa), former WOer Brian Foster and today' speakers Chloe Halpenny and Kendal David.

Presentation:

Gaye Moffett stood in for **Larry Chop**, who was visiting his Granddaughter (**Larry's** cap) in Guelph, to introduce our speakers who are co-founders and co-chairs of Basic income Canada Youth Network. BICYN, grouping people under age 35, is part of the Basic Income Canada Network (<https://basicincomecanada.org>) which advocates assuring everyone an income to meet basic needs and live with dignity. **Gaye** told us Kendal had a Bachelor of Social Work degree from U Calgary and was working on a PhD in social work at Carleton University. Chloe had a BA in Public Affairs and Policy Management from Carleton University and an MSc in Social Policy from LSE supported by a Rotary Grant scholarship followed by an MPhil from Cambridge University. Both Chloe and Kendal had worked on basic income (BI) pilot projects such as the short lived Ontario program cancelled with a change in government.

Taking turns our speakers stressed that BI should be in cash to allow recipients total flexibility and not e.g. in housing or food stamps. It should be universal with those not needing it paying it back in taxes. BI trials all over the world show that it has little effect

on employment and results in improved education, physical and mental health, less crime and stimulation for local economies. Young people can plan with less uncertainty. Support is not as available as it was in the 1970s. Job opportunities for the young are fewer. Real tuition costs have more than doubled. BI allows the young to pursue education, socially valued but non remunerative activities like caregiving and entrepreneurship with creation of new enterprises. BI is supported by the young who are a large share of the Canadian population, more of them vote, they are passionate and they are active.

Q&As Answering **Gaye** on party support we learned that the Greens and the NDP support BI, individual Liberal MPs support but it is not party policy. **Jim Maxwell** commented that Hugh Segal had told us of civil servant resistance to BI as a threat to their jobs. He then asked how our speakers would tackle taxpayer resistance to BI. Kendal said that she understood that public servants would rather be creative in helping people than keep watch on the recipients of social assistance. Chloe added that public servant unions were coming to accept BI. BI reduces health care costs, and incarceration can cost \$100 K per inmate per year and may be prevented by a BI of \$20K. **Jim Maxwell** asked when Chloe would run for parliament. "Not this year." **Gaye** thanked our speakers and told them of our donation to End Polio to mark their visit with us.

Birthdays:

President Graeme told us these announcements would thenceforth be 'sponsored' by the RCWO Foundation for which **Ron Doll** would now speak.

Happy Birthday to **Eric Armstrong** Sept 7 and to **Rob Shaw Wood** Sept 13

President Graeme added some levity with a sally about the Irish having invented one the most annoying musical instruments, the bagpipes, and giving them to the Scots as a joke. And the Scots never got the joke.

Ron Doll told us the previous weekend's wine tasting with 12 members had been very successful. And then took us to-----

Happy Dollars

Pat **Henry (Keith's partner)** happy and sad to advise that Tops Car Wash was sold.

Tom Belton noted that chances to have a free wash were running out

Rob Shaw Wood commented that **his** birthday was on the anniversary of the Battle of the Plains of Abraham.

Pardeep Ahluwalia thanked **President Graeme** for not including singing in public in the list of annoying instruments. And thanked **Ron Doll** for organizing the very pleasant wine tasting.

Bill Rolph had enjoyed another weekend with his grandchildren and been surprised at how much the younger ones had grown and matured in the 8 weeks since last seeing them.

Denzil Feinberg commented from Winnipeg on the sale of Tops.

Conclusion

President Graeme added his thanks to **Ron Doll** for organizing the wine tasting and noted the sale of Tops Car Wash marked the passing of an era. He headlined the Sept 14 meeting presentation on climate change and announced there would be a Cash Calendar meeting at 2. He asked again for help in finding groups to sell the Calendars. After again welcoming the imminent membership of Theresa Janome he closed the meeting.

14 September 2021 12:00 socialize; meeting starts 12:30

Gerald Oakham, Emeritus Professor of Physics, and Peter Black, retired from
Office of Energy Efficiency

“The Climate Crisis and What Should Be Done About it”

Introduced & Thanked: **Andrew Young**

Scribe: **Don Butler**

Meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81365346181>

See **President Graeme** email for log-in details