

Taxpayer-Friendly Election Platform



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Note to Political Parties in **Manitoba**: Please plagiarize

Taxation

Bracket Creep –Protect taxpayers by indexing the income tax system for inflation. Most provinces brought in such protection years ago. As MLA expense accounts are protected for inflation, it's only fair.

Basic Personal Exemption – Commit to matching the federal government's tax exemption level by the end of the next term in office.

Payroll Tax – Phase out Manitoba's job-killing payroll tax; a 'bonus tax' businesses have to pay once their payrolls reach \$1.25 million.

Phase-out School Property Taxes – Join Atlantic provinces by phasing out school taxes all together.

Spending

Spending Protection for Taxpayers – Hold the line on government spending to no higher than the combined rate of population growth and inflation.

Managed Competition – Open up government services to competition and encourage existing employees to bid-in for the work (*chances are they know where to trim the fat!*)

Cooperative Curriculum – Instead of each province having a K-12 curriculum department, cooperate with other provinces to share material and reduce costs.

School Board Reform – Does Manitoba really need 38 school boards? What about a pilot project – fund schools directly, no boards?

Gain sharing – This technique fundamentally changes how governments spend money. It lets employees keep part of the savings they help deliver (while service levels are maintained or increased.)

Citizen Centred Culture and Commerce – Scrap all subsidies to businesses and arts groups, and give the money back to taxpayers. Taxpayers could then decide who receives their money.

Efficiencies Commission – Create an efficiencies commission to review all government activities and recommend areas for improvement.



Environment

Province-wide Giveaway Weekends – A green idea that won't cost taxpayers any green. It's simple, twice a year the government designates weekends for citizens to put out unwanted goods - that still have life in them - on the curb with a "free" sign on the pile. Others are free to come by and poach the articles. It helps the environment without requiring a bureaucracy or spending tax dollars. Ottawa has held Giveaway Weekends for years and the CTF helped bring it to Winnipeg.

Convenience

Open Up Liquor Retail Sales to Competition – Loosen up restrictions around the sale of alcohol so that there is competition on the retail side. This would allow people to pick up their alcohol at the same place they pick up the rest of their meal.

Accountability

Answer Period – Across Canada, politicians of all political stripes routinely refuse to answer questions during “question period.” It’s time for a neutral, elected speaker of the house (chosen by voters province-wide) with the power to force politicians to answer questions.

Fraud and Waste Hotline – With a budget of over \$10 billion, there is bound to be abuse and waste in the system. A fraud and waste hotline would help government employees and taxpayers flush it out.

Citizens’ Commission on Democratic Reform – Announce a citizens’ commission on democratic reform which would give taxpayers a chance to review the current democratic structure and make binding recommendations on change.

Liberate Cabinet Documents – Current information laws require cabinet documents to be kept confidential for 20 years before the public has the right to see them. Reduce the period down to one year or less.

Give Power to Information Commissioner – Right now the Information and Privacy Commissioner can give opinions on disclosure of government documents, but has no power to force government bodies to release them. Give him the power.

Recall Legislation – Just like you can take back a new t.v. that doesn’t work, why not be able to return a politician that isn’t accountable? B.C. has “recall legislation” which allows citizens to remove a politician from office if enough citizens in the politicians’ riding sign a petition.

Keep Your Promise Provision – Change Elections Act to allow candidates to backstop their promises with bonds or fines if they are broken.

Citizens’ Initiative – This is the legislation that has allowed B.C. taxpayers to force a referendum on the HST. Citizens’ initiative allows taxpayers to gather signatures and force referendums on issues important to taxpayers.

Debt

Balance The Budget One Year Early – Balance the budget on a ‘core’ and ‘summary’ basis in the 2013-14 fiscal year; one year ahead of schedule.



Health Care

Open Up Health Services – Keep the public health care system, but allow private firms to offer the same services. This could help the economy (keep money in MB instead of people buying services in the U.S.) and take demand off the public system.

More Partnerships – Like Saskatchewan, partner with private sector firms to provide more medical and non-medical procedures such as laundry and cleaning services.

Justice

Real Rehabilitation – Reoffending rates for criminals coming out of Manitoba jails and institutions are over 75%. Renegotiate staff salaries to include performance bonuses for lower reoffending rates.

Work Benches NOT Work Out Machines – Rightly so, police officers are tired of going up against beefy criminals who sit around and weight lift in prison. Take out the weights out and give criminals exercise by putting them to work.

Cut out the Coffee – Take a cue from Arizona Sheriff Joe Arpaio and cut luxuries like coffee and other non-essentials from provincial jails



About the Canadian Taxpayers Federation: The Canadian Taxpayers Federation (CTF) is a federally incorporated, non-profit and non-partisan, advocacy organization 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 taxpayers organization. Today, the CTF has over 69,000 supporters nationwide.