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## How unions are misspending members' dues

Philip Hochstein – August 9, 2010

Union members used to rally the streets to proclaim Bill Vander Zalm was destroying British Columbia. Now they're among the biggest financial backers of his anti-HST campaign – whether they support the tax or not.

Last week Elections BC released financial documents related to the anti-HST petition drive. Unions contributed \$14,026 to Vander Zalm's campaign – close to 12% of the total money raised. But it's not BC's big union's change in attitude toward the former premier that shocking – it's the fact that this money has been funneled from union dues to this campaign.

Workers have no choice when it comes to paying their dues – it's a job requirement backed by the full weight of government legislation. No dues, no job. Union members should see every cent of their dues owed to representation in the workplace.

It's time for the provincial government to change the law to limit the use of dues to union and workplace activities – the reason they are collected. BC union members deserve no less than the right to choose which causes they support – or not support – with their hard-earned paychecks.

Phil Hochstein is president of the Independent Contractors and Businesses Association.

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