

I am writing to you on behalf of Canadians who are very concerned about the US Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) and a rumoured intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the US, which Finance Minister Jim Flaherty and his officials have been negotiating behind closed doors and with minimal public, and no Parliamentary, input.

Your party is on record as having very serious concerns about FATCA. You are a candidate for election to Parliament in Toronto Centre. It will be of interest to you to know that on November 13 and 14, at the North Building of the Metro Convention Centre in Toronto, The Canadian Institute is hosting its 19th Annual Regulatory Compliance for Financial Institutions conference.
<http://www.regulatorycomplianceforfis.com/>

Please notice that the last bullet on the agenda of this page lists as a main topic of the conference “navigating the hurdles preventing you from achievement of compliance with FATCA.”

Even though there is no IGA yet, The Canadian Institute and Canada’s large financial institutions seem to think this is a “done deal.” They are advising conference attendees on how to “navigate hurdles to compliance.” I am concerned that such “navigation” not violate sovereign Canadian law and the Charter and other legal rights of Canadian citizens and residents who are of US origin.

Among those “hurdles to compliance” are the many Canadian citizens and residents who are outraged over FATCA and who are active on two Canadian websites devoted to FATCA issues. I am one such Canadian.

Both websites are working together to organize a sidewalk demonstration against this conference and against FATCA; please see the links below;

<http://isaacbrocksociety.ca/2013/11/02/help-appreciated-for-nov-13-14-toronto-protest-against-fatca-complicit-banks/>

and

<http://maplesandbox.ca/2013/help-appreciated-for-nov-13-14-toronto-protest-against-fatca-complicit-banks/>

Our organizers have filed with Toronto Police a "notice of demonstration" that provides details of the sidewalk protest that will be held in front of the North Building of the Toronto Metro Convention Centre on November 13 and 14.

For your information, this is not our first anti-FATCA demonstration. We have already organized demonstrations at a press conference Jim Flaherty gave in Ottawa on September 9, on Parliament Hill on October 16 during the Throne Speech, and a few days ago at the Conservative Party convention in Calgary.

I am attaching for your information two documents we will be distributing during this protest: a fact sheet, and a petition to Parliament for which we are collecting signatures. I urge you to read these documents.

FATCA has entered the consciousness of many Canadians, and not only those of US origin. Mainstream media are now covering this story. A recent example is the following excellent article on Macleans magazine on-line. I urge you to read the story and particularly the comments posted with it, which give you a flavour of the strong opinions and feelings FATCA is raising. FATCA will in fact affect ALL Canadians, not only those of US origin.

<http://www2.macleans.ca/2013/10/31/think-sharing-bank-data-with-the-u-s-only-affects-canadian-americans-think-again/>

The issue is not limited to Canada; it is world-wide, as witnessed by coverage FATCA has received in The Economist:

<http://www.economist.com/news/united-states/21587815-loopy-tax-rules-spur-expats-renounce-their-american-citizenship-overtaxed-and-over-there>

Canada has a unique role to play in stopping FATCA in its tracks. Except perhaps for Mexico, we have the largest concentration of American immigrants in the world. Other countries are watching Canada and what Canada is, or is not, going to do about FATCA.

This protest is an opportunity for you and your campaign workers to join with us in demonstrating publicly your concern about FATCA and about what our government is negotiating with the US Treasury Department behind closed doors.

It would be wonderful if you and/or some of your campaign workers would join our demonstration, and if you could assist us in getting media coverage of this event. The FATCA issue and the demonstration is particularly timely for the Toronto Centre by-election.

We are Canadians from all parts of the political spectrum, united in our opposition to FATCA and any agreement between Canada and the US concerning FATCA. We believe that the extraterritorial application of US law on Canadian soil would be a violation of Canadian sovereignty and the rights of Canadians of US origin or US parentage, which should be a concern to all Canadians and all Canadian political parties. Accordingly, we have also extended this invitation to the (other four parties named here) Canadian candidates.

I urge you and your campaign organization to give this invitation your favourable consideration, and for you to contact our organizer for more information on how together we might coordinate this effort to oppose any IGA that would violate Canadian sovereignty and the rights of Canadians.

If you wish to join us on November 13 and/or 14, please contact, as soon as possible: