



Fair Tax Summit

BUILDING A BETTER CANADA

March 29 & 30, 2012, Lord Elgin Hotel, Ottawa

Goals:

- 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 tax fairness.
- Develop public education, advocacy and action campaign plans including figuring out how best to communicate our message.

Co-sponsorship:

The following organizations are co-sponsoring the Fair Tax Summit: Canadian Association of University Teachers, CAW, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Canadian Health Coalition, Canadian Labour Congress, Canadian Teachers' Federation, Canadian Union of Postal Workers, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Canada Without Poverty, Citizens for Public Justice, Halifax Initiative, Inter Pares, KAIROS, National Pensioners and Senior Citizens Federation, National Union of Public and General Employees, Oxfam Canada, Public Service Alliance of Canada, SEIU Canadian Council, and United Steelworkers.

March 28 Registration and Reception

7:00 pm **Registration begins (Hotel Lobby)**

7:30-9:00 pm **Reception (MacDonald Room)**

March 29 Context and Learnings from Global and Canadian Tax Fairness Campaigns

9:00 am **Registration continued (Hotel lobby)**

10:00 am **Opening plenary session (Pearson Room)**

First Nations Blessing

Welcome and introductions with table group discussion. Introduction to Program and Goals of the Fair Tax Summit.

Moderator: **Dennis Howlett**, Canadians for Tax Fairness

10:30 am **Tax Fairness and Inequality: The political and economic context**

How tax cutters have got away with curbing the role of government and increasing inequality. The dangers of trying to reduce the deficit by austerity alone. Why the tax justice issue is so critical at this time. Why we need good research to develop a credible policy agenda for action. Where do we need to clarify our policy options? What issues are best for campaigning?

Resource people: **Neil Brooks**, Osgoode Law School, York University

Moderator: **Bruce Campbell**, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

- 11:15 am** **Public opinion on inequality and taxes**
 Sharing results of polling that has been done on tax fairness issues.
 Resource person: **Keith Neuman**, Environics Institute
 Moderator: **Angella MacEwen**, Canadian Labour Congress
- 12:00 noon** **Lunch**
- 12:30 pm** **Keynote Address**
Introduction: Peter Gillespie, Halifax Initiative.
John Christensen, Tax Justice Network International (UK)
- 1:00 pm** **Beyond Our Borders: Learning from global tax justice campaigns**
 Capital moves easily across borders, meaning tax justice issues are now international in scope. How are offshore tax havens affecting countries and what specific reforms are needed to reclaim billions in lost tax revenues? How can national and international financial transaction taxes be introduced? Campaigns for tax justice have been going in a number of other countries. What can we learn from these campaigns? What tax policies and programs have other countries adopted that may provide guidance to developing a fairer and more progressive tax system in Canada? How can Canadians engage in Campaigns to **Tackle Tax Havens** and for a **Financial Transaction Tax** (or Robin Hood Tax)?
 Ressource people:
Alvin Sindiga Mosioma, Tax Justice Network, Africa (Kenya)
Sarah Anderson, Institute for Policy Studies/Robin Hood Tax USA
Nicole Tichon, Tax Justice Network USA
 Moderator: **Jean Symes**, InterPares
- 2:15 pm** **Break**
- 2:30 pm** **Evaluating campaigns for equality and tax fairness – what has worked? What learnings can we apply to campaigns for tax fairness going forward?**
 Ressource people: **James Clancy**, NUPGE, All together now! Campaign
David Langille, Your tax cuts at work campaign
Matthew Carroll, Leadnow.ca
Alain Deneault, Échec aux paradis fiscaux
 Moderator: **Joe Gunn**
- 3:45pm** **Break**
- 4:00 pm** **Federal budget live streaming (Pearson Room)**
- 5:00 -6:00 pm** **Budget analysis discussion (optional) (Quebec Room)**
- 6:00 pm** **Break**

March 29 evening Building a Better Canada

6:30 pm Dinner (Pearson Room)

**7:30 pm Welcome and introduction of key note speaker:
Murray Dobbin, Chair, Canadians for Tax Fairness**

World Premiere of CCPA taxation video

Cultural presentation: songs by Mehdi Hamdad

Keynote Addresses: Building a Better Canada

Canadians should be proud of our many social, cultural and economic achievements over the past century. But we also have reason to fear that those achievements and the cherished social values of past generations are now in jeopardy as we move further into the 21st century. What are the distinctive aspects of Canadian society we need to preserve? What are the new challenges we need to address? And what is the role of taxation in this rapidly changing environment?

Linda McQuaig, journalist and co-author of **The Trouble with Billionaires**

Respodents:

Peter Julian, MP, Official Opposition Finance Critic, NDP Caucus Chair

Daniel Paillé, Bloc Quebecois Leader

Elizabeth May, MP, Green Party Leader

Bob Rae, MP, Interim Liberal Party Leader

9:30 pm Adjourn for the day

March 30 Developing Campaigns for Equality and Tax Justice

9:00 am Framing the tax debate

What values and opinions do Canadians hold that work for or against the development of a fairer, more progressive tax system? What is the political context in terms of budget cuts and anti-tax campaigns that shape the debate? How can we find effective ways to educate and communicate our message? Presentation and facilitated table group discussion process.

Facilitators: **Trish Hennessy**, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

Shannon Daub, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives BC Office

10:30 am Break

10:45 am Concurrent Workshops:

Each workshop should discuss the following questions in addition to those specific to their topic: What research do we need to develop a credible policy agenda for action? Where do we need to clarify our policy options? What issues are best for campaigning?

<p>A. Tax Fairness and the environment</p> <p>How carbon taxes or other tax measures could help curb climate change and how to implement such taxes in ways that are fair.</p> <p>Resource people: Marc Lee, CCPA BC David Thompson, Sustainable Prosperity Brigitte DePape Canadian Youth Climate Coalition Marcelo Saavedra-Vargas, Univ. of Ottawa Aboriginal Studies Program</p> <p>Moderator: Dennis Howlett</p>	<p>B. Equality 1 – Making taxes fairer</p> <p>How to make the tax system more progressive and increase the public resources for building a better Canada.</p> <p>Resource people: Kathleen Lahey, Queen’s University Toby Sanger, CUPE Brigitte Alepin, UQAM.</p> <p>Moderator: Andrew McNeill</p>	<p>C. Making corporations pay a fair share for all the government services they get.</p> <p>How to make corporate taxes, subsidies and tax breaks fairer and more effective.</p> <p>Resource people: Erin Weir – United Steelworkers Union Nicole Tichon, Tax Justice Network USA</p> <p>Moderator: Murray Klippenstein</p>	<p>D. Provincial Tax Fairness Campaigning (Bilingual)</p> <p>Sharing information and experiences of tax fairness campaigns in different provinces.</p> <p>Resource people: Shannon Daub CCPA BC Pamela Doig, OPSEU/NUPGE Michael Bradfield, Nova Scotians for Tax Fairness Nadia Levesque, Public Service Union, QC</p> <p>Moderator: Mike Luff</p>
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12:00 noon Lunch

1:00 pm Concurrent Workshops:

<p>E. Reforming Municipal Taxes</p> <p>Municipalities have limited tax revenue options. And property taxes are regressive. What can be done, and what should be changed?</p> <p>Resource people: Toby Sanger, CUPE Sheila Block, Wellesley Institute</p> <p>Moderator: Rob Howarth</p>	<p>F. Equality 2- How the tax system could help reduce poverty and inequality</p> <p>How have tax related anti-poverty measures worked and how could they be expanded?</p> <p>Resource people: Laurel Rothman, Campaign 2000 Armine Yalnizyan, CCPA</p> <p>Moderator: Dennis Howlett</p>	<p>D. Getting value for your money</p> <p>Why taxes are a good deal and why the public provision of services such as health, education pensions and many other things is almost always a better deal than private.</p> <p>Resource people: Andrew Jackson, Canadian Labour Congress Richard Shillington, Tristar Ressources</p> <p>Moderator: John Doherty</p>	<p>G. Tackling Tax Havens (Bilingual)</p> <p>How Canada and developing countries are hurt by corporate tax evasion. Current international tax justice campaigns and how can Canadians become more involved?</p> <p>Resource people: John Christensen, Tax Justice Network UK Claude Vaillancourt, Attac Quebec</p> <p>Moderator: Joe Gunn</p>
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2:15 pm

Break

2:30 pm

Sharing highlights from the concurrent workshops.

Facilitator: **Shannon Daub**, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives BC Office

3:00 pm

Feedback on Canadians for Tax Fairness Draft Platform and Campaign Plan (in 4 workshop groups)

<p>Group 1 Facilitator: Dennis Howlett</p>	<p>Group 2 Facilitator: John Doherty</p>	<p>Group 3 Facilitator: Rob Howarth</p>	<p>Group 4 (Bilingual) Facilitator: Joe Gunn</p>
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4:30 pm

A Call to Action: How can we communicate our message about Equality and Tax Fairness?

Speaker: **Murray Dobbin**, Canadians for Tax Fairness

5:00 pm

Adjournment of Fair Tax Summit