

## 2010 Federal Political Party Financing Rules and CUPE

CUPE Political Action Strategy

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### **Financial Contributions**

#### **Can CUPE National, a Division, Council or Local contribute money directly to the Federal NDP, a local campaign, riding association, nomination contestant or candidate?**

NO. The Canada Elections Act prohibits trade unions from contributing money, goods or services to any federal political party.

#### **Can a CUPE member or staff of CUPE National, a Division, or Local contribute directly to the Federal NDP, a local campaign, riding association, nomination contestant or candidate?**

YES. CUPE members and staff are considered an “individual” under the Canada Elections Act and can make a tax deductible contribution to up to \$1,100/per year and up to \$1,100/per year to the various entities of each registered political party (registered associations, nomination contestants and candidates) and up to \$1,100 in total to the leadership contestants in a particular leadership contest in money, goods or services.

#### **Can CUPE National, a Division, Council or Local pay its employees a special bonus that can be redirected as an individual contribution to the NDP?**

NO. This would be considered an indirect contribution and is not permissible.

#### **Can CUPE National, a Division, Council or Local offer goods and services directly to a Local campaign, riding association, nomination contestant or candidate? (i.e. photocopies, telephone usage, room rental, etc.)**

YES, as long as the good or service provided is not ordinarily a good or service provided by that organization and the fair market value does not exceed \$200.00.

#### **Can CUPE National, a Division, Council or Local purchase a table at an NDP fundraising event?**

NO. If the purpose of the event is to raise money for the Federal NDP or a candidate and the participants in the event will receive a tax credit for the contribution.

CUPE National, a Division or a CUPE Local can sponsor events and conventions so long as the fair market value is paid for the services that are associated with the sponsorship.

### **Campaign Support**

#### **Can a CUPE member or staff of CUPE National, a Division, or Local be released to work for the NDP on an election campaign?**

YES, but they may not be paid by their employer or union nor can they be directed to do such work.

A CUPE staff person or member can choose to take accumulated vacation or lieu time. However, they may not be reimbursed by their employer or trade union for such leave time.



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The Federal NDP could hire the CUPE staff or member to do the work of the Party. All usual and customary expenses including wages, benefits, pension, etc., must be invoiced by the employer to the Party.

### **Can a CUPE member or staff of CUPE National, a Division or Local volunteer their own time to work for the NDP on an election campaign?**

YES, but they may not be paid by their employer or union to do such work.

### **Can a CUPE member or staff of CUPE National, a Division, or Local be released for a CUPE campaign related to an election?**

YES, as long as the CUPE staff or member is working on a CUPE campaign targeting CUPE staff and members.

### **Can CUPE National, a Division, Council or Local communicate with their membership and encourage them to vote for the NDP?**

YES, as long as we are communicating directly to our membership and not with the general public and as long as the material is the property of the union. There is no limit on this spending and can include newsletters, workplace canvasses, direct mailings, leaflets, telephone calls and door knocking.

### **Can a CUPE member or staff of CUPE National, a Division, or Local take paid leave from their employers to run as a candidate?**

YES, an employer is legally permitted to continue the wages of any staff member during the campaign period when they are running for federal election nomination or candidate. This is not considered a contribution to the political Party by that employer. The union cannot reimburse the employer for the members' wages.

### **Can CUPE National, a Division, Council or Local purchase 3<sup>rd</sup> party advertising during an election campaign in support of the NDP?**

YES, the Canada Elections Act regulates third parties who engage in election advertising. Any 3<sup>rd</sup> party spending over \$500.00 must be registered with Elections Canada.

**CUPE National and all of our Divisions, Councils and Locals are considered a single "3<sup>rd</sup> Party" for the purpose of determining the allowable maximum spending.**

**All 3<sup>rd</sup> party advertising must be reported to CUPE National to ensure we do not violate the Act.**