



Backgrounder

For Immediate Release

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TaxFighter Biographies

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation released the names of the three recipients of its TaxFighter Award for 2007. The three recipients are *National Post* and *Edmonton Journal* columnist Lorne Gunter, *Winnipeg Sun* columnist Tom Brodbeck and Edmonton senior Patricia Ehli.

Lorne Gunter

Lorne Gunter is a senior columnist at the *Edmonton Journal* as well as being a columnist and editorial writer for the *National Post*. A former managing editor of the *Alberta Report*, Lorne began his journalism career with the magazine in 1991. He started covering federal and provincial politics, including the entry of the Reform Party onto the national scene, the 1992 round of constitutional talks that led to the Charlottetown referendum and Alberta's Klein revolution.

An occasional panelist on the CBC's *The National*, Lorne is a regular contributor of commentaries for both *CBC Radio* and *Global Television*, as well as for several private radio services. He has published essays and opinion pieces in various newspapers and magazines, including the *Globe and Mail*, *Readers' Digest*, *National Review*, the *Weekly Standard* and others.

Lorne is a former chief of staff to a minister in the last Trudeau government. He is currently the editorial director of the Canadian Centre for Libertarian Studies, a member of the editorial board of conservativeforum.org and the past president of Civitas – a society for conservative and libertarian academics, think tanks, lobbyists and journalists.

A native of Medicine Hat, Alberta, Lorne is a graduate of the University of Alberta, is married and has two young children.

Tom Brodbeck

After 13 years covering federal and provincial politics, the criminal justice system, health care, education and civic affairs, this *Winnipeg Sun* columnist knows a thing or two about how tax dollars are spent, why criminals often get off with only a slap on the wrist and why so many politicians think it is their birthright to needlessly interfere in the lives of Canadians.

As the *Winnipeg Sun's* legislative reporter from 1996 to 2001, Tom covered a vote-rigging scandal that rocked Manitoba, the flood of the century that came within a whisker of sinking Winnipeg and a change in government that ended over 10 years of Progressive Conservative rule.

As the *Winnipeg Sun's* city columnist for the past six years, Tom has cracked the spine of Manitoba's Public Trustee through a series of investigative pieces – resulting in procedural changes and winning him a Sun Media Dunlop award.

His Eight-Ball Awards for soft-on-crime judges are reader favourites. And his Fat Cat bureaucrat reports on over-paid government brass have also gained popular appeal.

Patricia Ehli

69 year-old Patricia Ehli is an Edmonton great-grandmother who has become a bit of a local celebrity.

Mrs. Ehli joined the CTF's fight against the 21 per cent pay and perk hike for Edmonton city council, spending weeks in local shopping malls gathering some 1,200 signatures on the CTF's petition calling for a referendum.

She appeared throughout local media stories showing her dedication and fury when the massive pay increase was discovered. She followed it up with a fiery presentation to the 2007 City of Edmonton budget, opposing a proposed 7.8 per cent tax hike. The local media caught up with her again in the summer of 2007 to do a story about how she has had to go back into the workforce to pay her property taxes. She again attended public budget presentations in 2008 and angrily chastised council for taking the pay raise and sticking seniors like herself with a proposed 10.9 per cent property tax hike.

Now a local tax fighter hero, Patricia Ehli, is one ragin' taxpayer who refuses to stay silent. She is an example for ordinary fed-up citizens across the country.

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Nominations for this year's recipients were received from CTF supporters. Final decisions were determined by CTF staff.