



Tax Justice Newsletter – January 2012

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Fair Tax Summit coming soon

Canadians for Tax Fairness is organizing a Fair Tax Summit which will take place in Ottawa at the Lord Elgin Hotel on March 29th and 30th. The goals of this Summit are to:

- Build a movement for progressive taxation in order to protect social programs and build a more equal society.
- Facilitate sharing of research and learn from the experience of campaigns in other countries.
- Clarify choices and policy options and develop a common platform for action on fair taxes.
- Develop public education, advocacy and action campaign plans including figuring out how best to communicate our message.

We hope to have 150 participants from labour, university, NGO, environment, anti-poverty, media, government and activist sectors attend to help us develop and launch a major Canadian tax fairness campaign.

The Summit will also provide simultaneous interpretation into both French and English.

Speakers include John Christensen from the Tax Justice Network in the UK, Alvin Sindiga Mosioma from the Tax Justice Network – Africa, Linda McQuaig and Neil Brooks, authors of *The Trouble with Billionaires*, Armine Yalnizyan, senior economist with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Ken Battle of the Caledon Institute, Toby Sanger, Senior Economist with CUPE and Alain Deneault from the *Échec Paradis Fiscaux*.

On-line registration will be open soon on the Canadians for Tax Fairness web site.

Call for Volunteers

Want to lend a helping hand and get the low-down on tax justice issues from Canadian experts? Join our volunteer team for the Fair Tax Summit! Volunteers get to attend day-time conference events free of charge. Volunteer positions are open for helping with translation, logistics, blogging and creative communications output, among other tasks. Let us know what your talents and interests are. We could use help both before and during the Fair Tax Summit. And some volunteer tasks could also be done from somewhere other than Ottawa.

If you are interested in volunteering please contact Conference Organizer, [Sofia Samper](#) for more information about this or [submit a volunteer application on-line](#).

[Stock Option Deduction costs \\$725 million and mostly benefits the 1%](#)

Canadians for Tax Fairness Board Member and CUPE Economist Toby Sanger's recent article explains how stock option deductions and preferential rates for capital gains are loopholes in the tax system that mainly benefit the rich and cost the federal government billions each year. [Read the full article](#).

[Cuts to services and public goods looks more like ideology masquerading as fiscal common sense](#)

According to Alex Himelfarb, Canadian academic and ex- top civil servant, austerity isn't the answer for Canada's recovery from the recession. Instead, increasing taxes alongside provision of social services such as health care and education are crucial to create economic resilience in the future. [Read more on Alex's blog](#).

[Tax Justice! Not Cut Backs](#)

Dennis' recent piece about the cuts we face at both the provincial and federal levels is soon to be published in the magazine 'Vie Économique'. Dennis identifies three causes for the public deficit: tax cuts, the 2008 recession, and a shaky recovery. The problem then, is not too much spending, but a lack of revenue, which could be solved by increased taxation, especially on corporations, closing tax loopholes, and tackling tax havens. [Read Dennis' article](#).

[The 1% on why they need to give back](#)

Chuck Collins, American tax fairness campaigner and heir to the Oscar Meyer fortune, gives a TEDtalk on why those who have done well in business should pay higher tax rates. He believes the rich owe the rest of society a portion of what they have earned, because no one makes it on their own. His family's philosophy was: "Life long personal development, generous consideration of others, due service to society". [Watch the video of Collins' TEDtalk](#).

[Tax cuts or wage increases? The contested situation in Nova Scotia](#)

In Nova Scotia, low wages and not enough tax revenue are of concern. The Canadian Federation of Taxpayers is trying to convince that cutting taxes paid by low-wage earners is the solution to

their tough times. However, progressive taxation and higher wages may be a better solution, because although the provincial economy has grown, few have benefitted. [Read more on this story.](#)

[**Corporate Tax Freedom Day**](#)

The Canadian Labour Congress is launching 'Corporate Tax Freedom Day' on February 1st, to celebrate increasing cuts to corporate taxation. According to their calculations, by February 1st, 2012, corporations will have finished paying their taxes to all levels of government for the year! [They have a full report out on these issues.](#) You can also [check out this funny video.](#)

[**Businesses are getting billions in tax cuts**](#)

2012 began with another round of corporate tax cuts in an effort to promote investment. So far, this approach doesn't seem to be working. [Read the full story.](#)

Why we should care about economic inequality

Inequality is a hot issue. Even the World Economic Forum (also known as "Davos" after the town in Switzerland where world leaders gather each year to discuss economic trends) recently ranked economic disparity, alongside global governance failures, as the top global risks. [Read more on their report.](#)

If you want to read a shorter and punchier analysis of inequality check out the UK based think-and-do-tank, the [New Economics Foundation's](#) list of [10 reasons why](#) inequality isn't good for any of us and how it affects our every-day lives.

[**"I don't think people like myself are paying as much as they should"**](#)

Bill Gates thinks he should pay more taxes, to help reduce the US deficit, and take part in his shared responsibility. [Watch a clip of the interview on BBC.](#)

[**10 Reasons for upper income tax increases**](#)

Doggie weddings are the number one reason the rich should to pay more taxes, according to Seth Klein's [Policy Note](#) for the CCPA BC.

[**Book Review of The Trouble with Billionaires**](#)

Have not read **The Trouble with Billionaires** by Linda McQuaig and Neil Brooks? Well you should. It has been published now in a paperback edition. Peter Venton sent us a book review he did of this excellent book which we have posted to the Canadians for Tax Fairness web site. [Read his book review.](#)