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*National Secretary-Treasurer*  
*Secrétaire-trésorier national*

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***Privileged & Confidential***

April 16, 2018

**To: All Unifor Local Unions in Ontario**

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

**Re: Ontario Election Finances Act**

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As you know, Ontario's next provincial election is fast approaching. In light of this upcoming election, it is important that your Local Union be aware of recent, **significant changes to Ontario's Election Finances Act** ("the Act") that have changed how Unifor and its membership can participate in elections.

### **Union Contributions**

Political parties, constituency associations and candidates are now prohibited from accepting contributions from any corporation or trade union. **As a result, Unifor is no longer permitted to make any monetary donations to political parties or candidates.** Goods or services donated to a political campaign are also considered contributions. Trade Unions like Unifor are not permitted to make any contributions, whether they are monetary donations or donations of goods and services.

### **Individual Contributions**

Individuals are permitted to make donations using only their own personal funds. They are now subject to a lower contribution limit than in past elections. Individuals may not contribute funds that have been provided to them from a corporation or trade union. **This means that Unifor is not permitted to reimburse any individual for political contributions they have made.** The new campaign contribution limits are as follows:

### Contribution Limits

Amounts are for 2018 and will be indexed to inflation for future years

	Annual Limit	Campaign Period
To Any One Registered Political Party	\$1,222 total	<u>NO</u> extra amount over the annual limit
To Registered Constituency Associations and Nomination Contestants of Any One Registered Party	\$1,222 total	<u>NO</u> extra amount over the annual limit
To Registered Candidates	Not Permitted	\$1,222 total

### Campaigning and Political Action by the Union

Individuals are permitted to campaign on behalf of a party or candidate as long as they do so voluntarily and outside of their working hours. **This means that Unifor Local Executives and members are not permitted to campaign during their work hours or when on Union leave book-off.** This restriction does not prevent Unifor Local Executives and members from campaigning during their off-hours or while using vacation credits to which they are entitled. Individuals who do so may not be reimbursed for using their vacation time in this manner.

**Unifor Local Executives and members are free to talk to Unifor members about the election and to recommend that members vote for a particular party or candidate because member-to-member campaigns by the Union are not limited by the Act.**

### Third Party Advertising

If your local intends to run any public political advertising between now and election day, please contact Patty Barrera at [patty.barrera@unifor.org](mailto:patty.barrera@unifor.org).

The *Act* restricts the election advertising that third parties like Unions can fund. If your Local wishes to run advertising to the general public related to the election, your Local must register with Elections Ontario as a third party election advertiser. The *Act* limits the amount of money that third parties can spend on advertising, both during the election and in the six month period leading up to the writ.

Unifor encourages all of its Local Unions and members to get involved in the 2018 Ontario Provincial Election in order to promote the interests of Unifor members and all Ontarians, while also respecting the requirements of the Act.

If your Local has questions about this information, please contact Patty Barrera at [patty.barrera@unifor.org](mailto:patty.barrera@unifor.org) or visit [www.elections.on.ca](http://www.elections.on.ca).

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura Johnson', written in a cursive style.

**LAURA JOHNSON**  
Associate Counsel

/le/cope343

cc: Jerry Dias, Bob Orr, Deb Tveit, Scott Doherty, Katha Fortier, Chris MacDonald, Naureen Rizvi,  
Shane Wark, Jenny Ahn, Richard Vann, Anthony Dale, Roland Kiehne, Patty Barrera,  
Ontario National Representatives

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