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Analysis of 2020 Donations to Main Ontario Political Parties

Democracy Watch's analysis of donations of more than \$100 in 2020 to the four main Ontario political parties¹ reveals the following key patterns:

1. Ontario's donation limit of \$1,625 annually does not uphold the democratic principle of one person, one vote, as it allows wealthy donors to give much more than average donors as a way to have more influence over parties.
2. The PC Party is supported by wealthy donors much more than the other parties, with almost 50% of its donations coming in amounts of \$1,000 or more.
3. All the parties receive a disproportionately large amount of their donations from their top donors (donations of \$1,000 or more):
 - a. The PC Party received almost 50% of its donations in amounts of \$1,000 or more, from only 20% of its donors;
 - b. The Liberal Party received 15% of its donations in amounts of \$1,000 or more, from only 5% of its donors;
 - c. The NDP received almost 8% of its donations in amounts of \$1,000 or more, from only 1.5% of its donors;
 - d. The Green Party received 14.5% of its donations in amounts of \$1,000 or more, from only 2.85% of its donors.
4. The percentage of total donations of \$500 to \$999 received by the NDP (6.77% of total donations) and Green Party (7.44% of total donations) was roughly twice as much the percentage of donors who donated those amounts to the NDP (2.88% of total donors) and Green Party (3.30% of total donors). In contrast, those percentages were roughly equal for the PC Party and the Liberal Party.
5. The percentage of total donations of \$250 to \$499 received by the PCs, NDP and Greens was 5-7% higher than the percentage of donors who donated those amounts. Those percentages were roughly equal for the Liberal Party.
6. A large majority of donors to the NDP (almost 90%) and Green Party (82.5%) gave from \$101 to \$249. The percentage for the PC Party was almost 56% and for the Liberals it was just over 61%.
7. The average donation to the PCs (\$484) and Liberals (\$473) is almost twice the average donation to the NDP (\$246) and Green Party (\$285).
8. The median donation is: PCs (\$200), Liberals (\$50); NDP (\$25); Greens (\$25).
9. Of the 11.6 million adults in Ontario, only 21,555 (0.18%) made a donation in 2020 directly to the four parties (i.e. not through the per-vote annual subsidy).

¹ Research completed by Cameron Flanagan based on data submitted by parties to Elections Ontario's database, which contains annual donations of \$101 or more. NOTE: some figures may change slightly after they have been reviewed by Elections Ontario.

2020 statistics	PC	Liberal	NDP	Green
Total # of donors of \$100 or more	7,018	4,321	7,097	3,119
Total amount donated	\$3,398,649	\$2,042,173	\$1,747,046	\$774,787
Average donation (Median donation)	\$484.28 (\$200)	\$472.61 (\$50)	\$246.17 (\$25)	\$284.81 (\$30)
# of donors who donated \$1,000 (% of total # of donors)	1,391 (19.8%)	218 (5.04%)	108 (1.52%)	89 (2.85%)
Total donated by donors of \$1,000+ (% of total donations)	\$1,684,258 (49.55%)	\$306,876 (15.02%)	\$137,285 (7.85%)	\$110,999 (14.32%)
# of donors who donated \$500 to \$999 (% of total # of donors)	771 (10.98%)	249 (5.76%)	205 (2.88%)	103 (3.30%)
Total donated by donors of \$500 to \$999 (% of total donations)	\$445,687 (13.11%)	\$147,527 (7.22%)	\$118,313.80 (6.77%)	\$57,657 (7.44%)
# of donors who donated \$250 to \$499 (% of total # of donors)	1,526 (21.74%)	1,701 (39.36%)	724 (10.2%)	454 (14.55%)
Total donated by donors of \$250 to \$499 (% of total donations)	\$526,377 (15.48%)	\$842,058 (41.23%)	\$267,884 (15.33%)	\$175,951 (22.7%)
# of donors who donated \$101 to \$249 (% of total # of donors)	3,917 (55.81%)	2,653 (61.39%)	6,370 (89.75%)	2,574 (82.52%)
Total donated by donors of \$101 to \$249 (% total donations)	\$742,328 (21.84%)	\$745,712 (36.51%)	\$1,223,564 (70.03%)	\$430,179 (55.52%)