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List of sham political donation systems across Canada that don't stop big money in politics

The following list of examples from the federal level in Canada, and various provinces and cities, show clearly that banning corporate and union donations, but still allowing a relatively high donation limit, is a sham that doesn't stop big money in politics.

Every jurisdiction where donations by individuals of \$500 and up are allowed and an analysis has been completed has found that funneling of money has likely happened. In fact, such systems actually hide big money as they make it more difficult to connect donations to businesses, unions and other organizations.

The only way to stop big money in politics is to stop big money donations by limiting donations to no more than \$100 annually (as in Quebec), with strict enforcement and high penalties. Join the call for these changes now by [clicking here](#).

1. In Ontario in 2021, a vaccine clinic company's executives and their family members [all donated the maximum annual amount of \\$3,300 to Premier Ford's PC Party](#), and the [Ford government gave the company a contract](#) to deliver vaccines.
2. Also in Ontario, [lobbyists sold tickets for Premier Ford's Feb. 2019 fundraising dinner](#) and, [in 2016, executives at a bank involved in bidding on a government contract organized a fundraising event](#) for the ruling party that was attended by Liberal Cabinet ministers.
3. An [analysis in spring 2019](#) found that the Trudeau Liberals have received almost \$1.5 million in donations from staff, executives and lobbyists at more than 110 companies, law and accounting firms and interest groups since 2015.

4. In 2015 and 2016, [donors from B.C.](#), some of whom were formerly connected to China's government, donated large amounts to a riding in Ontario and to Prime Minister Trudeau's riding in Quebec.
5. As finally revealed in spring 2019, [SNC-Lavalin Inc. illegally funneled](#) almost \$118,000 to the federal Liberal and Conservative parties, riding associations and candidates through its executives and employees from 2004 to 2011, with [CBC revealing the list of donors in April 2019](#).
6. As finally revealed in spring 2020, [Norda Stelco Inc. illegally funneled](#) more than \$25,000 to the federal Conservative Party and its candidates, and more than \$20,000 to the federal Liberal Party and its candidates, from 2004 to 2011.
7. As the *Globe and Mail* revealed, lobbyists attended approximately [90 high-priced, exclusive events](#) the Liberals held from January to October 2016, and another [72 events held since April 2017](#);
8. The Liberals also offered [special access to "bundler" fundraisers](#);
9. Clearwater Seafoods lobbies the federal government, and [board member Mickey MacDonald held a fundraising event](#) in August 2014 that raised about \$80,000 for the Liberal Party, an event Justin Trudeau attended.
10. Apotex Inc. lobbied the federal government at the time its then-Chair [Barry Sherman held a fundraising event](#) in August 2015 that raised about \$150,000 for the Liberal Party, an event Justin Trudeau also attended.
11. An analysis in 2012 found that several construction company executives linked to Quebec's political donation scandal [donated large amounts to a federal Conservative Party riding](#) in Quebec.
12. An [Elections Quebec audit found \\$12.8 million in likely illegally funneled donations](#) from 2006-2011 (see also [article in the Globe and Mail](#)), and the Charbonneau Commission inquiry into the construction industry donation scandal [heard of many donation-funneling schemes](#) (before Quebec limited donations to \$100 a year in 2013).
13. [An April 2019 CBC analysis found New Brunswick company executives](#) and their families now donating the maximum after the province banned corporate and union donations.
14. A [2019 analysis of donations to candidates in Ottawa's city council elections](#) found some property developers claiming donations were made by their wives in order to avoid prosecution, and [another analysis of Ottawa donations released May 2020](#) found that 58% of donations to councillors on the city's Planning Committee came from people associated with the property development industry, and that 11 of 24 councillors received more 50% of their donations from people associated with the property development industry.
15. During [the fall 2022 Vancouver election](#), it was revealed that the mayor's party had a list of 40 property developers and businesspeople each tasked with raising

money from others (known as “bundlers” because they bundle donations together), [15 of which](#) the mayor had phone calls with during August.

16. A [fall 2019 analysis of donations to Vancouver candidates and parties](#) found employees of a major real estate and hotel company’s employees suddenly donating to right and left politicians.
17. [In B.C. in 2017, provincial parties returned more than \\$260,000 in donations](#) that had been funneled through lobbyists for companies, and people affiliated with unions.
18. When [Elections Alberta did an audit in 2012](#) it found dozens of illegal donations. As well, in a 2013 scandal in Alberta, a coalition of construction companies made it clear that [their big money donations were conditional](#) on the Alberta government changing the labour law.
19. Donations from corporations, unions and other organizations were banned in Toronto elections in 2009, and individual donations limited to \$750 annually, but a 2016 analysis by the [Toronto Star](#) found that big business and other special interest group executives and their families continue to give large amounts to city councillors.

Join the call for low political donation limits and other key changes that actually stop big money in politics – [click here](#) to send your letter now to your politicians at the federal and provincial level.