

CORP & UNION DONATIONS

May 2016

1. As you may be aware, there has been some discussion lately about a pair of issues related to the funding of political parties. One of these concerns is the practice of allowing corporate and union donations to political parties, which is banned at the federal level, but allowed in many provinces.

How closely would you say you have been following this issue? Would you say you are:

Following it in the news and discussing it with friends and family
Seeing some media coverage and having the odd conversation about it
Just scanning the headlines
Haven't seen or heard anything about it

2. The other issue is the practice of political parties paying their leaders additional money on top of the salaries they earn as elected officials.

How closely would you say you have been following this issue? Would you say you are:

Following it in the news and discussing it with friends and family
Seeing some media coverage and having the odd conversation about it
Just scanning the headlines
Haven't seen or heard anything about it

3. There is some discussion about whether or not private companies and labour unions should be allowed to donate money to political parties. In some provinces – specifically Alberta, Manitoba, Quebec, and Nova Scotia – this is not allowed. Only individual residents of those provinces can make donations to provincial political parties.

Regardless of whether you live in a province that allows corporate and union donations to political parties, how would you like to see your own province handle this issue? Should corporate and union donations be:

Banned in your province
Allowed in your province
Don't know/Can't say

4. Turning to a slightly different, but related issue, two provincial premiers – Brad Wall in Saskatchewan and Christy Clark in B.C. – receive salaries from their political parties in addition to the amount they earn from taxpayers as premiers. There is some debate about this.

Some people say this is not a good practice, because it can create the appearance that organizations or wealthy individuals who donate large amounts to the party could be buying influence or access to their premiers.

Other people say it's reasonable for parties to provide this kind of payment to their leaders because it compensates them for their political – rather than governmental – work, and gets their salary closer to what they could make in the private sector.

Which is closer to your own point of view on this practice of political parties paying premiers salary “top-ups”?

[ROTATE]

This practice should be stopped

This practice should be allowed to continue

5. Thinking about policy issues in Canada today, how important do you personally consider these two issues (corporate and/or union donations to political parties and party leaders receiving benefits from their parties) to be?

Let's use a five-point scale, where 1 means “not important at all” and 5 means “very important.” You can, of course, choose any number in between.

[ROWS]

Corporate and/or union donations to political parties

Political party leaders receiving additional salary from their political party

[COLUMNS]

1 Not important at all

2

3

4

5 Very important