



Newsletter

June 2013

Dear Supporter,

We did it! We made the leaders of the most powerful countries in the world commit to act on tax havens.

This month, the G8 Summit issued a [declaration](#) that included support for

- automatic tax information exchange – including for developing countries
- the need to change tax rules to stop the practice of multinational corporations shifting profits from one country to another
- multinationals reporting which jurisdictions they pay taxes in

My [analysis for Huffington Post](#) and our website has more detail. While the declaration moves countries forward in their ability to curb tax evasion facilitated by tax havens - the G8 roadmap for action is vague.

Canadians for Tax Fairness knows there is way more work to do - with our global partners and here at home. You can bet the high priced lawyers and accountants at big banks and multinational corporations are already looking at ways to work around these developments. In the other corner, we will be stepping up efforts to maintain the public pressure. Your help has never been more important.

Canada, The G8 and Tax Havens.

After much speculation, Canada released its [action plan](#) at the G8. We believe that public pressure helped change Prime Minister Harper's mind. Here's the **backstory**:

Our inside sources had been telling us for months that Canada was offside with many of the proposals that 2013 G8 Chair, Prime Minister David Cameron, had been proposing.

Canadians for Tax Fairness mounted a media campaign that offered a steady drumbeat of analysis and questions about Canada's position. I talked to national reporters at CBC Radio, CTV, [The National Post](#), [LaPresse](#) and others. But we also reached out to provincial reporters and call in radio programs from Gander to [Calgary](#) to Yellowknife. We wanted as many Canadians as possible to know that tax haven use is at an all-time high and that it is hurting their families and their communities.

I recently appeared before the House of Commons Finance Committee - the second time this year. After my [presentation](#), I was grilled by Shelley Glover, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance. She accused us of unfair criticism of the government's inaction on tax havens. It was a welcome exchange. Canadians for Tax Fairness has met with numerous MPs and Senators to discuss and clarify their position. But it had been radio silence from Ms. Glover. We seem to be hitting a nerve.

International Collaboration

Tax haven use has robbed at least \$7.8 Billion in tax revenues from Canada. Following that trail takes good investigative skills, time and money. [We need your help](#) to keep up our research and investigative capacity to offer Canadians clear cases where multi-nationals earn their profits in Canada but shift them offshore. But it isn't just about Canada.

Profit-shifting has particularly devastating effects on developing countries as well. That's why earlier this month we joined with our partners at Oxfam Canada for some street theatre in Ottawa, Toronto, Calgary and Saskatoon. The photo says it all.



We also partnered with Avaaz.org to help deliver their petition to the Prime Minister's office. More than 50,000 Canadians and 750,000 people around the world urged Prime Minister Harper to tackle the tax haven issue.

And [if you haven't already sent your own message – it is not too late.](#)

Joining Forces

It is certainly easy to find fault with Canada's record on tax justice. But Canadians for Tax Fairness is committed to being a force for positive change – not just criticize from the sidelines.

That's why we were pleased to team up with the McGill Faculty of Law to host a Tax Justice Research Meeting in Montreal. We put our heads together with some of the most passionate and informed tax justice advocates in Canada discuss how we can make the most impact.

And here's what it looked like the evening before when we invited the public to attend an open meeting on Tax Justice issues.



The panel discussion was moderated by McGill Law professor Allison Christians. It was webcast and featured:
John Christensen, director of the Tax Justice Network (UK),

James Henry, author of The Price of Offshore Revisited and director the Global Alliance for Tax Justice

Frederic Zalac, Canadian member of the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists

Diana Gibson, President of Canadians for Tax Fairness.

Keep in Touch

Join our growing community and tell your friends, colleagues and co-workers about us. We are on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) and post the latest news on our [website](#).

Once again, thank you for your support – whether it is helping [finance our efforts](#), or talking about the issues with your friends and colleagues.

We are making a difference.

Yours truly,



Dennis Howlett
Executive Director