

# 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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- Preferred citation:** RG 502, Taxpayers Coalition Niagara fonds, 1964, 1981-2014, Brock University Archives, Brock University.
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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.

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**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

arranged chronologically.

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**Organization:**

The records were arranged into four series:

Series I: Administrative, 1990-2014, n.d.

Sub-series A: Minutes

Sub-series B: Correspondence

Sub-series C: Financial reports

Sub-series D: Coalition objectives and procedures

Sub-series E: Membership

Series II: Promotional material, 1964, 1990-2013, n.d.

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

Series III: Activities, 1981-1998, n.d.

Sub-series A: School Boards

Sub-series B: Regional & City Councils

Sub-series C: Police Services

Sub-series D: Presentations

Series IV: Resources, 1991-1999, n.d.

Sub-series A: Articles & Reports

Sub-series B: Notes

Sub-series C: Lists & forms

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**Inventory:**

**Series I: Administrative, 1990-2014, n.d.**

**Sub-series A: Minutes, 1991-1998, n.d.**

- 1.1-1.9 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.**

- 1.10-1.17 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**

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

**Sub-series D: Coalition Objectives & Procedures, 1994, 2014, n.d.**

- 1.19 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.

**Sub-series E: Membership, 1991-1994, n.d.**

- 1.20 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.
- 1.21 Membership forms, 1991, n.d. Contains blank membership forms and cards, as well as some completed forms.

**Series II: Promotional material, 1964, 1990-2013, n.d.**

**Sub-series A: Taxpayers Coalition Niagara, 1991-1994, n.d.**

- 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.
- 1.24 Newsletters published 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.

**Sub-series C: Charette, Gasparini and Associates/Centre for Less Government, 1994, n.d.**

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

**Sub-series D: Other promotional material, 1991-1995, n.d.**

- 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.

**Sub-series E: News clippings, 1964, 1990-2013, n.d.**

1.28-1.33 News clippings, 1964, 1990-2013, n.d.

**Sub-series F: Newsletters, 1990-1997, n.d.**

1.34 Contains newsletters of the Committee for Responsible Government and the Taxpayers Coalition Niagara, 1990-1996, n.d.

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.

**Series III: Activities, 1981-1998, n.d.****Sub-series A: School Boards, 1991-1998, n.d.**

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.

1.38 Resources, 1991-1998, n.d. Contains financial statements for the Lincoln County Board of Education; collective agreements between the Niagara South Board of Education and the Federation of Women Teachers' Associations of Ontario and Ontario Public School Teachers' Federation and L'Association des Enseignantes Franco Ontariens, Region 5, Sept. 1 1992-Aug. 31, 1994; collective agreement between Niagara South Board of Education and District 7, Ontario Secondary

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.**

- 2.1 Financial documents, 1981-1994, n.d. Includes budget expenditures and mill rates.
- 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.
- 2.5 Elections news clippings, 1991-1993.
- 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**

- 2.9 Contains a report, *Financial Concerns re: Police Department*, Oct. 28, 1993, by the Police sub-committee of the TCN, and a police budget, 1990-1997.

**Sub-series D: Presentations, 1991-1997, n.d.**

- 2.10 Presentations, 1991-1992. Includes a speech to the Rotary Club, Feb. 1991; presentation to St. Catharines City Council; March 25, 1991; presentation to Lincoln County Roman Catholic Board of Education, April, 1991; outline of presentation to Niagara South Board of Education, Jan. 22, 1992 and Welland County Roman Catholic School Board, Feb. 1992; and a presentation to the Ontario Taxpayers Coalition, *How to Create and Implement an Effective Lobby Campaign: the Keys to Success*, Mar. 8, 1992.
- 2.11 Presentations, 1993. Includes notes for a presentation to the Niagara South Board of Education, Feb. 23, 1993; presentation to Committee Ward System by John Anderson, Sept. 29, 1993; and the Royal Commission on Learning presentation by TCN, Nov. 3, 1993.
- 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*.



**Series IV: Resources, 1991-1999, n.d.****Sub-series A: Articles & Reports, 1991-1999, n.d.**

- 2.15 Articles & Reports, 1991-1992. Includes *The Unreal World of Ottawa Spending*, Reader's Digest, Feb. 1991; *Spend and Tax: A Report to the Minister of Finance*, by Garth Turner, MP, April 1991; *Accountability and Educational Philosophy: Paradigms, Conflict and Politics in Ontario Education* by Dennis Raphael, May 1991; *Proposed Reform of the Ontario Labour Relations Act: A Summary of the Discussion Paper from the Ministry of Labour*, Nov. 20, 1991; *Controlling Expenditures: Auditing of a School Board*, March 7, 1992; *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; and *Wage Watchers: Measuring the Excess in Municipal Government Salaries and Benefits*, Canadian Federation of Independent Business, Oct. 1992.
- 2.16 Articles & Reports, 1993-1994. Includes a Report Card on Ontario's Municipalities (Canadian Federation of Independent Business); an interim report on the amalgamation fact finding process for the Windsor-Essex area school boards; *Cash for Life: the Members of Parliament Pension Plan* (Canadian Federation of Independent Business); *Wage Watch: Measurement of the Public Sector/Private Sector Wage Gap*, Nov. 1993 (Canadian Federation of Independent Business); 1993 Benefits and Working Conditions Survey Report; article for Education Today submitted by Francis X. Sheehan, Feb. 17, 1994; and the Ontario Charter: a proposed bill of rights for local government (Association of Municipalities of Ontario).
- 2.17 Articles & Reports, 1995-1999, n.d. Includes a submission to the Regional Municipality of Niagara Committee of the Whole Regarding the Proposed 1997 Property Tax Increase on behalf of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation and the Taxpayers Coalition Niagara, March 20, 1997; *The Maves Report* by Bart Maves, MPP for Niagara Falls, April 25, 1997; 1999 Pre-Budget Consultations, Ernie Eves, Minister of Finance, Feb. 23, 1999; *Report from the People's Republic of Ontario*; and the *Business Property Tax Load in Niagara Region: Summary of CFIB results*.

**Sub-series B: Notes, 1991-1998, n.d.**

- 2.18 Contains mostly handwritten notes, 1991-1998, n.d.

**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.