

Popular Economics: A FAIR economy is a STRONG economy

VIDEO DISCUSSION GUIDE



A fresh take on the economy

Discussions about the economy shouldn't be dominated by banks and corporations. Join the conversation about how the economy can work for Canadian workers, our families, and our communities.

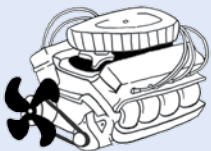
CUPE's *Popular Economics* videos shed light on basic economic issues, and how they affect all of us.

Instructions

1. **Watch** the videos. Pretty simple, eh?
2. **Share** the videos. Show them at union meetings and events. Share them online (visit cupe.ca/popular-economics). Show them to your friends. Show them to your parents and your children.
3. **Discuss**. This guide contains discussion questions for each module. Use these questions to help share the message: a fair economy is a strong economy.

The videos

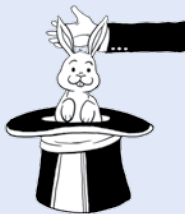
Module 1: Workers are the economy



Don't believe the hype! Despite what politicians backed by banks and corporations spread through the media, workers aren't the problem in today's economy. They're what drives it. Understand how corporate interests have tipped the economic scale in their favour, and how workers can tip it back in favour of working families and communities.

Question: Who is benefitting from the economy as it is? Who is being left behind?

Module 2: Fair taxes



Canadian governments have been lowering corporate taxes for years, reducing government revenues by tens of billions. While corporations sit on huge cash reserves, governments go deeper into debt, and have to cut vital public services. Fairer taxes could help restore the imbalance.

Question: How could we make our country better if we had a fairer tax system?

Module 3: Protecting public services



From community centres to schools, hospitals and lots in between, public services are safe, effective, and accountable. Private, for-profit services are more expensive and less reliable. And charging more for services hurts the people who need them most. Let's keep public services public.

Questions: Can you think of any public services you have used today? Who has access to the services that you used? What are the advantages of public services?



Module 4: Unions and fairness



Unions are the secret weapon that makes the economy stronger. The benefits unions achieve raise the standard for all workers. Many of the most competitive economies in the world are the most unionized. Strong unions mean a fairer economy for all workers.

Question: What issues are you facing at the bargaining table? What could your local bargain that would benefit your community?

Module 5: Together, for a stronger economy



Let's build an economy that works for everyone. Together, we can elect people who believe in a fair economy, make taxes fair, and invest in public services. A strong economy is a fair economy.

Question: How do you contribute to a stronger economy? What else could each of us be doing?

What can I do?

There are lots of ways to get involved.

Unite for fairness

Unite for Fairness is CUPE's national project to reach out and speak personally with each of our 627,000 members. Communicators from every local will connect directly with members and celebrate the value of unions. Start the project in your local. Find out more at uniteforfairness.ca

Retirement security for all: Expand the CPP

Over 11 million Canadian workers are without workplace pension plans. Study after study shows Canadian workers can't afford to save enough for retirement. A gradual and modest expansion of the Canada Pension Plan is the best way to ensure retirement security for Canadians. CUPE supports the Canadian Labour Congress' proposal to double Canada Pension Plan (CPP) benefits to ensure a better minimum pension for all Canadians. Find out more at cupe.ca/pensions

Canadians for Tax Fairness

Creating a fair tax system would go a long way to building a fair economy. Canadians for Tax Fairness advocates for exactly that. Find out more at taxfairness.ca

Ten percent shift

Every month, you spend a lot of money on your home, your family, your car, food, clothes—the list just goes on. That's a lot of power you hold in your hands. By shifting 10 per cent of your spending to local businesses and producers, you can make your community stronger and an even better place to live. Find out more at tenpercentshift.ca



Know more: Helpful resources

Economy at work

CUPE's quarterly publication *Economy at work* breaks down economic issues that affect average Canadians. Wages, inflation, the cost of housing and education, investment in public services—these are the economic issues that matter to Canadian workers. Find it at cupe.ca/economyatwork

Tabletalk

Another CUPE quarterly, Tabletalk provides CUPE bargaining committees and servicing representatives useful information for preparing and negotiating bargaining demands. Find it at cupe.ca/tabletalk

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives is an independent, non-partisan research institute concerned with issues of social, economic and environmental justice. Founded in 1980, the CCPA is one of Canada's leading progressive voices in public policy debates. Find reports, become a member, or donate at policyalternatives.ca

PressProgress

Advancing progressive solutions for Canada with hard-hitting news and analysis, PressProgress cuts through the day's political spin with facts and an informed point of view. From punchy blog posts to a daily web roundup spreading news and views, PressProgress is a must-read to spur positive change. See the latest at pressprogress.ca

