

# CTF welcomes THE WORLD



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**T**he Canadian Taxpayers Federation (CTF) is pleased to be hosting the World Taxpayers Conference (WTC) May 30-31, 2014 in Vancouver.

Every two years, the World Taxpayers Associations (WTA) holds an international conference hosted by one of its member organizations. In 2012 the conference was held in Kyiv, Ukraine and in 2010 in London, England, one of the late Margaret Thatcher's last public appearances.

The conference provides a unique opportunity for delegates from across Canada and around the world to exchange ideas and best practices that advance support for limited and accountable government.

The conference will feature speakers from around the world but also showcase a few of our own success stories here in Canada. Stockwell Day will discuss Alberta's single-rate tax 15 years after he, as that province's provincial treasurer, first announced the policy. Former finance minister and prime minister Paul Martin will discuss

the successful effort to balance the country's books in the 1990s, which paved the way for tax cuts early in the new century. Well known commentator Rex Murphy will be the conference's closing speaker.

Other issues addressed will cover the waterfront from the state of economic freedom in the world all the way to keeping a watchful eye on local government. The importance of protecting and encouraging tax competition at all levels of government will be another important topic.

The conference is not just about

policy issues. With the theme "leading change," more than half the sessions will be about practical applications, including effective communication, presenting ideas, outreach, using social media and fundraising.

Finally, the conference will feature a series of round tables where attendees can sit with international delegations to discuss issues and campaigns. Want to learn how the South Koreans gathered 1.3 million names through online campaigns or how the Finns have managed to sign up 10% of their coun-

Photo: Former Finance Minister Paul Martin. Flicker/The CBI

The CTF will be making a special presentation to Paul Martin (right) at the 2014 World Taxpayers Conference in Vancouver. Between his first balanced budget as finance minister in 1997 to when he left office as prime minister in 2006, Martin reduced Canada's federal debt by \$81.4-billion.





try's population? This conference will present unique leaders and ideas.

The CTF last hosted this conference in 1998. Representatives from across Canada and 11 countries attended. Our goals in 2014 are to significantly increase participation, to equip attendees with new knowledge and new contacts

and to host a world-class event that advances the cause of limited and accountable government.

Join us under the "events" tab at [Taxpayer.com](http://Taxpayer.com) or call 1-800-667-7933. For those unable to attend the full event, separate tickets are available for the Rex Murphy dinner on May 31.

**Thanks to our sponsors, registration for the World Taxpayers Conference is just \$349. Go to "events" tab on [Taxpayer.com](http://Taxpayer.com) or call 1-800-667-7933 to register.**

**W**orld Taxpayers Associations (WTA) is an umbrella organization made up of member taxpayer groups. It was founded in 1988 with the purpose of protecting citizens from ever-increasing tax claims by the state. But its more practical purpose was to create dialogue among the growing number of taxpayer associations that were popping up throughout the world. It would also support and foster the emergence of new taxpayer groups that often lacked the resources and expertise to sustain their efforts.

Today, the WTA has 68 member organizations from 54 countries. Most are pure advocacy groups like the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, fighting for limited and accountable government. Many others – such as Australia, Finland and Ukraine – tend to be more service-oriented, providing tax advice and legal resources to their members. Finally, taxpayer associations in more democratically restricted countries such as China – yes, China has a thriving taxpayer association – cannot openly criticize government but can conduct tax seminars and forward recommendations as to how the tax system can be improved.

The groups are guided by a set of principles which include support for:

1. Flatter, simpler taxes
2. Balanced budgets

## Meet the **WTA** WORLD TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATIONS

3. Tax competition
4. Government transparency and
5. Taxpayer rights (right of appeal, oppose unjust treatment by tax officials, etc.)

The oldest taxpayer association in the world? Australia, incorporated in 1921. The largest? Finland, at just over 500,000 members, fully

10% of the country's population belongs to the Finnish Taxpayers Association.

The CTF joined WTA in 1992. In 2010, CTF president Troy Lanigan was elected to its board of directors along with representatives from the United States, South Korea, Australia, Germany, Tanzania and France. **t**



The 2014 World Taxpayers Conference in Vancouver will honour World Taxpayers Associations founder and secretary general Bjorn Tarras-Wahlberg. After 26 years of fighting for taxpayers rights in every corner of the globe, Bjorn is stepping down as the organization's sole employee.