



- ◆ Become a CCPA-NS research associate
- ◆ CCPA-NS Membership on the increase
- ◆ Tax Rebate Brings \$3,300 in Donations to CCPA-NS
- ◆ CCPA-NS Research on Tax Cuts Engages Public & Political Debate
- ◆ Recommended Book: "Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America"

AGM Nov 29—12:30 PM
Port Hawkesbury NSCC

Please join us at noon for a light
lunch before the meeting

NOVA SCOTIA OFFICE MOVES CAUTIOUSLY FORWARD FROM ONE TO THREE YEAR OPERATIONAL PLANNING

BY FRED FURLONG—CHAIRPERSON

The Nova Scotia office of CCPA was opened in November 1999. Since then, we have had to petition the National Office for continued financial support on a year-to-year basis. To get this we must convince CCPA that Nova Scotia will eventually sustain an organization that is able to produce high quality work focused on alternative policy specific to Nova Scotia and/or the Atlantic Region.

To date, evidence of sustainability has mostly been sought on our income statement. While we're very successful at minimizing expenses—watchful eyes are forever poised over the revenue column—where the bottom line is often cause for concern. We've attracted dollars from various new sources—but too often new revenues are merely addressing ground that is being lost. But, first let's focus on good news.

Some developments during this year, not entirely related to finances, provide hope the Nova Scotia Office will become a permanent feature in Nova Scotia's public policy landscape.

Firstly, CCPA-NS seat on the National Board has been upgraded from observer to voter status. Secondly, a 3-year, versus 1-year operational mandate has been negotiated by the Steering Committee. Thirdly, and perhaps most importantly, National seems to be placing greater value on the impact our publications have on the overall profile of CCPA in Canada. These developments make up a good news package—delivered to members with some caution and concern related to the Alternative Budget.

CCPA-NS anticipated the Alternative Budget would continue to grow as a source of revenue. Initially we projected and received \$10,000 in donations from labour organizations to support its production. This goal of \$10,000 per annum was not fully realized during 2002. At present, prospects for ongoing years seem even bleaker.

Alternative Budgets have become a benchmark of CCPA success at both National and Provincial levels. Understandably, CCPA-NS is reluctant to cancel its production for the years ahead. Please call if you have any help to suggest.

CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES (CUPE) PUTS ITS MONEY WHERE ITS HOPE IS

BY BARBARA MOORE

Trying to finance activities and alternative research specific to Nova Scotia isn't an easy task. Just ask John Jacobs, Provincial Director of CCPA for Nova Scotia or any member of the Nova Scotia Steering Committee. Each will tell you that without the required amounts of cold hard cash close to hand even the best and most creative ideas can't be moved forward. Hand-in-hand with prioritizing ideas is an ever present need to approach CCPA members and organizations for financial support.

This year the Canadian Union of Public Employees made a generous contribution of \$5,000 to the Nova Scotia Office of CCPA. Contributions like this go a long way to ensuring our 1-

person staff team and volunteer research associates can continue to publish excellent research. These include materials in the area of: tax cuts; the impact of the cruise industry; the right to strike; and a compendium of reference materials to help in the production of progressive researchers in Nova Scotia.

We sincerely thank CUPE National for stepping up to the plate with this \$5,000. It was sorely needed to help meet a targeted amount for contributions from organizations. In particular, we wish to thank CUPENS President Betty Jean Sutherland, who facilitated and supported this donation.

BECOME A CCPA-NS RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

BY JOHN JACOBS

**CCPA-NS is
recruiting new
research associates
now.**

**Contact John Jacobs
Provincial Director
(details on back
cover) to apply**

Are you a researcher? Does your work provide an alternative view to the limited perspective of business institutes and government agencies? If you answer is yes to these questions, please consider joining CCPA-NS as a research associate.

Our current research associates are academics and researchers who work with labour organizations or community groups. Each is concerned with issues of social and economic justice. And each is convinced that publishing with CCPA-NS is a way to ensure their research reaches a wider audience. CCPA-NS researchers recognize the importance of engaging Nova Scotians in public debate.

Another helpful role played by research associates is speaking on behalf of CCPA-NS on issues related to their expertise. Associates are also asked for advice on research topics and to review publications (sometimes on short notice...) prior to release.

To introduce you to some research associates and give you an idea of the scope of topics they are currently working on here's an overview of some publications that are nearing completion:

- ~ Larry Haiven and Jane Mullen of Saint Mary's University are taking a close look at **labour standards legislation in Nova Scotia**. Their study will review existing legislation and discuss needed reforms. Recommendations will be given.
- ~ Jeff Dayton-Johnson, Emily King and Tracy Zhang have a sharp interest in the **Nova Scotia culture economy**. Their research focuses on the Stan Rogers Folk Festival, the Atlantic Filmmakers Co-operative and Centre for Art Tapes.
- ~ Michael Corbett of Acadia University and Tony Kelly of McGill are working on an extensive report on the state of **public education in Nova Scotia**. At the core of this work are recommendations for revitalization.
- ~ Vince Calderhead has begun work on a paper that will examine **changes in income assistance rates** in Nova Scotia.
- ~ Pauline Raven is preparing the **Nova Scotia Child Poverty Report Card** for release in late November 2003. This report will give the latest statistics based on year 2001 data along with comparative data for the last decade.

CCPA-NS MEMBERSHIP ON THE INCREASE

Each year CCPA-NS Steering Committee members, with help from other dedicated volunteers, conduct a membership drive. The most recent drive took the form of a mailing, followed by friendly telephone calls. This work resulted in a 25% increase in individual members with 50 new members joining CCPA-NS. Our membership base now includes 250 members and 30 organizations. Currently, 2 faith-based organizations with reputations for action on issues of social and economic justice are in the process of becoming organizational members. We hope to be extending a warm welcome to these groups at this year's AGM.

TAX REBATE BRINGS \$3,300 IN DONATIONS TO CCPA-NS

This spring, like many Nova Scotians, CCPA-NS Steering Committee Members were appalled by the announcement of a \$155 tax rebate in Nova Scotia. After discussion, it was decided that each CCPA-NS member should be contacted and asked to support CCPA research by donating all or part of their personal tax rebate to the Nova Scotia Office. This campaign resulted in donations totaling over \$3,300. This amount speaks volumes to the generosity of our members and their desire to ensure that alternative economic policy continues to be produced right here in Nova Scotia.

CCPA-NS GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE INCREASED SUPPORT OF THE NOVA SCOTIA TEACHERS UNION FOR THE 2003 YEAR. THE NSTU INCREASED ITS ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TO \$5,000. SINCERE THANKS ARE EXTENDED ON BEHALF OF ALL MEMBERS.

CCPA-NS RESEARCH ON NS TAX CUTS ENGAGES PUBLIC & POLITICAL DEBATE

BY LARRY HAIVEN

Nova Scotians went into the election campaign last summer debating the wisdom of tax cuts. In their April budget, the Conservative government had promised a two step tax cut measure. A \$155 rebate cheque was to be mailed as soon as possible to every taxpayer. It seemed altogether too convenient to critics of “patronage” style politics that this plan would put cash in the hands of most voters just before a provincial election. Nova Scotians would then wait until January 1, 2004 for the second measure to come into effect – a ten percent, across-the-board cut in personal income tax.

CCPA Nova Scotia had anticipated the tax cuts and had warned about the folly of cuts in our Alternative Budget released in March. We had said that with a razor-thin surplus the province was courting disaster. We argued that the proposed tax cuts would become an excuse to reduce government funding for programs and services particularly in the areas of public health care, public education and community-based services. Moreover, the “balanced budget” legislation outlawing future deficits ensures that any downturn in the economy resulting in a budgetary shortfall would mean cuts to government programs.

Overall, reaction to the government's tax cuts was not favourable. The provincial Chamber of Commerce said it preferred paying down the debt to tax cuts. The Liberal Party compared the \$155 rebate cheque to former practices of giving people bottles of rum to buy votes. The NDP also criticized the tax cuts, voted against the budget, but in the election campaign did not include tax cuts as a key platform issue.

In July, with the election campaign in full swing, CCPA-NS released a detailed analysis of the impact of the tax cuts. This analysis received broad media coverage. The provincial Liberals promptly used CCPA-NS analyses to challenge the other parties positions on tax cuts. Demand for commentary from our Provincial Director on the tax cut report escalated. For the first time CCPA-NS had front-page coverage in the Chronicle Herald and significant coverage in the Globe and Mail.

We are proud to contribute a balanced, non-partisan analysis to this topic of great importance and interest to Nova Scotians. Providing alternatives to the limited views of business and government is why we exist. When we raise the level of inquiry and engage the public in debate – that’s a very sweet bonus indeed.

RECOMMENDED BOOK

NICKEL AND DIMED: ON (NOT) GETTING BY IN AMERICA

BY PAULINE RAVEN

The New York Times calls this book “explosive.” And it is. Barbara Ehrenreich’s paperback packs a punch. It tells just what it’s like to serve food, clean other people’s houses, provide care to ailing seniors, or work split shifts at Wal-Mart.

While set in America, the arguments she makes for why it is that women aren’t “getting by” are multiple and apply to Canada. After all, our labour standards—including minimum wage rates, along with access to affordable housing, daycare or dependable transportation isn’t all that different. Workers in Canada may have health care, but most low-wage earners lack access to the many benefits more affluent Canadians take for granted. Like their sisters south of the border many Canadian women work long hours for wages that can’t pay the bills – despite busy work schedules that exceed full time employment. Fully 1 in 4 Nova Scotian women earn less than \$7 per hour.

Most jarring is Ehrenreich’s principal conclusion. She says: “The ‘working poor,’ as they are appropriately termed, are in fact the major philanthropists of our society. They neglect their own children so that the children of others will be cared for; they live in substandard housing so that other homes will be shiny and perfect; they endure privation so that inflation will be low and stock prices high. To be a member of the working poor is to be an anonymous donor, a nameless benefactor to everyone else.”

The book is a must read. It’s guaranteed to increase the emotional understanding of issues related to women’s work and poverty. For Canadians fortunate enough to work for decent wages and who do not have direct connections to the working poor, it could even be transformative.

**Fully 1 in 4
Nova Scotian
women earn
less than
\$7 per hour**



Creating
policy
alternatives

We Need Your Support—Become A New Member Today

Complete and return to address above or visit www.policyalternatives.ca to join on-line.

Name: _____
Address: _____ City: _____
Province: _____ Postal Code: _____
Telephone: () _____ Fax: () _____
E-mail address: _____@_____

Choose Membership Type:

- \$300 Sponsor - receives The CCPA Monitor and a \$275 tax receipt
- \$100 Supporting Member - receives The CCPA Monitor and a \$75 tax receipt
- \$25 Basic Membership/Income - receives The CCPA Monitor
- \$ _____ Choose amount that suits your budget—tax receipt for balance over \$25

Choose Payment Option:

- Visa MasterCard #: _____ Expiry Date: ____ (M) ____ (Y) Cheque
- Yearly - we will charge your credit card for the full amount of your membership
- For \$100 and \$300 memberships - we will charge your credit card each month
(\$100 membership = \$8.35/month, \$300 membership = \$25.00/month)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

CCPA-NS Publications 2003

JANUARY

Relevant Resources For Socially and Environmentally Just Policies in Nova Scotia: A Bibliography

Jim Sacouman, Acadia University

This edition is divided into 20 helpful categories (Aboriginals, Acadians, Anti-racism, Black Nova Scotians, Community Development, Culture, Economic Development, Environment, Gays and Lesbians, Health, Labour, Movement, Legal System, Persons with Disabilities, Small Producers, Social Justice, Social Services, Solidarity, Women, and Youth). This comprehensive bibliography is updated as new references are submitted.

Please send details of publications you would recommend for inclusion in the next edition.

MARCH

Cruising Out of Control: The Cruise Industry, The Environment, Workers and the Maritimes

Ross Klein, Memorial University

Cruising – Out of Control provides an independent examination of the costs and benefits of the cruise ship industry. It goes beyond the unquestioning promotion of the industry to identify environmental costs such as emission from ships. This paper also examines the economic benefits and the working conditions aboard cruise ships.

Nova Scotia Alternative Budget 2003-2004

John Jacobs, CCPA-NS

Building on previous alternatives budgets the APB for 03-04 asks how a government that claims to have fiscal problems can earmark \$147

million for tax cuts. The paper examines the province's level of expenditure and revenue raised. It examines whether the province can afford a 10% income tax cut. The APB presents a responsible, practical fiscal strategy that revitalizes public services, manages the debt, and provides for progressive tax reform.

JULY

Who Really Benefits from the NS Income Tax Cut?

John Jacobs, CCPA-NS

Based on the most recent taxation data, this study examines the distribution of the 10% tax cut by income group, by gender and by county. Part 1 shows how these cuts provide little benefit to low income taxpayers compared to significant gains by wealthy taxpayers. Part 2 discusses how the tax cut increases inequality between men and women and between regions (e.g., how Halifax disproportionately benefits from the tax cut). The study concludes that the tax cuts will be paid for through decreased services and increased user fees.

SEPTEMBER

Charting a Course: The Cruise Industry, the Government of Canada and Purposeful Development

Ross Klein, Memorial University

Charting a Course is a companion to Cruising – Out of Control. This study discusses issues related to cruise ship tourism that port cities need to seriously consider. The study examines what is driving the industry, the assumptions that cities use to justify investments in port facilities and the developing competition between cities for cruise ship tourism. Importantly, the report also questions Canada's voluntary