

Tax Justice Newsletter - June 2011

In this issue:

- **Post-election poll shows majority still oppose corporate tax cuts**
- **Fight corporate tax cuts – share the petition link**
- **rabble.ca: Tony's axe or fairer tax?**
- **Info table volunteers needed for NDP convention in Vancouver, June 17-19**
- **CTF campaign to be profiled in New Internationalist magazine**
- **Encouraging words from the world of business**
- **Stephen King: best-selling scary author *and* fair tax advocate**
- **CTF board holds strategic planning meeting...**
- **...join the conversation, help the cause**
- **Good cartoons say it best**
- **Linda McQuaig video interview**
- **CTF needs your support – please donate today**

Post-election Poll Shows Majority Still Oppose Corporate Tax Cuts

From January through April, public opinion polls showed a strong majority of Canadians opposed the continuing multi-billion dollar tax cuts for corporations. A new post-election poll by Environics, conducted for CBC, showed that 53% still oppose the cuts, compared to only 39% in favour.

The federal corporate tax rate was 18% in 2010 and reduced to 16.5% this year. Another cut is planned for 2012, dropping the rate to 15%.

Fight the Corporate Tax Cuts – Share the Petition Link, Add a Button

Most people receiving this newsletter have already signed our online petition against the corporate tax cuts. But a lot more of us need to speak up. Federal and provincial governments and opposition parties need to see and hear an ongoing uproar over this appalling multi-billion dollar loss of public revenue.

Please [share the link](#) to the petition with your friends. More importantly, please post it in newsletters, blogs, forums. Better yet, if you can add a Stop Corporate Tax Cuts button or banner to your website or blog, please contact us: office@taxfairness.ca.

rabble.ca: Tony's Axe or Fairer Tax?

How ironic is it that Stephen Harper assigned Tony Clement to identify opportunities for federal budget cutbacks? Yes, that would be the same Tony Clement whose riding received \$50 million in G20 "legacy

infrastructure funds”, part of a spending spree that MP Pat Martin called “flagrant...hog-toughing of the highest order”.

CTF coordinator [Larry Gordon writes in rabble.ca](#) about “the dirty little secret that most government leaders will not admit – the potential for additional public revenue is immense”. [Read the full article here.](#)

Info Table Volunteers Needed for NDP Convention in Vancouver, June 17-19

Canadians for Tax Fairness will have an information table at the NDP convention in Vancouver on June 17-19. We’re hunting for several more volunteers to help with our information table – particularly with collecting signatures on the Stop Corporate Tax Cuts petition. If you can help for a few hours during the convention, please contact us at office@taxfairness.ca.

CTF Campaign To Be Profiled in New Internationalist Magazine

The New Internationalist magazine, published in the UK, Canada, US, Australia and New Zealand, will soon run an article on our campaign against corporate tax cuts. CTF is a very new operation compared to the tax justice organizations in other countries, but our campaign caught the eye of NI editors.

Encouraging Words from the World of Business

At least some business leaders are waking up to the dangers of growing disparities, increasing concentration of wealth, and the undermining of important public services. Both the World Economic Forum and the OECD issued warnings in recent months about growing economic disparities.

In Nevada business lobbyists are actually arguing in favour of higher corporate taxes. Yes, we repeat, in favour of higher corporate taxes. "There isn't a business in this state, that cares about this state, that wants to see its taxes reduced while we are laying off teachers, reducing their salaries, furloughing state employees, reducing nursing home support, reducing public safety, potentially closing community colleges...", [said Billy Vassiliadis, representing the Nevada Resort Association](#).

Meanwhile, [former Alberta Premier Peter Lougheed](#) recently said it’s “time for us to consider an increase in corporate and personal tax” as a means of dealing with pressures on Alberta’s provincial budget. In British Columbia, Premier Christy Clark said if the HST is not repealed in the upcoming referendum, she plans to drop the HST rate and increase the corporate tax rate – a move that [progressive economist Erin Weir](#) says “weakens the narrative that corporate taxes must always and everywhere decline”. He also notes the “business lobby’s acceptance of the government’s plan undermines its usual claims that raising corporate taxes would be unimaginably horrible.”

Stephen King: Best-Selling Scary Author *and* Fair Tax Advocate

Stephen King recently said: "Thank god, yes [I'm rich] because I grew up poor...[but] you know what? As a rich person, I pay 28% tax. What I want to ask you is why am I not paying 50%? Why isn't anybody in

my bracket paying 50%? Check out this interesting 5-minute video of [Stephen King](#) speaking at the Awake the State Rally in Florida, March 2011.

CTF Board Holds Strategic Planning Meeting...

CTF was just launched in February and the founding board of directors will hold its first strategic planning meeting in Ottawa on June 12. The Ottawa planning meeting will be an opportunity to assess the current political environment and identify priority actions for the remainder of the year. A number of exciting projects are on the drawing board - stay tuned for details!

...Join the Conversation, Help the Cause

We invite and urge all fair tax supporters to use our [Facebook page](#) to share and discuss strategy and tactics for promoting fair taxation and quality public services. Do you have ideas for campaign activities, public education programs, slogans, visuals? Share your ideas. If you're Facebook averse, contact us by email at: office@taxfairness.ca. If you would like to volunteer in any capacity, in your community or with your professional skills, use the [volunteer form on the website](#) or contact us at office@taxfairness.ca.

Good Cartoons Say It Best

Check out the May 11th cartoon by Newsday's Walt Handelsman ([scroll down through the archive page to May 11](#)).

Here is a related fair tax fact. According to 2011 Alternative Federal Budget by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, creating a new 35% income tax bracket for \$750,000 incomes and higher (compared to current top rate of 29% at \$128,800) would produce more than enough revenue to allow post-secondary tuition fees in Canada to be rolled back to 1992 levels.

Linda McQuaig Video Interview

Here is a great 5-minute video interview with author (and CTF board member) [Linda McQuaig](#) about her book, *The Trouble With Billionaires*, co-authored with tax law expert (and CTF board member) Neil Brooks.

CTF Needs Your Support – [Please Donate Today](#)

Will Canadians for Tax Fairness be able to continue its projects and activities to help save the Canada we love and build the Canada we need?

To a large degree that depends on you and others who understand the social and economic importance of the way we raise and use public funds. A progressive tax system is needed to build a progressive society.

We just set up our online donations page: <http://www.taxfairness.ca/page/yes-i-support-campaign-tax-fairness>. Next week, we launch our first grassroots fundraising drive. But why wait? Please consider a generous donation or, better yet, become a monthly donor to Canadians for Tax Fairness.

Together we can make a difference! Thanks for your consideration and support.