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**To:** CUPE Local Presidents and Secretary-Treasurers

**Date:** November 1, 2016

**Re:** Political Donations

Big changes are coming to the way political donations happen in Ontario – and we’re writing to you with **an unusual but urgent “ask”** as a result.

We need your Local union to consider a one time, last time, donation to the Ontario NDP.  
Let us explain...

After December 31, corporations and unions will no longer be able to make financial donations of any kind to Ontario political parties or provincial candidates.

We’re relieved that corporate money will soon be removed from politics – at least officially.

Corporations only give money to political parties that further their interests – the Liberals and the Conservatives. Ending corporate donations will mean Bay Street banks and law firms who’ve made millions off the Hydro One sell-off, and who have been donating huge sums to their Liberals friends, won’t be able to do that anymore.

So far this year, as of October 13, 2016, the PCs have taken in \$4.9 million and the Liberals have raised \$4.2 million.

Make no mistake – corporate and wealthy supporters of the Liberals and the PCs are stepping up and trying to build up resources for their political parties – and that places the NDP at a disadvantage.

Recent reports in the Toronto Star indicate the Liberals want to get all the corporate cash they can before the legislation comes in, with Liberal insiders pushing to raise \$2 million in the last two months of this year alone!

Compare and contrast this reality with that of the Ontario NDP, which relies primarily on individual and union donations. Up to October 13, 2016, the ONDP has raised only \$1.2 million total.

After the end of this year, unions won’t be able to provide financial support to the Ontario NDP – the party that, while not perfect, more clearly and directly reflects the interests of our members and their communities than the other two.

The Ontario NDP has been fighting alongside CUPE Ontario against privatization, including fighting the sale of Hydro One. They are the only party that sends its MPPs to stand with CUPE members on picket lines. They have defended our right to free collective bargaining and have called for legal changes to make it easier for workers to join a union. They are calling for a \$15.00 an hour minimum wage, have been advocating increasing corporate taxes and for increases to investments in public service, including tabling legislation to make 4 hours of hands on care for seniors in long term care the law.

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**Fred Hahn**  
President

**BUILDING A BETTER ONTARIO**

**Candace Rennick**  
Secretary-Treasurer

That's why we're asking your Local to consider making what might be its first ever and will certainly be its last ever donation to the NDP. That means writing a cheque for a one-time only donation to the Ontario NDP before December 31, 2016.

CUPE Ontario and CUPE National have made donations, but to have a fighting chance to raise as much as possible, we're asking your Local to donate as well.

Every Local that holds bargaining rights in the province of Ontario is eligible to donate up to what is currently the maximum allowable donation of \$9,975 before the end of the year.

We're not asking you to do that specifically. Whatever your Local can give, whether it is \$100 or \$9,975, will make a meaningful difference to the Ontario NDP's ability to take on the Liberals and the PCs in the next provincial election that is being scheduled for June 7, 2018.

We know the time is short. In many cases, CUPE Locals need to gain approval at their Local general membership meeting to make this kind of contribution, which we're hoping you'll put on your Local's next meeting agenda.

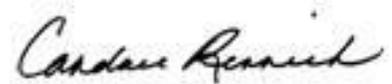
**Donations can be made by cheque directly to the Ontario NDP and mailed to the Ontario NDP, 101 Richmond Street East, Toronto, ON, M5C 1N9.**

We know that many Locals have never made a political donation before and are happy to answer any questions. Please contact Wynne Hartviksen at [whartviksen@cupe.on.ca](mailto:whartviksen@cupe.on.ca) with any questions.

In solidarity,



Fred Hahn  
President



Candace Rennick  
Secretary-Treasurer

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