

Federation of
Citizens'
Associations of
Ottawa-Carleton

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Fédération des
associations
civiques d'Ottawa-
Carleton

March 17 2015

Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Wynne

I understand that your government is reviewing municipal governance and I wish to inform you of recent discussion by members of the Federation of Citizen's Associations of Ottawa (FCA) with respect to the electoral process at the municipal level.

At the meeting of January 15th, members of the FCA discussed the issue of campaign financing in local elections. The discussion focussed on contributions to election campaigns from corporations and unions as distinct from contributions from individuals.

The view was expressed that, if elected, such candidates would subsequently be required to make decisions on issues with respect to the entities from which contributions had been received. Property developers were an example of an industry which could present concerns. Another issue was that while individuals are subject to limits in contributing to election campaigns, creation of a corporate body could permit some active supporters to exceed the limits established.

Members provided examples where various governments have taken steps to combat voter disenchantment; to maintain, and in some cases perhaps regain, public confidence in government by banning donations from corporations and unions.

At the end of the discussion the following motion was introduced and carried:

That FCA takes the position that corporate and union donations be banned in future municipal elections and encourages citizens to inquire of candidates the source of their campaign funding.

At the February FCA general meeting, it was further agreed that the FCA should make its views known to decision-makers whose responsibility it is to uphold the integrity of the electoral process. Accordingly, I request that you introduce legislation for the province that would prohibit corporations and unions from making campaign donations in local elections. If you do not consider a province-wide ban to be in the best interest of good governance, than we ask that the same provisions that apply to the city of Toronto permitting that city to prohibit such donations, be extended to the city of Ottawa.

I am also writing to Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson, requesting that he approach you with this same request. I am also sending this request to the leaders of the opposition parties, and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Hon. Ted McMeekin.

Yours truly,



Graeme Roderick, President