Ontario Provincial Election Contributions 2018

What you need to know

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Outline

1. Context of Amendments
2. Key Changes to the *Election Finances Act*
3. New Contribution Limits
4. Campaigning for Political Parties
5. Political Advertising
1) Context of Amendments

- The Act was amended in 2016
- Intended to get “big money” out of politics
- Reduce the influence of special interests and large organizations
- Even the playing field
2) Key Changes to the Act

A. Trade Unions and Corporations **may not** make political contributions

B. Contribution limits have been reduced

C. Political Parties will receive public funding

D. Restrictions on the involvement of candidates and elected representatives in party fundraising
3) Contribution Limits

A. May only contribute your own funds.
   o May not contribute funds given to you by anyone else

B. May contribute goods & services
   o Contributions of goods and services must be assigned a value in accordance with the Act
   o Goods and services valued over $100 are contributions
   o Goods and services valued under $100 may be treated as a contribution depending on the donor’s wishes
C. When you may contribute
   o Contribution limits vary depending on:
     ▪ Time of contribution
     ▪ Recipient of the contribution
   o Two time periods for contributions:
     ▪ Annual limits
     ▪ Campaign Period – from the date the election is called until three months after the election is held
## Contribution Limits – Cont’d

### D. Contribution Limits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contribution Limits</th>
<th>Annual Limit</th>
<th>Campaign Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To Any One Registered Political Party</td>
<td>$1,200 total</td>
<td>May 9, 2018 to September 7, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Registered Constituency Associations and Nomination Contestants of Any One Registered Party</td>
<td>$1,200 total</td>
<td>NO extra amount over the annual limit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Registered Candidates of Any One Registered Party</td>
<td>Not Permitted</td>
<td>$1,200 total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To All Registered Candidates Not Endorsed by a Registered Party</td>
<td>Not Permitted</td>
<td>$1,200 total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To a Leadership Contestant</td>
<td>$1,200 total</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*These contribution limits are for 2017 and will be indexed to inflation for future years.*

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**Election Finances**

unifor.org
4) Campaigning

- Individuals may campaign for political parties or candidates if:
  - It’s done voluntarily (i.e. free of charge) and
  - Outside of working hours
  → You may not volunteer while you’re being paid

- Exception:
  - You may campaign while on vacation
5) Advertising

• The Act restricts political advertising

• Political advertising may count as a contribution in some circumstances

• Individuals or entities spending over $500 on political advertising must register as Third Party Advertisers

• No restrictions on direct communications with members