

Canadian  
**Taxpayers**  
FEDERATION

# 2018

## Annual Report



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# ABOUT THE CANADIAN TAXPAYERS FEDERATION

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The Canadian Taxpayers Federation (CTF) is a federally incorporated, not-for-profit citizens' group dedicated to lower taxes, less waste and accountable government.

The CTF was founded in Saskatchewan in 1990 when the Association of Saskatchewan Taxpayers and the Resolution One Association of Alberta joined forces to create a national organization. At the end of 2018, the CTF had 141,000 supporters nationwide.

The CTF maintains a federal office in Ottawa and regional offices in British Columbia, Alberta, Prairie (Saskatchewan and Manitoba), Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic. Regional offices conduct research and advocacy activities specific to their provinces in addition to acting as regional organizers of Canada-wide initiatives.

CTF offices field hundreds of media interviews each month, hold press conferences and issue regular news releases, commentaries, online postings and publications to advocate on behalf of CTF supporters. CTF representatives speak at functions, make presentations to government, meet with politicians and organize petition drives, events and campaigns to mobilize citizens to effect public policy change. Each week CTF offices send out Let's Talk Taxes commentaries to more than 800 media outlets and personalities across Canada.

Any Canadian taxpayer committed to the CTF's mission is welcome to join at no cost and receive Issue and Action Updates. Financial supporters can additionally receive the CTF's flagship publication The Taxpayer magazine, published three times a year.

The CTF is independent of any institutional or partisan affiliations. All CTF staff, board members and representatives are prohibited from holding a membership in any political party. In 2017-18 the CTF raised \$5.1 million on the strength of 31,205 donations. Donations to the CTF are not tax deductible as a charitable contribution.

**Taxpayer.com**  
*Stand Up. Be Heard!*

# CANADIAN TAXPAYERS FEDERATION'S STAFF

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**Troy Lanigan** – President and CEO

**Scott Hennig** – Vice President, Communications

**Melanie Harvie** – Executive Vice President

**Shannon Morrison** – Vice President, Operations

**Rod Cunningham** – National Field Manager

**Aaron Wudrick** – Federal Communications Director

**Kris Sims** – British Columbia Communications Director

**Franco Terrazzano** – Alberta Communications Director (September-December)

**Colin Craig** – Alberta Communications Director (January-August)

**Todd MacKay** – Prairie Communications Director

**Christine Van Geyn** – Ontario Communications Director

**Carl Vallée** – Québec Communications Director (January – July)

**Renaud Brossard** – Québec Communications Director (August – December),  
Generation Screwed Executive Director (January – August)

**Paige MacPherson** – Atlantic Communications Director

**Jeff Bowes** – Research Director

**Dean Smith** – Publications Director & Webmaster (January – August)

**Kris Rondolo** – Generation Screwed Executive Director (September – December)

**Genevieve Sauer** – Administrative assistant

**Elizabeth Zemlak** – Administrative assistant

**Brenda Smith** – Administrative assistant

**Olivia Stasiuk** – Administrative assistant

**Rick Pepper** – Director of Legacy Programs

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Adam Daifallah** – Board Chair

**Ken Azzopardi**

**Peter Budreski**

**Michelle Eaton** (appointed May 2018)

**David Hunter**

**Melissa Mathieson**

**Karen Selick** (term expired June 2018)



# FROM THE CHAIRMAN



The past year saw significant changes and growth in the organization. The biggest change was the retirement of our longtime President and CEO, Troy Lanigan. Troy joined the CTF in 1992 and moved up the ranks, taking the helm of the organization in 2009. During his decade as President and CEO, Troy oversaw tremendous growth and many public policy victories. Troy was the mastermind behind our still-growing Generation Screwed initiative and pushed early in his mandate to expand to Atlantic Canada.

Troy also embraced a goal close to my heart – expansion into Québec. I am pleased the CTF now has a full-time presence in Québec, with the appointment of Generation Screwed alumnus Renaud Brossard as the new Québec Director.

The board was proud to unanimously appoint Scott Hennig as our new President and CEO, starting Jan. 1, 2019. Scott has captained our communications staff for the past decade, and we are looking forward to his energetic leadership in the coming years.

In addition, I would like to pass on my thanks to Karen Selick, whose board term expired this year. Her nine years and three terms of service to the CTF board has been greatly appreciated. Without dedicated volunteers willing to give of their time and expertise to serve on the board, the CTF wouldn't be in the strong position it is currently. Further, I would like to thank Michelle Eaton for agreeing to join the board this year. We know Michelle's contributions to the board will only make it stronger.

Of course, none of our growth, expansion or public policy victories could be achieved without the support of tens of thousands of Canadians. The CTF is a unique organization. It has the backing of so many Canadians who are willing to reach into their wallet to support the work we do – rivaling the size of many political parties – and all without the benefit of a political or charitable tax credit. So, to our donors and supporters, I sincerely thank you for your commitment to a freer, more prosperous Canada.

## **Adam Daifallah**

Chairman of the Board  
Canadian Taxpayers Federation

# FROM THE PRESIDENT



Twenty-eight was filled with a few firsts, more than a few policy gains and a lot of changes.

The first change is in your hands. Long discussed, but finally acted on, a stand-alone annual report will become a regular feature at this time each year. On one level, this is a report on the value you receive from the donation you give to the CTF each year; more significantly, it represents what can be accomplished when we work together to make a difference.

The second change concerns staff (see page 4): Directors Carl Vallée and Kevin Lacey, who opened our first offices in Québec and Atlantic Canada respectively, moved on to new pursuits in 2018.

Two longtime CTF warhorses left: Dean Smith – our Publications Director and Webmaster who is best known for putting together The Taxpayer magazine – and me. I served in a variety of capacities, but most recently as President. We are leaving the CTF after each having served – gulp – 26 years. Todd MacKay steps into the Vice President, Communications role and Scott Hennig steps into the President’s role effective Jan. 1, 2019.

Despite all these staff changes, the CTF didn’t skip a beat in 2018: this annual report details five tangible victories for taxpayers. The Saskatchewan government reversed its decision to charge PST on most insurance premiums (see page 13) and British Columbia reversed a 15% pay hike the Metro Vancouver Board granted itself (see page 15). In Ontario, we finally won the fight to eliminate the province’s carbon tax (see page 7). In Alberta, the CTF marshalled the NO vote in a Calgary plebiscite that shelved a tax-hungry bid for the 2026 Winter Olympics (see page 12). Federally, the CTF successfully fought – twice – alongside Aboriginal activists to uphold the First Nations Financial Transparency Act (see page 10).

As for the “few firsts” noted above, 2018 marked the first time ever the CTF raised more than \$5 million and topped the 31,200 mark in number of voluntary donations! Thank you to everyone who made 2018 a memorable and impactful year. Take pride in these pages and then gear up for 2019.

## **Troy Lanigan**

President and CEO

Canadian Taxpayers Federation

## NEW FACES

In 2018, we had a couple of significant staff changes. Early in the year, our longtime and first-ever Atlantic Director, Kevin Lacey, departed. Kevin was first hired in the summer of 2010 to launch an office in Atlantic Canada. In addition to the many gains the CTF was able to achieve under Kevin's leadership, he exposed the CTF to a brand-new audience. Kevin was replaced by Paige MacPherson, who had been the Alberta Director since 2015. Paige was off on maternity leave for the first half of 2018 but moved from Calgary to Halifax in the summer.

Paige had been replaced in Alberta in the fall of 2017 by former Prairie Director Colin Craig. Colin was made the permanent Alberta Director in early 2018, but he departed in September to help launch a new think tank. Colin was replaced by Franco Terrazzano, who came to the CTF by way of the Calgary Chamber of Commerce.

In Québec, our first ever Director, Carl Vallée, departed in the summer. Carl helped launch the CTF into la belle province in 2016. Though his position was part time, Carl delivered a big impact. His media profile was large coming into the job and he established the CTF with many of the major media outlets. Carl was replaced by Renaud Brossard.

Renaud started with the CTF's youth initiative, Generation Screwed, as a student volunteer in 2013, and was a standout.

He organized the first GS Action Forum in Montreal and saw it replicated many times across the country. He was hired to run Generation Screwed in 2017.

To replace Renaud, we hired Kristine Rondolo. After graduating from the University of Ottawa, Kris worked for a few MPs on Parliament Hill before joining the CTF in the summer.

On the board of directors, long-time board Director Karen Selick departed. She was replaced by another Ontario resident, Michelle Eaton.

And lastly, both President and CEO Troy Lanigan and Publications Director and Webmaster Dean Smith departed in 2018. Both had dedicated 26 years of service to the organization and will be greatly missed.



*Kris Rondolo*



*Franco Terrazzano*

# TAXFIGHTER AWARD

The CTF's TaxFighter Award is given to those people who have contributed significantly to the cause of taxpayer emancipation. Past recipients include journalists such as Lorne Gunter, Linda Leatherdale and Tom Brodbeck, politicians such as Ralph Klein, Jim Dinning, Mike Harris, Preston Manning, Werner Schmidt and Lee Morrison and former CTF board and staff including Ken Azzopardi, Paul Pagnuelo, Mel Smith and Andy Crooks, to name a few.

In 2018, the CTF awarded the TaxFighter Award to five recipients.

Dean Smith retired this year from the CTF. While he has never received the public accolades as have many other CTF staff, Dean's contribution to the cause of taxpayer emancipation has been significant.

Dean was often the most passionate CTF staff member when it came to fighting high taxes, government waste or a lack of accountability. He could have left long ago and made more

money using his skills in the for-profit sector, but remained at the CTF because the work matters to him and he knows the work he does matters to Canadians.

On May 5, 2018, at our annual planning meeting in Regina, the board of directors awarded Dean with the CTF's highest honour, The TaxFighter Award.

On May 14, 2018, nearly 200 CTF supporters gathered to honour four of the University of Calgary's most high-profile faculty members: Tom Flanagan, Ted Morton, Barry Cooper and Rainer Knopff, as they received the TaxFighter Award.

These four gentlemen, known as "the Calgary School," have been influencing politicians, academia, media and Canadian public policy for nearly three decades. Their awards were inscribed with this summary of their contribution: "In recognition of providing leadership, mentorship and intellectual ammunition in the battle for lower taxes, free markets and limited and accountable government."



Scott Hennig (left) presenting TaxFighter winner Dean Smith (right) with two framed covers of *The Taxpayer* magazine.



From L to R: Troy Lanigan, Rainer Knopff, Ted Morton, Tom Flanagan, Barry Cooper and Adam Daifallah at the Calgary School TaxFighter Award reception.

# 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TEDDY WASTE AWARDS



*Aaron Wudrick hosting the 20th annual Teddy Waste Awards*

On Feb. 22, Federal Director Aaron Wudrick and our mascot Porky the Waste Hater hosted the 20th annual Teddy Waste Awards on Parliament Hill. This year featured a total of 16 cringeworthy examples of government waste.

Most years there is no shortage of worthy nominees and 2018 was no exception. Runners-up included the Toronto Transit Commission for spending \$1.9 million on digital artwork that let customers type words (including bad words!) that were then projected in lights throughout the station; the Ontario government for spending \$200,000 on a giant rubber duck; the federal Department of Finance for spending \$192,000 on artwork for the budget cover; the \$1-billion Phoenix federal employee payroll boondoggle; and the federal Department of Health for spending \$100,000 to run its official Twitter account, which averaged just two tweets per day.

The municipal Teddy went to the city of Montreal for spending \$34 million on a Formula-E race, the electric-vehicle cousin of Formula 1. The city built an entirely separate circuit even though it already had an existing world-class racetrack in place, and the event turned out to be a total flop, with almost half of available tickets left unsold.

The provincial Teddy went to Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan, which was implemented by the Kathleen Wynne government and is projected to cost taxpayers up to \$39 billion over the next decade after artificially lowering hydro bills in the leadup to the provincial election.

The federal Teddy went to the Department of Canadian Heritage for spending \$8.2 million on a temporary skating rink on Parliament Hill as part of the official Canada 150 celebrations. The rink cost approximately \$100,000 per day to run, required 24-hour advance booking for admission and was located just one block away from the Rideau Canal, Canada's biggest and most famous skating rink.

Last but certainly not least, the city of Calgary won a lifetime achievement Teddy for its long track record of wasting taxpayer dollars on public artwork, stretching back almost 15 years, including such memorable examples as a \$221,000 large metal ball and archway located behind a fence at the fire department's repair and maintenance facility, a \$470,000 giant blue ring with two lampposts on top and \$246,000 for LED lights on a waste water processing station dubbed "the poop palace."

# GAINING GROUND ON CARBON TAXES

More than two years ago, the Justin Trudeau government pledged to create a national carbon tax if the provinces didn't do so first. With the notable exception of then-premier Brad Wall in Saskatchewan, the provinces jumped. Ontario created a new cap-and-trade carbon tax, Manitoba announced its intentions to create a new carbon tax, Alberta hiked its carbon tax and Nova Scotia and New Brunswick started work to get in on the carbon-taxing game.

The CTF has been fighting carbon taxes since the very beginning and in 2018 we started gaining back some ground.

We continued our media blitz with dozens of anti-carbon tax op-eds from CTF directors being published in major newspapers from coast to coast.

In February, just days after Ontario Progressive Conservative leader (and carbon-tax advocate) Patrick Brown resigned, the CTF took quick action. Ontario Director Christine Van Geyn launched the No Carbon Tax Pledge and secured the signatures of all three candidates in the PC leadership race, promising to scrap the carbon tax in Ontario and fight the Trudeau carbon tax. This was a massive policy reversal for the PCs. In June, after the provincial election, one of new Premier Doug Ford's first actions was to repeal the cap-and-trade carbon tax.

In April, we toured Todd Myers, Director of the Center for the Environment at the Washington Policy Center, across Canada. Todd had just helped successfully lead the opposition in a state-wide referendum on carbon taxes. CTF Directors Aaron Wudrick and Christine Van Geyn took Todd to meet with Conservative Opposition Leader Andrew Scheer's policy team and Conservative environment critic MP Ed Fast. They also chatted briefly with Premier Ford before meeting with Ontario Finance Minister Vic Fedeli. In Saskatchewan, CTF Director Todd MacKay took Myers to meet with provincial Trade Minister Jeremy Harrison and Environment Minister Dustin Duncan.

In the summer we put up billboards in Alberta going after Rachel Notley's de-bunked claim that carbon taxes would earn social licence for pipelines.

In October, the CTF was able to finally convince Manitoba Premier Brian Pallister to oppose the carbon tax. He's joined by the new government in New Brunswick in fighting the federal carbon tax in court.

In the fall, the CTF applied for intervener status in the Saskatchewan carbon tax reference case. Despite the federal government's opposition to our arguments, the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal granted our status and we are in court in 2019. Near the end of 2018, the Ontario government joined the legal battle, launching its own court action. The CTF applied for intervener status in that case too.

Without question, the CTF has made significant gains over the past three years. But the battle is far from over. The federal carbon tax comes into effect Apr.1, 2019, and provincial carbon taxes are still firmly entrenched in B.C. and Québec. Yet, the success we've seen in 2018 has only encouraged us to re-double our efforts in 2019.



*Ontario Premier Doug Ford signing the CTF's No Carbon Tax Pledge with CTF Ontario Director Christine Van Geyn in February.*

# SASKATCHEWAN PREMIER SIGNS CTF PLEDGE

Politicians make lots of promises, but it's a good idea to get them in writing.

When former Saskatchewan premier Brad Wall stepped down, five candidates entered the leadership race for the governing Saskatchewan Party.

The CTF challenged the candidates to sign a pledge to balance the operational budget in 2019, implement a plan to reduce the debt by 2022 and avoid any major tax hikes.

Ken Cheveldayoff, Gord Wyant and Scott Moe all signed the pledge while TV cameras rolled and photographers snapped pictures.

The pledge illustrated a clear divide between candidates committed to balancing on schedule and those who waffled on the party's commitment to fiscal responsibility.

Ultimately, Moe won the leadership race and Saskatchewan has a premier who signed a pledge to Saskatchewan taxpayers.

It's easy to be cynical about pledges, but they provide more than a dividing line between candidates on the campaign trail. Before the signing, the CTF made it clear what would happen to the photos – they'd go onto a billboard with one of two headings: promise kept or promise broken.

Moe made multiple references to that billboard on the campaign trail. It's an image that represents both a carrot and a stick. And the premier is well aware of both.



Saskatchewan Party leadership candidates signing the Taxpayer Protection Pledge. From L to R: Ken Cheveldayoff, CTF Prairie Director Todd MacKay, Gord Wyant and Scott Moe.

# THE 'NO ESCALATOR TAX ON ALCOHOL' CAMPAIGN

In December 2017, the CTF launched NoEscalatorTax.ca, a long-term campaign to fight the new “escalator tax” on beer, wine and spirits introduced by the Trudeau government in the 2017 federal budget. As a result of the escalator tax, taxes on these products will rise every year, automatically, without even a vote in Parliament.

In 2018, we distributed thousands of drink coasters to bars and restaurants across Canada to help raise awareness of this new tax. Further, more than 6,000 Canadians sent Finance Minister Bill Morneau an email through our website, calling on him to axe the escalator tax.

We also partnered with the Wack MCs to develop a music video entitled “Beer in the U.S.A.” to highlight how much cheaper it is for Canadians to drive across the border to buy alcohol. The video received more than 100,000 views on Facebook and was nominated for the Atlas Network’s international Lights, Camera, Liberty film award.



*The CTF’s “Beer in the USA” music video airing on the big screen during the Atlas Network’s “Lights, Camera, Liberty Film Festival” in New York in November.*

# LABOUR DAY REALITY CHECK

Each year before the Labour Day long weekend, we compare the salaries and benefits of government employees to those of private sector workers. While government unions celebrate their successes in winning generous pay and benefits for their members, we remind Canadian taxpayers that they are the ones who are paying for them. We also point out that some of these lavish benefits in government are almost unheard of in the private sector.

This year we compared government pensions to private sector pensions. Our analysis of Statistics Canada data showed that risky defined-benefit pensions are vanishing in the private sector but remain overwhelmingly common for government employees. In 1997, 83% of government employees had defined-benefit pensions, compared to only 23% of private sector workers. Now, 80% of government employees have defined-benefit pensions compared to 10% of private sector workers.

With defined benefit plans employees are guaranteed a pension based on their salary and length of employment. If there isn’t enough money in the plan to pay the employees their pensions, the employer has to make up the difference. For government employee plans, that means taxpayers will most likely have to pay up in the future.

# COURT VICTORIES DELIVER TRANSPARENCY FOR FIRST NATIONS

Charmaine Stick teamed up with the CTF starting in 2016 to take the Onion Lake Cree Nation to court and force it to comply with the First Nations Financial Transparency Act. The legislation requires First Nations to publish annual financial statements as well as the salaries and expenses for chief and council. Onion Lake Cree Nation refused to follow the law and, worse, wouldn't even open the books for Charmaine and other band members.

In 2017, the court ruled in Charmaine's favour and ordered the Onion Lake Cree Nation to follow the law and release the documents, but the band appealed. In 2018, the Court of Appeal upheld the original ruling and the band's leaders finally complied.

It wasn't hard to understand why the chief and council at the Onion Lake Cree Nation fought so hard to keep the books closed.



*Charmaine Stick talking to the media outside of the Regina courthouse after winning at the Court of Appeal.*

Chief Wallace Fox had increased his salary from \$123,000 in 2015 to \$150,692 in 2016. The average salary for a chief in Canada is \$58,856. The average income for people at Onion Lake Cree Nation is \$17,528.

The documents also showed the chief and council had invested more than \$1.4 million in a New Zealand tech company, only to write the value of the investments down to \$1.

Charmaine's win accomplished more than simply opening the books at the Onion Lake Cree Nation.

The CTF also teamed up with Harrison Thunderchild from the Thunderchild First Nation. Thunderchild's grandfather was the chief for whom the band is named. His band also refused to publish financial documents, despite the fact that Harrison had worked hard to continue the heritage of servant leadership that was passed down to him from his father and grandfather.

Harrison and the CTF launched a court application against the Thunderchild First Nation as well. Rather than face court arguments and appeals, the chief and council recognized the precedent set with the Onion Lake Cree Nation application. They released the documents without waiting for court orders.

The story isn't over. While the overwhelming majority of bands continue to provide financial transparency, there's a rising number of bands who aren't following the law because Ottawa isn't enforcing it. And, even in the Onion Lake Cree Nation case, the band is refusing to disclose the most recent financial statements, so Charmaine is teaming up with the CTF to work on new legal strategies in 2019.

But the victories won by Charmaine and Harrison in 2018 are an important step forward for financial transparency in First Nations communities.



*Prairie Director Todd MacKay (middle) with Harrison Thunderchild (left) and members of the Thunderchild First Nation displaying the binders of documents they received after taking the band council to court.*

# ICBC MONOPOLY

The Insurance Bureau of British Columbia (ICBC) is the government-controlled monopoly for mandatory auto insurance. Created by the NDP government of 1973 under then-premier Dave Barrett, it is the only way for drivers in B.C. to get insurance. It is now described by the minister in charge of the corporation as a financial “dumpster fire” because it has about \$1 billion in losses and charges the highest rates in all of Canada. Rates continue to go up.

The CTF launched a campaign to open ICBC up to competition with a website, [www.ICBCChoice.ca](http://www.ICBCChoice.ca), a petition and an ongoing media campaign. On the website, people can order a free bumper sticker and send letters to politicians. The website has a cheeky 1970s theme – we compare ICBC to a Pinto – and we launched it with an event showcasing an orange 1970s camper van and disco costumes.

We also crashed the BC Liberal Party policy convention, with a “monopoly man” in full costume and waving our giant bumper sticker. We put rack cards on every delegate’s seat and handed them out to prominent MLAs, urging them to open ICBC up to competition. When BC Liberal Leader Andrew Wilkinson took the stage to deliver his policy speech, he used all of our language, including the 1970s Pinto jokes, and said it was time to end the ICBC monopoly.

We are getting closer to our goal as now a major party is adopting our vision and our language as policy. Drivers are one step closer to shopping around for auto insurance after 46 years under a government monopoly.



CTF BC Director Kris Sims dressed in 1970s garb in front of a vintage camper van.



# CTF SAVES CANADIANS FROM OLYMPIC-SIZED TAX BILL

The pet project for Alberta politicians in 2018 was the Calgary bid to host the 2026 Winter Olympics.

The Olympic bid corporation estimated the games would cost \$5 billion, with taxpayers footing roughly \$3 billion of the total tab through all three levels of government. With billions of tax dollars on the line, the CTF took a leadership role opposing the bid. For starters, we pushed local and provincial politicians to hold a referendum, as was done in Vancouver prior to 2010. Alberta Premier Rachel Notley agreed and made provincial funding conditional on a successful referendum. As soon as the referendum date was set, the CTF set out to help lead the NO side.

The CTF faced an uphill battle to take down the well-funded YES side. The Olympic bid corporation actively pushed pro-Games propaganda, all while being funded by tax dollars. Boosters even launched a last-minute million-dollar ad campaign to try to sway voters.

But by supporting whistleblowers, issuing commentaries, debating boosters, doing media interviews, organizing publicity stunts and organizing a get-out-the-vote campaign, the CTF was able to convince the majority of Calgary voters to oppose the bid.

Perhaps our best publicity stunt was when the CTF endorsed the Olympic bid by Stockholm, Sweden. The endorsement attracted considerable media attention both in Canada and overseas. It also caused the Swedish Taxpayers Association to endorse the Calgary bid in a playful retaliation.

In August 2018, polls showed that 53% of Calgarians were planning to vote YES. However, after the CTF campaign 56% of Calgary voters voted NO. Unsurprisingly, the NO side was outspt by a wide margin by the YES side.



CTF Alberta Director Franco Terrazzano at the NO Calgary 2026 rally.



# GAS TAX HONESTY DAY

Each year before the Victoria Day long weekend, we hold events across the country for our annual Gas Tax Honesty Day. For the 20th annual occasion in 2018, we held events in Montréal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary and Vancouver.

This year we suggested not only killing the carbon tax but also ending the federal excise tax. Canadians need tax relief and eliminating the federal excise tax is an immediate way to ease the burden. Roadway infrastructure isn't a federal responsibility, so it shouldn't be collecting gas taxes anyway.

Eliminating both the federal excise tax and carbon taxes would reduce taxes by an average of 16 cents per litre. Eliminating the federal excise tax of 10¢/L on gasoline and 4¢/L on diesel would save Canadian drivers more than \$5 billion a year, including \$500 million in tax-on-tax. Canadian governments will collect around \$24 billion in fuel taxes this year, including \$1.8 billion in tax-on-tax.

We also called for an end to this practice of taxing taxes. The government calculates sales taxes after the per-litre taxes are added. That means you pay sales taxes on top of the per-litre taxes, which costs the average Canadian driver an extra 3¢/L. Unfortunately, with the introduction of carbon taxes the trend is for yet more tax-on-tax.



CTF Federal Director Aaron Wudrick in Ottawa on Gas Tax Honesty Day.

# TAXPAYERS SAVE \$100 MILLION ON INSURANCE SALES TAX

It's never easy to get a government to reverse a mistake, but the CTF successfully pushed Saskatchewan to roll back \$100 million in sales taxes on insurance.

When resource revenues fell, the provincial government was left with a ballooning deficit after years of increased spending. Rather than reducing spending, the province hiked taxes by raising the PST one point, from 5% to 6%, and expanded dramatically the sales to which it applies.

A key part of that PST expansion was insurance. The province already collected more than \$150 million a year from insurance taxes. Tacking the PST onto insurance would cost Saskatchewanians another \$200 million.

Tax hikes are always tough on families and businesses, but taxing insurance is particularly problematic. According to polling commissioned by the CTF, many people planned to deal with the increased cost by reducing coverage, putting themselves at greater risk.

The CTF immediately opposed the tax hike and specifically attacked the PST on insurance.

During the Saskatchewan Party leadership campaign the CTF met with all of the candidates and pushed them on the PST-on-insurance issue. One candidate, Scott Moe, promised to immediately take the PST off life, health and crop insurance and to look at taking the PST off of all insurance after the budget is balanced.

Moe became premier and in 2018 honoured his commitment. By removing the PST from life, health and crop insurance, taxpayers will save about \$100 million a year. But the fight continues to get the PST removed from all insurance.



# FORD **CHOPS** TORONTO CITY COUNCIL

Toronto now has fewer politicians thanks to the work of Premier Doug Ford, who cut the size of the city's dysfunctional council in half before the October municipal election.

Getting there wasn't easy, because a lot of vested interests fought to keep city hall big – namely the politicians whose jobs were on the line and the armies of social justice warriors working for them at city hall.

Ford's bill to shrink city hall, the Better Local Government Act, was challenged in court by the city and by wannabe politicians running for council. But the CTF was there to stand up for taxpayers.

Shrinking city council could save \$25 million over four years and make city hall more efficient. Fewer councillors means fewer pet projects for councillors to stick their names onto.

The CTF was granted intervener status in the court battle and we appeared in court to make arguments in favour of cutting council. The judge even complimented the factum we submitted and said that our argument on a specific issue had convinced him.

As it turned out, CTF and the province ended up losing in that lower court fight. However, an interim appeal was won and the city was forced to accept the smaller council. The fight isn't over yet, though. The city is still appealing and arguments will be heard in June of 2019. The CTF will still be there, standing up to save taxpayers money.



*CTF Ontario Director Christine Van Geyn scrumming with the media after Premier Ford's announcement that he was cutting the size of Toronto's city council.*

# METRO VANCOUVER BOARD PAY REVERSAL

The Metro Vancouver Board is a regional district board for the cities in the Lower Mainland. They meet about once per month to discuss such issues as water and sewer systems. The board members are city councillors or mayors of member municipalities and they get paid to attend regional meetings, in addition to their regular salaries paid by their own municipalities.

In March, the CTF got an anonymous phone call on a Friday afternoon, saying the Metro Vancouver Board had just voted themselves a retirement bonus and a pay raise. The average payout was about \$15,000 and it would go to politicians who were not seeking re-election.

We immediately reached out to our media contacts and learned that no reporters had been at the meeting. It was up to us to spread the word. We contacted all major media outlets in Metro Vancouver and did 15 interviews. We posted the issue on social media and urged taxpayers to fight back. They did.

The board reversed the pay raises at the next meeting, in front of a packed press gallery, while some of the politicians complained about the number of emails, phone calls and social media messages they had had to endure.



# TAKING THE WIND FROM THEIR MILLS

Right before Québec's general election, then-premier Philippe Couillard's government announced its intention to go ahead with a controversial windmill project in Québec's Côte Nord. The \$600-million project would have seen a new wind farm with an estimated capacity for 200MW of power. The problem: not only was the provincial power utility, Hydro-Québec, boasting massive energy surpluses (10TWh for the last year alone), but it would have been forced to buy this unnecessary power instead of its much cheaper hydro. According to the utility's estimates, this would have resulted in a \$2-billion loss over the project's 25 years of useful life.

Right away, the CTF got involved and denounced this project. We published an op-ed in La Presse, and launched a petition calling for politicians to put an end to their interference in Hydro-Québec's management. Supporters responded to our call right away, with more than 5,000 Quebecers signing the petition and openly supporting our efforts to put an end to this madness. The cause got enough attention that as soon as the election was called, Coalition Avenir Québec leader François Legault promised that, should he get elected, his party would scrap the project.

After the election the new minister of energy got cold feet and considered going ahead with the project anyway. Right away, we launched an email campaign, asking the premier and the minister to keep their word. We started sending emails on a Friday afternoon. The following Tuesday, the minister announced he would ask Hydro-Québec to drop the project. It was a wonderful victory for taxpayers across the province.



# STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Twenty-eight was the 10th year for our formal student internship program. The paid internship program provides a unique opportunity for post-secondary students to work alongside our communications staff. Interns provide valuable assistance with our advocacy work while improving their research skills and learning about taxes, government waste and the lack of government accountability.

Three students participated this year: Kaleb Archer from the University of Regina, Geremy Miller from McMaster University and Daniel Perry from the University of Ottawa. Kaleb and Geremy were selected for the summer internship program from a competitive field of applicants. Kaleb worked in the headquarters in Regina, Geremy worked in the Ottawa office and Daniel joined the Ottawa office for the fall semester.

A fourth intern, Nick Marsh from the University of Western Australia, was placed in the CTF's Ottawa office by the Mannkal Economic Education Foundation. Nick pitched in on some CTF projects, including wearing the Porcky costume during the 2018 Teddy Awards, but also assisted the World Taxpayers Associations (which Troy Lanigan chairs) in the winter of 2018.



Daniel Perry (top-left), Geremy Miller (top-right), Kaleb Archer (bottom)



Nick Marsh

All interns assisted with research, freedom of information requests and media events. The three Canadians were also involved with our Generation Screwed initiative. Kaleb was the coordinator for the University of Regina, Geremy was the regional co-ordinator for Western Ontario, and Daniel the regional co-ordinator for Eastern Ontario.

# GENERATION SCREWED

Since setting up on a handful of campuses in 2013, Generation Screwed (GS) has become Canada's largest non-partisan student network fighting against big government and its wasteful spending.

With a presence at more than 30 universities and colleges, GS's primary goal is to mobilize young Canadians to help stop politicians, of all stripes, from borrowing and squandering our future. GS campus co-ordinators help mobilize their fellow students and organize events, rallies and digital and on-campus campaigns.

This year marked a few firsts for the GS crew: the first Atlantic Tour spanning four local universities in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia and the first national planning meeting in February in Ottawa.



*The GS Atlantic Team. From L to R: Billy Kehoe, coordinator for St. Francis Xavier; GS Executive Director Kris Rondolo; Andrew Hall, coordinator for Dalhousie and Kenzi Donelly, coordinator for Saint Mary's University.*



*The GS Western Ontario Team. From L to R: John Turner, regional coordinator for Western Ontario; GS Executive Director Kris Rondolo; Juliana van Gaalen, coordinator for Western University; Jeremy Miller, former CTF intern and GS coordinator and Ismail Aslam, coordinator for McMaster University.*

The team rounded out the 2017-18 school year with two GS Action Forums in Calgary and Montreal and a nationwide recruiting campaign for the next generation of campus leaders.

Before the 2018-19 school year, the new GS team attended the annual training retreat in Québec where they were able to sharpen their advocacy skills and touch up their campus organizing.

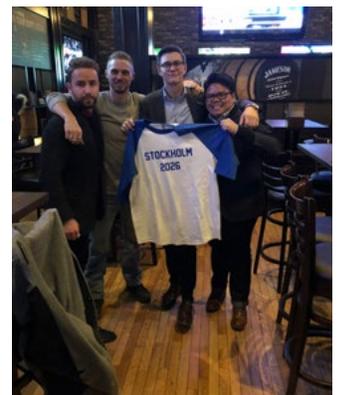
The new GS team put their skills to the test as they mobilized students to participate in campaigns and movements like the NO Calgary Olympic Bid in Calgary, Support Canadian Energy in Ottawa or the ICBC Choice campaign in Victoria.



*Generation Screwed students in front of Parliament showing the federal debt in February.*



*GS coordinator Anastasiia Cherygova tabling at the University of Ottawa.*



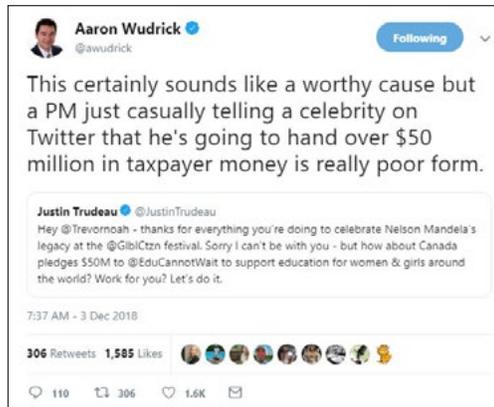
*GS coordinators in Calgary helping the NO Olympics campaign.*

# SOCIAL MEDIA

Our main Facebook page grew to more than 100,000 fans in 2018. At the end of the year the page had 103,817 likes, an increase of 12,616 for the year. We launched a Fédération canadienne des contribuables page and an Alberta Taxpayers page in 2018. Those, along with the Generation Screwed pages, have another 19,739 likes, an increase of 3,316 for the year.

Canadians engaged with our 1,881 posts with 344,755 comments, 967,901 reactions and 446,675 shares. That engagement meant our Facebook content had 62 million impressions and our videos 3.2 million views.

On Twitter, our main account (@taxpayerDOTcom) had more than 8,400 followers at the end of 2018. But many of our communications directors rivaled or exceeded that. BC Director Kris Sims has 7,500 followers, Atlantic Director Paige MacPherson 8,900 and Federal Director Aaron Wudrick 9,200.



*This tweet from Aaron Wudrick was seen by 285,000 people*



*One CTF video about the Trudeau government writing off loans to Chrysler in October received over 203,000 views*

# TRADITIONAL MEDIA

With communications directors across the country, the CTF works with the media to put our campaigns and ideas in front of Canadians.

## Number of appearances in 2018:

 TV – 1,347 (English), 153 (French)

 Radio – 7,237 (English), 16 (French)

 Print – 661 (English), 76 (French)

**Note:** Media counts are determined from a search of 26 English newspapers, four French newspapers, 111 radio stations, 84 English TV stations and 26 French TV stations.

**“Kudos to the Canadian Taxpayers Federation for paying attention. With newsrooms strapped for resources, the CTF’s work is often invaluable.”**

– James Miller, Managing Editor, Kelowna Daily Courier (February 15, 2018)

# BY THE NUMBERS



Number of copies of  
The Taxpayer magazine  
printed in 2018:

**93,600**



Number of donations  
received in 2017-18:

**31,205**



Number of CTF  
supporters at the end  
of 2018:

**141,000**



Number of people who  
signed CTF petitions  
in 2018:

**204,241**



Number of campus events  
organized by Generation  
Screwed in 2017-18

**65**



Number of freedom  
of information  
requests filed:

**2,743**



Number of unique  
visitors to Taxpayer.com  
in 2018:

**536,684**



Number of news releases  
issued by CTF directors

**118**



Number of videos  
produced by the CTF:

**93**



Number of op-eds  
penned by CTF directors:

**125**



Amount the federal debt  
increased in 2017-18:

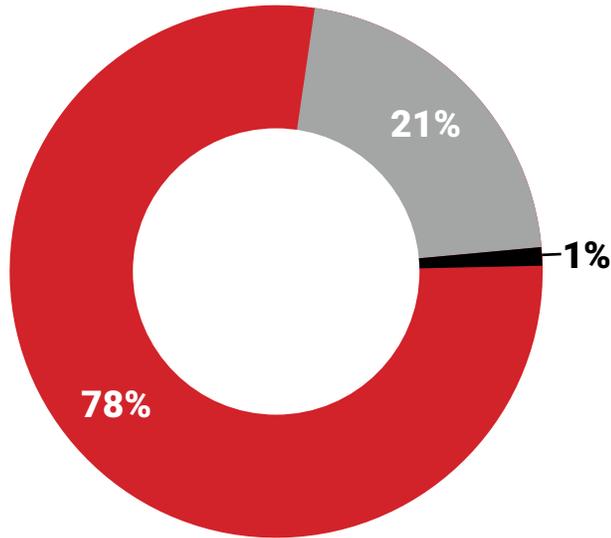
**\$22,714,000,000**

**162,888**

Number of unique visitors  
to Debtclock.ca in 2018

# 2018 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

## Revenue



Donations under \$1,000	\$ 3,957,153
Donations \$1,000 or greater	1,088,522
Events, Interest & Other	56,541

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**Total Revenue** **\$ 5.1M**

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**Supporters** **141,145**

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Donations < \$1,000	30,551
Donations > \$1,000	654

## Statement of Financial Position – Summary up to June 30, 2018

Current assets	\$ 486,812
Capital assets	15,036
Long-term investments:	93,946
<hr/>	
	<b>\$ 595,795</b>

Liabilities – accounts payable and accruals	\$ 75,118
Net assets	520,667
<hr/>	
	<b>\$ 595,795</b>

## Statement of Operations – Summary for the year ended June 30, 2018

Revenues	\$ 5,102,216
Expenses	5,006,666
<hr/>	
<b>Excess of revenue over expenses:</b>	<b>\$ 95,550</b>

# HOW TO SUPPORT THE CTF

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation is entirely supported with after-tax donations from tens of thousands of Canadians. We don't seek or accept any funding from political parties or governments. We only exist because enough Canadians want their voice to be heard.

As former U.S. President Ronald Reagan said: "When you can't make them see the light, make them feel the heat." The CTF does both. But we can't do it alone. We need hundreds of thousands of Canadians to bring the light and the heat to our politicians.



Sign up to get our Action Update emails. It's not a newsletter and it's not spam. We only email you when we're launching a new campaign and need you to take part. You can join at no cost at [Taxpayer.com](http://Taxpayer.com)



Make a donation toward our efforts. Join with tens of thousands of Canadians and chip in a few dollars to help us hire the people and run the campaigns that move public policy forward in Canada.

- 1) You can donate online at: [taxpayer.com/donate](http://taxpayer.com/donate)
- 2) You can donate via mail at: 265-438 Victoria Ave E,  
Regina, SK S4N 0N7
- 3) You can donate over the phone by calling: 1-800-667-7933
- 4) Or contact us and we can arrange an in-person meeting with one of our field representatives



If you donate \$100 or more, we will send you our magazine, The Taxpayer, three times a year. The CTF is not a charity and donations do not qualify for a charitable tax credit.



Donors interested in leaving a legacy gift in their estate or providing a living legacy can get more information by visiting [taxpayer.com/Legacy](http://taxpayer.com/Legacy) or by emailing Rick Pepper, Director of Legacy Programs, at [rpepper@taxpayer.com](mailto:rpepper@taxpayer.com).



**Visit our websites:**

**Taxpayer.com**  
**DebtClock.ca**  
**GenerationScrewed.ca**

**Contact us:**

**Administration office**  
265-438 Victoria Ave E  
Regina, SK S4N 0N7  
1-800-667-7933

**Ottawa office**  
Suite 712 - 170 Laurier Ave W  
Ottawa, ON K1P 5V5  
1-800-265-0442

