

all together

NOW!

FOR PUBLIC SERVICES AND TAX FAIRNESS

**FACTS AND
ARGUMENTS**



national
union



No problems

NO PROBLEM WITH SPENDING

Total government spending has dropped dramatically in Canada over the last 16 years. In 1992 total government spending was 53% as a share of our economy; in 2008 it was down to 39%. The fact is we don't have a spending problem in Canada.

NO PROBLEM WITH THE DEFICIT

Canada is in the best financial situation of all the richest countries in the world. We have the lowest total debt level by

far. In 2014, Canada's total debt level as a share of the economy will be about 33%. Compare that to how high it will be in other countries:

Germany	81%
France	83%
US	85%
UK	91%
Italy	125%
Japan	142%

We still need to find a long-term and fair plan to bring government deficits down in Canada.

But there's absolutely no reason to panic and start hacking away at valuable public services. Canada is in good financial shape.

Real problems

TOO LITTLE REVENUE

So we don't have a spending or deficit problem. What we do have is a revenue problem. Total tax revenue (all the tax money collected by governments) in Canada has been steadily declining for years.

In 1995 total tax revenue was 36% as a share of the economy. In 2008 it was down to 33%. That amounts to about \$50 billion less revenue every year.

That's \$50 billion less for hospitals, schools, mental health programs, child care, environmental protection and

other important services and programs that raise our quality of life. The fact is that governments are bringing in less money every year because of tax cuts that benefit rich individuals and corporations a lot more than the rest of us.

TOO LITTLE TAX FAIRNESS

We have a tax fairness problem. Virtually all the benefits of tax cuts in recent years have gone to the super-rich (top 1%) and big profitable corporations.

Since 1990 the total tax rate for the lowest income Canadians has been going up, and for the richest Canadians it has been going down. Does that sound fair to you?

The trend has been so severe that today the super-rich (the top 1%) pay a lower total tax rate than the poorest 10%. Is that fair?

At the same time governments have been making deep cuts in corporate taxes. Canada now has the lowest corporate tax rates out of the richest 7 countries in the world.

Our corporate tax rates are 15% lower than the US rates. Just how low do we need to go?

Your story is our story. *Tell it!*

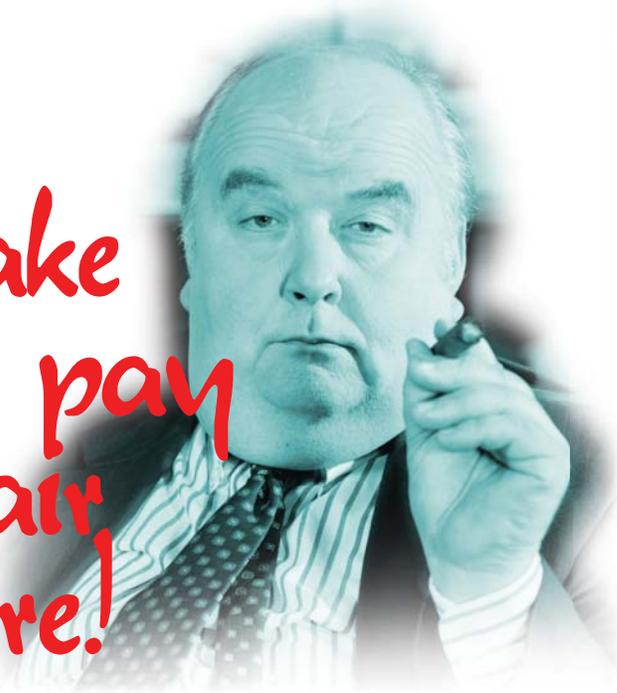
All Together Now! is our national campaign with three goals:

- defend public employees
- promote public services
- fight for tax fairness.



THE SINGLE BEST WAY to build support for public services is to speak with others about the value of those services. We want to start a conversation among all our members and their friends and families and neighbours—a conversation about how the services NUPGE members work to deliver create a big part of the public sector that helps to keep families and communities safe and secure.

- Like the home support worker who makes it possible for your grandmother to live at home in relative comfort and dignity.
- Like the public health inspector who tells the restaurant owner that he'll have to clean up or shut down before a customer gets sick.
- Like the vocational instructor who turns eager young people into skilled welders and pipe-fitters who can get good-paying jobs.
- Like the liquor store worker who tells the 16-year-old to put the bottle back on the shelf.
- Like the health professionals who keep us safe by preparing for and responding to a contagious disease outbreak.
- Like the highway maintenance worker who keeps the roads in good repair so you can get from here to there safely day-in and day-out, in all seasons.



**Make
'em pay
a fair
share!**

**IT'S TIME FOR THE TOP 1%
AND BIG CORPORATIONS TO
PAY THEIR FAIR SHARE**

Governments are planning more huge giveaways of tax cuts to the wealthiest individuals and corporations.

On the one hand, they say that because of the recession and deficits there's no money to invest in public services or the wages and working conditions of public service workers.

On the other hand, they're prepared to give away tens of billions of dollars in tax cuts that benefit the super-rich and big profitable corporations.

Why should families have to accept cuts to the public services they rely on every day just so governments can boost corporate profits and CEO salaries?

And is it fair that people who provide services like home care, mental health and child protection are being told to accept less in wages while governments give billions of dollars in tax cuts to corporate money machines like Wal-Mart, the Royal Bank, Rogers Communications and Imperial Oil?

Governments can afford to invest in public services and the workers delivering those services. They just need to cancel the irresponsible tax cuts for the richest 1% and big corporations—they need to finally make these two groups pay their fair share.

**It comes down to political choices.
Governments can make better choices.
But only if we make them.**

Now's the time!

Please get involved

- **SPEAK** with co-workers and friends about the value of public services and the need for tax fairness.
- **VISIT** our website at alltogethernow.nupge.ca It has lots of information and lots of actions you can take.
- **ORDER** copies of this leaflet and share it with others.
- **SIGN** our Equality Pledge. It talks about the growing gap between the poorest and richest Canadians and the role of public services and tax fairness in reducing that gap. Signing the Pledge will also allow us to keep you up to date on the campaign as it unfolds. You can sign it on the campaign website alltogethernow.nupge.ca or you can order a paper copy by sending an email to allTogetherNow@nupge.ca

