

Community Organising & Basic Income

Reflections from North America

CITIZENS UK

WINSTON
CHURCHILL
MEMORIAL
TRUST

Michael Pugh - Community Organiser

Introduction

- I'm Michael Pugh, a Community Organiser based in London, United Kingdom for the organisation Citizens UK
- Research is supported by Winston Churchill Memorial Trust
- In July & August 2019, travelled to the United States and Canada and carried out over 50 interviews with politicians, campaigners, academics, city officials, pilot participants
- Where?: Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland, Stockton, New York, Newark, Toronto, Hamilton & Lindsay
- Aim: How can civil society advocate for basic income pilots? More broadly, how do we win?

Presentation

- 3 Observations:
 - 1) Competing narratives in the US & Canada
 - 2) Role of Pilots
 - 3) Theory of Change
- Lessons for Campaigning
- Community Organising and What's Next?



Automation/Future of Work

Freedom Dividend

Yang Gang

Andrew Yang

Federal Elections

**Anti-Poverty, Welfare Reform,
Racial Injustice**

Cost of Living Refund

Economic Security Project

Mayor Michael Tubbs

**Pilots, Locally driven, changes
to tax code**

Narrative in Canada - Health/Health Care

Narrative: Health

Key Leaders: Hugh Segal, Evelyn Forget

Type of UBI: Negative Income Tax

Key Groups: Basic Income Canada Network

Theory of Change: Provisional then Federal



Key Lesson:

Find a uniting narrative that can bring groups together

Role of Pilots

Pilots in North America

- Stockton, California
- Jackson, Mississippi
- Chicago
- Newark
- Y Combinator
- 'Large Eastern City'
- Ontario
- California Pre-Term Birth Initiative

What are they for?

- Shift Narrative
- Develop Stories & Activists
- Prepare Political Ground

What are pilots for? - Shifting Narrative



Fifteen black moms to receive \$1,000 monthly in basic income experi...
The pilot program is one of many other basic income experiments that have
been conducted around the world to help black mothers.
<https://www.4mat.org>

FIXES

Baby Steps Toward Guaranteed Incomes and Racial Justice

In Mississippi, a pilot program distributes a guaranteed monthly cash payment to African American mothers. How do they adjust to it? by Courtney E. Merrill

By Courtney E. Merrill



How a Guaranteed Income Could Relieve the 'Pressure Cooker' of Po...
In December, a group of low-income mothers in Mississippi will begin
receiving \$1,000 a month in a pilot program.
<https://www.4mat.org>

- ### Examples:
- Magnolia Mothers Trust, Jackson, Mississippi
 - California Preterm Birth Initiative



What are pilots for? - Telling Stories

kcranews | kcranews · May 23

Stockton woman says guaranteed income program has been life-changing kcrn.com/article/stockt..



GUARANTEED INCOME PROGRAM

KCRA

The Agenda | TVO | The Agenda · Sep 17, 2018

For some, the cancellation of Ontario's basic income pilot is personal. **Dana Bowman** is part of the program, and now she's part of a class action lawsuit to keep the government from ending the pilot two years early. Tonight on The Agenda, at 11pm with



THE FACE OF CANCELLATION

0:10 | 2.9K views | ping Hand

tvo



Stockton Tells the Story

Between 2011 and 2013, Terrence Wagner Jr. became the 13th oldest male member of Stockton, California's first family and...

medium.com



What are pilots for? - Preparing the Political Ground



Alvin Tedjo
Labour Party

Ontario is ready for universal basic income, and I have a practical plan to make it work.



To prepare for the future, Ontario needs a basic income program
The province of Ontario is ready to launch the first pilot program
in Canada to test a universal basic income.
By Alvin Tedjo



Labour set to pilot radical basic income policy in next manifesto, J...
Labour is set to include a plan for the radical policy of a universal basic
income in its next manifesto for a general election, John McDonnell has
said.
independent.co.uk

Lesson

A Basic Income pilot is a political ACTION.

Think about the REACTION you want.

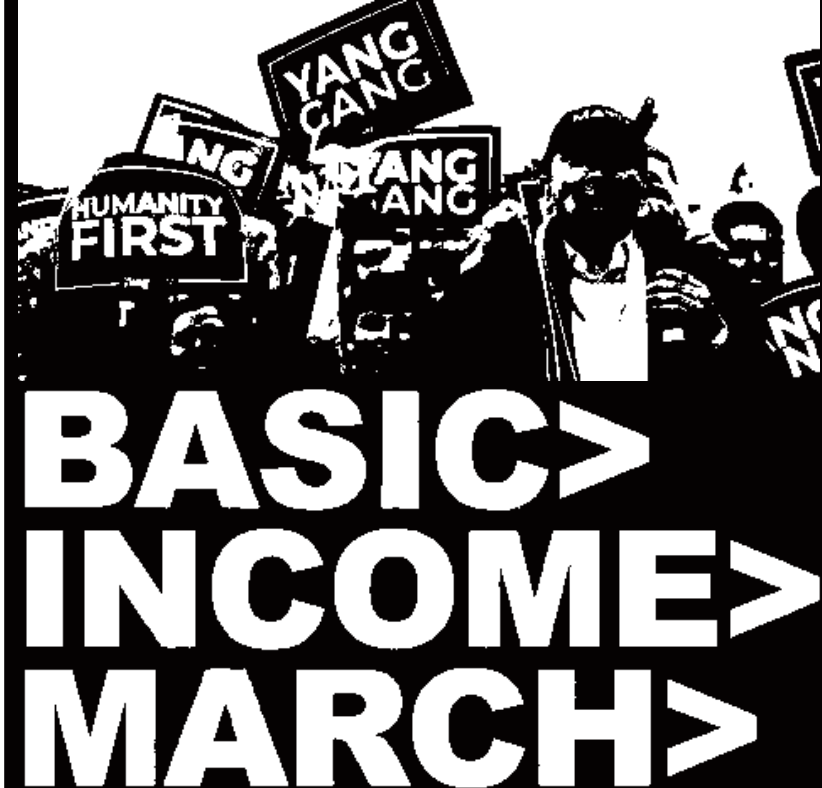
HINT: its probably more about a narrative shift and stories than it is economic data

This will impact the type of pilot you campaign for and implement



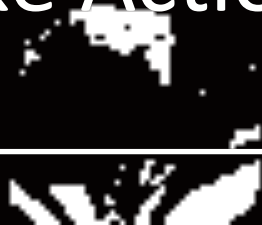
Theory of Change - Building Coalitions

- 1) Think Local e.g. City Mayors, municipalities, provinces, regions
- 2) Follow the energy e.g. Yang Gangs
- 3) Create the energy in sectors and institutions e.g. Basic Income Canada Network sector strategy. Do a power analysis, who do politicians listen to? And then organise them.
- 4) Build Coalitions and Take Action. E.g. Basic Income March (21st September in New York City) & Canada General Elections/Basic Income Day



Lessons for Campaigners & Organisers

- Find a uniting narrative that can bring groups together
- Be clear on what political role a pilot plays in your context
- Recognise the role of municipal/provincial politicians and think local
- Follow the energy and start where you are at
- Create the energy in strategic sectors and institutions
- Organise them into a coalition
- Take Action!



What Next?

- **Workshops & Presentations in 6 Major Cities in the UK**
 - **Report Launch in late 2019**
 - **Community Organising**

Twitter: @MichaeiPugh

Email:

Blog:

