

Here's a longer excerpt from my response to Mr. Lanagan:

"... The phrase "corporate agenda" is shorthand, obviously, for a range of policies we see corporations and their advocates in society pushing for, generally used in my blog to describe those policies in particular that I believe are bad for society.

"So, for example, this would include:

- Low corporate taxes designed both to raise the corporate bottom line and reduce the ability of the public sector to operate effectively
- Extremely low personal taxes on wealthy individuals and families
- Lack of progressivity in the tax system
- Economic policies that enhance the concentration of wealth in a few individual and corporate hands
- Deregulation, especially of financial markets, inevitably and deceptively described as "cutting red tape"
- Transfer of services best or better provided by the public sector into the private sector
- P3s and like mechanisms designed to subsidize the corporate sector in the name of private-sector efficiency
- Obsessional objections to public sector debt and deficit based not based on sound economic principles but to inhibit the effectiveness of the public sector
- Opposition to subsidization of social services, such as post-secondary education, that benefit all of society
- Privatization of knowledge created at public expense (for example, in public research institutions) and placing it in private hands for profitable purposes
- Transfer of wealth owned in common by all citizens to the corporate sector, for example, natural resources
- Transfer of risk to the public sector, for example the environmental impacts of privatized wealth
- Trade agreements designed to limit the democratic rights of individuals and enhance the rights of corporations
- The "marketization" of everything including natural, cultural and intellectual wealth owned in common by all citizens
- Restrictions on fundamental human rights such as freedom of association and collective bargaining when they conflict with corporate "rights"
- The granting of rights and freedoms associated with natural human beings to corporations, known in law as corporate personhood

"I could go on, but you get the idea. Naturally, my critique of the CTF focuses in particular on its advocacy of a corporate and personal tax structure that benefits corporations and not citizens. ... CTF's analysis of debt and deficit in particular strikes me as unsound in terms of conventional economics. And I will admit to being

particularly irritated by CTF stunts that attempt to prove tax money is being wasted by attacking pure research by scientists, social scientists and humanities theorists if their work does not have a specific and immediately obvious corporate benefit, which is ad hominem, unfair to individuals who make a great contribution to society and plain wrong from the perspective of the history of the advancement of knowledge. It plays, of course, on the ignorance of certain segments of the population and is frankly beneath you.”

*NOTE: Mr. Lanagan also told me in that exchange of emails that I will never be allowed to cover a CTF function because my reporting and commentary isn't friendly enough. Fair enough. It's their clubhouse. But readers should remember what this means about reporters and commentators who are allowed through the doors to CTF events. DJC*