Taxpayers Coalition Niagara fonds

1964, 1981-2014

RG 502

Brock University Archives

Creator: Taxpayers Coalition Niagara

Extent: 55 cm of textual records (1.5 boxes)
       2 banners
       1 poster

Abstract: Fonds contains material about the activities of the Taxpayers Coalition Niagara. Most of the material is meeting minutes, correspondence, news clippings, financial reports, promotional material, newsletters, presentations, articles and reports.

Materials: Meeting minutes, correspondence, news clippings, financial reports, promotional material, newsletters, presentations, articles and reports.

Repository: Brock University Archives.

Processed by: Chantal Cameron

Finding aid: Chantal Cameron

Last updated: April 2014

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Administrative History:

Taxpayers Coalition Niagara (TCN) was founded and incorporated in 1990 in response to the increasing tax burden faced by citizens, and the sometimes questionable use of taxpayers’ money by the government. Originally founded as the Committee for Responsible Government, the name was changed to Taxpayers Coalition Niagara in order to facilitate membership in a similar provincial organization, Taxpayers Coalition Ontario. The non-partisan Coalition was comprised of businessmen from St. Catharines, with Frank Sheehan as President.

The objectives of the Coalition included individual freedom and responsibility; obtaining maximum value for tax dollars; identifying and exposing irresponsible government policy and practice; the reduction of debt at all levels of government; the elimination of wasteful and unnecessary programmes; encouraging elected officials to regain control of their bureaucracies; and discouraging ‘empire building’ within local government. Early in 1991, the Coalition began advertising for members and financial support, receiving $11 000 from 1100 supporters. The membership consisted of both businesses and private citizens, eventually reaching 3500 members. The Coalition formed several committees, each one responsible for monitoring a public sector, such as municipal councils, school boards, police services and regional council. The Coalition worked towards achieving their objectives through presentations given to these groups by the committee leaders, as well as through ‘letters to the Editor’ and advertisements in local newspapers.

Frank Sheehan resigned as President in 1995, in order to run as a Conservative candidate in the Provincial election. In June 1995, Charles Atkinson was elected President. The recent election of the Conservative government (led by Mike Harris) resulted in the expectation that many of the Coalition’s objectives would be achieved by the newly elected government. Accordingly, it was decided that the organization would operate in a reduced capacity. The Coalition was terminated in April, 2003, after several years of little or no activity.

Scope and Content:

Fonds contains material relating to the activities of the Taxpayers Coalition Niagara. The bulk of the material is meeting minutes, correspondence, news clippings, financial reports, promotional material, newsletters, presentations, articles and reports. Some day-to-day financial records such as invoices were removed and discarded. Financial reports and summaries were retained. Duplicates have been removed and discarded. Within folders, material has been
The records were arranged into four series:

   Sub-series A: Minutes
   Sub-series B: Correspondence
   Sub-series C: Financial reports
   Sub-series D: Coalition objectives and procedures
   Sub-series E: Membership

   Sub-series A: Taxpayers Coalition Niagara
   Sub-series B: Canadian Tax Federation/Ontario Tax Federation
   Sub-series C: Charette, Gasparini and Associates/Centre for Less Government
   Sub-series D: Other promotional material
   Sub-series E: News clippings
   Sub-series F: Newsletters

   Sub-series A: School Boards
   Sub-series B: Regional & City Councils
   Sub-series C: Police Services
   Sub-series D: Presentations

   Sub-series A: Articles & Reports
   Sub-series B: Notes
   Sub-series C: Lists & forms

Inventory:


Minutes, 1991-1998. Contains agendas and minutes of TCN meetings, including
meetings of the Executive and the group’s various committees, such as the
Membership Committee, Regional Council Committee, Police Commission
Committee, and the St. Catharines City Council Committee. Also includes some
minutes of the Niagara South Board of Education Finance Committee meetings at
which a member of the TCN was present (1995, 1996).

Sub-series B: Correspondence, 1990-2003, n.d.

Correspondence, 1990-2003, n.d. Contains general correspondence sent and
received by the TCN. Includes ‘Letters to the Editor’ written by TCN members
and submitted to local newspapers. Also includes enclosures sent with
correspondence, such as questionnaires sent to school trustee candidates running
in the 1994 municipal elections. Some blank TCN stationary and unused
envelopes are included with the correspondence with no date.

Sub-series C: Financial reports, 1990-1995

Contains financial statements and auditor’s reports for TCN, 1990-1995.


Includes a list of Coalition goals & objectives; a proposal to convert the TCN
from a non-profit, volunteer organization to a non-profit organization with a
permanent paid staff and volunteers; a list of qualifications for the president of
TCN; a flow chart of the process used by the TCN to effect change; a draft policy
on membership fees and financing the Coalition; and a brief outline of the history
of the TCN by Charles Atkinson.


Membership, 1991-1994, n.d. Includes lists of the members of the various
committees of the TCN, including the Executive Committee, Advisory
Committee, Education Committee, St. Catharines City Council Committee, and a
table showing the number of TCN members residing in various parts of the
Niagara region.

Membership forms, 1991, n.d. Contains blank membership forms and cards, as
well as some completed forms.


1.22 Contains mostly advertisements for the Committee for Responsible Government and Taxpayers Coalition Niagara, as well as some brochures and a program of the 1st annual convention of the Taxpayers Coalition Ontario.

2.20 One poster that reads “Taxpayers Coalition Niagara Memberships”.

2.21-2.22 Two large banners. One reads “Taxpayers Coalition Niagara Memberships”, the other “Taxpayers Coalition Niagara”.

Sub-series B: Canadian Tax Federation/Ontario Tax Federation

1.23 Media releases issued by the Canadian Tax Federation and the Ontario Tax Federation, 1996-1997.


1.25 General promotional material by the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, 1995, n.d. Contains a copy of a Taxpayer Protection Pledge signed by Mike Harris, May 30, 1995, meeting notices, flyers, and a profile of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.


1.26 Contains a profile of Charette, Gasparini and Associates, as well as some of the resources created for the company’s subscribers.


1.27 Contains various flyers and brochures, including some for Advanced Municipal Systems; People Against the NDP Budget; a Report to Ontario Taxpayers by the Government of Ontario; and a conference on Activity Based Costing and Cost Management for the Public Sector, Institute for International Research.


1.35 Newsletters—Other, 1990-1997. Includes newsletters of the National Citizens’ Coalition; Ontario Fair Tax Commission; Taxpayers Coalition of Victoria County; Canadian Federation of Independent Business; the Niagara Falls Chamber of Commerce; and the Ministry of Education and Training.


1.36 Correspondence, 1992-1993, n.d. Contains correspondence to and from the Lincoln County Board of Education and the Lincoln County Roman Catholic School Board. Also includes financial and staffing data for the Lincoln County Board of Education compiled by the Ministry of Education, dated July 21, 1992; minutes of the Lincoln County Board of Education meeting, October 13, 1992 and a report, An Examination of Areas of Cooperation for Economic Efficiency between Lincoln County Board of Education and Lincoln County Catholic School Board by G. Roger Allan, April 28, 1992.

1.37 Strategy, 1991-1995, n.d. Includes suggestions for school board election advertising campaign and suggestions for school board interaction; questionnaires for trustee candidates for the Lincoln County Board of Education; and instructions for school board monitors.

School Teachers’ Federation and L’Association des Enseignantes Franco Ontariens, Region 5, Sept. 1, 1992-Aug. 31, 1994; an amalgamation study for the Welland and Lincoln Roman Catholic School Board, 1993; Municipal Conflict of Interest Act; 1997 budget media release by the Lincoln County Board of Education; Education Quality Improvement Act, 1997; The Road Ahead: A Report on Learning Time, Class Size and Staffing, August 1997; and a chart showing the senior administrative organization of the District School Board of Niagara.

**Sub-series B: Regional & City Councils, 1981-1994, n.d.**


2.2 Lists of elected officials and candidates, 1992-1994, n.d. Includes lists of municipal elected officials; members of the city councils of Niagara Falls and St. Catharines; and candidates for mayor, alderman, regional councilor and trustee, 1994.

2.3 Questions for candidates, 1991, n.d. Contains TCN questions to candidates for Niagara Falls City Council, regional candidates and a candidate profile form created by the TCN.

2.4 Market Value Assessment/Development Fees, 1988-1992, n.d. Includes the joint report of the City of Toronto Assessment reform working group and the North York special task force on property tax assessment, 1988; by-law to establish development charges for the City of St. Catharines, 1990; supplementary report for the new development charges by-law, 1991; letters from local developers and city councils to the Region regarding the proposed regional development charges; and a guide to the region-wide assessment program, February, 1992.


2.6 Elections news clippings, 1994.

2.7 Elections news clippings, n.d.

2.8 1994 Elections Resources, 1991-1994, n.d. Includes promotional material for candidates; City of St. Catharines demographic information by ward; TCN suggestions for election campaign; questions for candidates for election to the
Lincoln County Board of Education and the Lincoln County Catholic Separate Board; list of municipal and school board elections key dates; and a candidate’s guide to the 1994 municipal elections by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

**Sub-series C: Police Services, 1990-1997**


2.12 Presentations, 1994. Includes a presentation to the Finance Committee & Board members of the Niagara South Board of Education and several untitled presentations.

2.13 Presentations, 1996-1997. Includes presentation and submission to the Committee on General Government Hearings on Bill 26, Jan. 11, 1996 presented by Charles Atkinson; a presentation and submission to the Standing Committee on Social Development Hearings on Bill 104, March 25, 1997, presented by Ian Fielding; and a presentation and submission to the Standing Committee on General Government Hearings on Bill 160, October 1997, presented by Charles Atkinson.

2.14 Presentations, n.d. Includes a Rotary Club speech, a speech to Regional Council, and a presentation titled *A Challenge to the Business and Professional Community*. 


**Sub-series C: Lists & Forms, 1992-1997, n.d.**

2.19 Lists & Forms, 1992-1997, n.d. Includes a list of resource people for TCN, July 6, 1992; a checklist for public meetings; form letters; list of union vs. non-union salary comparisons; list of cost saving ideas: ICMA guide to management improvements projects in local government; and a list of contact people for Regional Council, City Council; Lincoln County Board of Education, Lincoln County Roman Catholic Separate School Board, French Language Section Trustees, n.d.