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Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Some of you may be familiar with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives' Ontario (CCPA-Ontario) office. They have done outstanding work advancing progressive policy for the people of Ontario for over four years now.

In 2014, when Tim Hudak and the Conservatives attempted to cut 100,000 broader public sector jobs, CCPA-Ontario did the math that helped create a storm of controversy around Hudak's faulty numbers. With their small staff, they have also provided insightful analysis to issues dear to our members: privatization of hydro, school board cuts, and municipal waste privatization to name a few.

In the era of Trump style politics, the CCPA-Ontario's work is invaluable. With both the municipal and provincial elections around the corner they need our help to continue the good fight.

CUPE Ontario has a seat on their advisory board and has provided core funding for three years now. We are asking CUPE Locals to join us in partnering with CCPA-Ontario to make sure it has the resources it needs to move forward in bettering the lives of our members, our families and our communities. Donations can be made out to the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, c/o Trish Hennessy at trish@policyalternatives.ca

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fred Hahn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fred Hahn

VR/KJM: COPE491
DD: COPE343

Fred Hahn
President

BUILDING A BETTER ONTARIO

Candace Rennick
Secretary-Treasurer



CCPA

CANADIAN CENTRE
for POLICY ALTERNATIVES
ONTARIO OFFICE

December 6, 2016

CUPE-Ontario
80 Commerce Valley Dr. E., Suite 1
Markham, ON L3T 0B2

Attention: Fred Hahn, President

Dear Fred,

We at the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives' Ontario (CCPA-Ontario) office would like to thank you and CUPE Ontario for playing such an integral part in founding our Toronto-based office. Your annual funding support in the first three years of our new office was critical to our early success. We also appreciate CUPE Ontario's contribution to our advisory board, which helps us think through our strategic research and communications work priorities.

The CCPA-Ontario is a project of our national office, which is based in Ottawa and with which we work in an integrated, supportive way to maximize limited resources. Our Ontario office is only four years old, but for 36 years, our national office has been the counterpoint to the Fraser Institutes and Canadian Taxpayers Federations of this world. David vs. Goliath. We do independent, non-partisan research for the people, to inform and influence.

We also work in partnership with organizations just like yours to identify emerging policy issues and make the case for progressive policy that benefits everyone — such as our recent collaboration on stopping the privatization of Toronto Hydro and our earlier collaboration to show how privatization of waste collection is a bad idea.

Unlike other think tanks, we don't rely on corporate dollars that would compromise our integrity and independence. We rely on individual and organizational donations as well as grants. That's why we are turning to our partners in the labour movement to make an annual donation to the CCPA-Ontario office. It will go toward core funding so that we can continue to focus on income inequality, decent work, and ensuring governments at all levels pursue progressive public policy that helps everyone, not just the privileged few.

We are also seeking a partnership with CUPE Ontario and its locals to support our work going into the 2018 provincial and municipal elections in Ontario. Our work confronting a hard right wing political agenda in the 2014 provincial election, which included debunking the myths behind a platform proposal to bring in American-style right to work laws under Tim Hudak's "million jobs" promises, was an important part of a broad coalition to protect workers' rights. Our analysis of that jobs platform was used by journalists to directly challenge Mr. Hudak on his false promises and faulty math.

We are an independent, non-partisan think tank that does research and education to showcase the value of progressive public policy that can reduce income inequality, ensure decent work for all Ontarians, and remind governments of the role they can play in setting the conditions for a sustainable economy that benefits everyone. During elections, we do not take a partisan stance, but we do have a mandate to (1) act as a watchdog and fact checker as politicians roll out their political promises; (2) advance progressive policy platform issues that help condition the field for progressive governance; (3) educate the public about the socio-economic impact of the political platforms from which they have to choose. Our plan in 2017 is to begin to condition the field for a robust discussion of progressive options available to the provincial and municipal governments during the 2018 election campaigns. We are currently fundraising to be able to create the following avenues of progressive policy discussion in 2017:

Our 2017 provincial budget roundtable

- Join like-minded social justice and labour groups around our roundtable to share intelligence and coordinate strategy;
- Have input on technical papers related to budgets and other consultation tables;
- Contribute to our blog series advancing a progressive agenda.

Our 2017-18 platform building roundtable

- Take part in ‘kitchen cabinet’ strategy sessions on key issue areas (jobs, inequality, role of government) and help us create a progressive policy proposals for 2018;
- Support our ability to do rapid response fact checking during election time;
- Participate in select roundtable events;
- Enjoy strategy sharing opportunities around our new table, the Ontario Trade Union Research and Communications Committee.

There is much work to do between now and 2018. We hope CUPE Ontario and its locals will continue to partner with us at this critical time.

In solidarity,



Trish Hennessy | Director | CCPA-Ontario | trish@policyalternatives.ca