

# NCC: Update

## Special Update: Bill C-377 needs your support

Dear supporter,

The political agenda for the coming autumn is now being set, and it is vital that union transparency remains in the spotlight. If passed, Bill C-377 will compel Canadian unions to disclose their finances and deliver transparency to union members and taxpayers alike – **and we need your help to bring this about.** [Please click here to make a donation!](#)

In Canada unions and trade groups are afforded some of the most lucrative tax benefits in the entire world. Union bosses are free to spend unlimited amounts of money on political initiatives while union members are left in the dark about how their own money is being spent. Whether we look to the United States, Europe, or Australia, Canada lags far behind the international standard for union financial disclosure. **With your help we can get Canada back on track today today.**

At the National Citizens Coalition we don't think union bosses should be free to spend their members' forced dues without reporting their activities or consulting their membership. It is very important that we stand together to let our federal government know that **it is time to shine a light on these shadowy practices.** We have been working hard to build support for this issue for many years, and we have championed Bill C-377 since early in 2011. Please visit our website at [www.nationalcitizens.ca](http://www.nationalcitizens.ca) for more information or to make a donation online!

As Bill C-377 returns to the House of Commons for its third reading its future is by no means certain. There are many familiar faces lining up against this Bill, from union bosses and lobbyists to NDP and Liberal MPs all trying to throw a wrench into the works. This should come as no surprise, as it is these groups who have a vested interest in keeping their financial behaviour from public scrutiny. As expected, they have been spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to fight this Bill – aiming to stall it or water it down until it is rendered ineffective. These union bosses are even fining their own members if they do not help fight against this Bill! You can read a great article on this issue by John Ivison from the National Post by [clicking here.](#)

Last year, the federal government lost out on **nearly \$800-million of tax revenue from unions and trade organizations** – and we think taxpayers deserve to know where this money is going.

In the most recent Quebec election PSAC union members were **shocked to find out that their union had been supporting the separatist Parti Quebecois with members' forced dues.** Since 2003 in Ontario the union-front group Working Families Coalition has spent a combined total of **more than \$15-million creating anti-conservative attack ads.** This coalition of unions included building trades, construction unions, public servants and teachers – many of whom have no idea their own money is being used to support these campaigns. The same thing is **happening right now in both Alberta and British Columbia**, where union groups continue to throw money at political causes and issue-based advocacy.

How much money are we talking about?

- In Ontario, the *Working Families* front-group is comprised entirely of unions. In 2007 alone the spent \$280,000, the Ontario Pipes Trade Council spent \$400,000, the CAW spent \$200,000 – and ust the tip of the iceberg. These figures do not include donations to political parties and politicians'



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FOR THE NCC



igns. When everything is tallied up, this group alone has spent more than \$15-million over the past provincial elections.

- In Alberta the union group *Albertans for Change* recently **spent more than \$2-million trying to t the PC government**. Contributing unions: the Alberta Federation of Labour, the Alberta Union of Social Employees, the Health Services Association of Alberta, the United Nurses of Alberta and the Building Trades Council. The Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union even used members' forced dues to sponsor NDP leader Thomas Mulcair's anti-oil sands campaign.

- In British Columbia, unions have been accounting for a larger and larger share of political donations to the major parties as well as their own pet-projects. In 2011, union donations to the provincial totalled nearly \$1-million – the BC Federation of Labour donated more than \$123,000, the Government Employees Union supplied \$124,850, and the United Steelworkers donated \$108,000.

These figures are just limited examples of how union bosses are squandering their members' dues. In most cases, we can only estimate the actual totals because there are no standardized accountability measures currently in place. According to the latest NANOS survey 86% of unionized Canadians want to see public disclosure of their unions' financial activities. No more cronyism and behind-the-scenes political deals – **it is time for real transparency, and that is why we need your help**.

Please [click here to make a donation](#).

We will continue to get the message out about Bill C-377 in the media, online, and using social media. We will also continue to let Prime Minister Harper know that he has the support of the Canadian public on this issue, and that he must not bow to the pressure from union bosses. These bosses have the power and they will go to great lengths to protect their own perks and cushy positions, so we must press this message to persevere and stand up for the rights of taxpayers and workers alike.

We will be running regular internet features, radio ads and online videos to **help draw attention to the issue during these crucial next few weeks**. We will also be appearing in Ottawa to make our case directly to MPs. The final push is the hardest part of a campaign, and we hope that you will continue to support us with us.

Please [send us your most generous donation today](#), and help make this country a better place to live and raise a family. Your donation will help us achieve something that Canadians from across the country have been fighting to see implemented for years.

Sincerely,

Peter Coleman  
President and CEO  
National Citizens Coalition

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