

Are You a Consumer, Taxpayer or Citizen?

by Stephen Elliott-Buckley - Friday, February 14, 2014

<https://politicsrespun.org/2014/02/are-you-a-consumer-taxpayer-or-citizen/>



“Taxes are the way we pay for the things we decide to do together, and we are stronger together.” - Alex Himelfarb

Citizen. Period.

While we consume and pay taxes, those are activities of our existence. The economy is supposed to serve our social goals as human beings. We are not economic entities that exist to serve the 1% in their effort to maximize shareholder wealth.

So here's a word to drop this year, and forever:

Taxpayer

Of course, we are all taxpayers, but we are, first and foremost, social citizens who invest in each other and in our communities. That's the gift we give each other every time we pay our taxes. Group hug. [Source]

via [Hennessy's Index: January 2014 | Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.](#)

And to be honest, I LOVE paying taxes. They are how we buy things together as a society, many of which are human rights, like:

1. clean water
2. free education
3. free healthcare

4. reliable sewage systems
5. libraries
6. swimming pools
7. rec centres
8. tennis courts
9. electrical infrastructure
10. the CPP, which today [has been declared](#) wildly solvent!
11. massively subsidized post-secondary education
12. mental health supports
13. [Insite](#)
14. legal aid
15. Quebec's childcare plan
16. [cancer research](#)
17. [community health clinics](#)
18. parks
19. beaches
20. museums
21. public art [[even this](#)]
22. and so many more things...

What are you thankful for, which taxes provide?

And do you agree with Trish Hennessy, above, that we're human beings and not "taxpayers"? Personally, I reject being minimized to an economic element.

And if you agree with Trish, do the group hug thing. It's V-day after all! And click on that link above to see all the other words she thinks we can do with out, forever, starting this year!