



CANADA WITHOUT POVERTY  
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***Tax Benefits Day Eclipses Tax Freedom Day***

**Ottawa** – Calling Tax Freedom Day a ploy developed by those who dislike and hope to reduce the presence and role of government, Canada Without Poverty today marked the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Tax Benefits Day. Tax Benefits Day is a direct counter to Tax Freedom Day, announced by the Fraser Institute as being this year on June 10.

“Tax Freedom Day is misleading,” says Harriett McLachlan, President of Canada Without Poverty. “Almost everyone pays something in tax almost every day of the year. We are and ought never to be free from paying our fair share of taxes. As the saying goes, taxes are the price we pay for civilization, or in other words the quality of life that we want.”

By way of background, Tax Freedom Day is in theory the first day of the year in which a nation as a whole has earned enough income to fund its public expenditures. The concept was first coined in 1948 by a Florida businessman.

“Decades of anti-tax rhetoric, and cries for so-called tax relief from the so-called tax burden, have undermined public appreciation of sufficient and fair taxation,” says Rob Rainer, Executive Director of Canada Without Poverty. “But the fact of the matter is that tax revenue supports a vast array of public services, as well as public institutions, that Canadians value and depend upon for their quality of life.”

A 2009 study by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) found that “Canadians enjoy an average \$17,000 benefit from the public services which our taxes fund — about the same amount a Canadian working full-time, full-year at the minimum wage would earn.” In a new video, the CCPA calls taxes “our gift to each other.”

“Canada Without Poverty has coined and is marking Tax Benefits Day as a way of reminding Canadians that we are all beneficiaries of our own tax-funded investments,” says McLachlan. “For a citizen to directly have to buy food and drinking water protection, for example, would cost way more to that citizen than what she is paying now through taxes. The question is not whether to tax, but how to efficiently and effectively redistribute revenue from taxation to support valued public services, and how to make taxation as fair as possible among all who ought to contribute.”

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**Canada Without Poverty is a registered charity founded in 1971 as the National Anti-Poverty Organization and governed by a Board of Directors who individually have experienced poverty first-hand.** Our name expresses the end we seek – a Canada in which no person need suffer what Gandhi called “the worst form of violence.” Our logo symbolizes rising above one’s poverty line towards a brighter future. We work in alliance with the CWP Advocacy Network which shares our logo, vision and values, and which leads on direct advocacy for progressive public policy and legislation.

***Canada Without Poverty is the coherent integration of advocacy, research, leadership and community credibility into one effective national dynamic.***

**Hugh Segal, Senator**