

Bill 201  
An Act to amend the Election Finances Act and Taxation Act, 2007  
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Thank you for the opportunity to present my views on Bill 201, An Act to amend the Election Finances Act and Taxation Act, 2007.

Comprehensive fundraising reform is essential to renewing our democracy and to restoring trust in the integrity of government decision-making.

As a Libertarian, my opinion on this matter may be quite different than that of any other speaker you have heard to date.

Let me begin by explaining what I believe is the primary function of Government to better your understanding of my position on Bill 201.

Government's only legitimate role is to protect individual rights to life, liberty and property, and not abrogate these rights. It is right to have laws against actions that intrude on the rights and freedoms of other individuals, but actions that do not intrude on the rights of others should not be restricted.

We must remember what government is: institutionalized force. The power and politics of government makes it arrogant, inefficient, corrupt and dangerous.

Because of this inherent nature of government, government programs almost always fail to do what they were supposed to. And expanding government power to do what you think it should ensures that future politicians will use it in ways you think they shouldn't.

David Boaz best describes Libertarianism in an article written for the CATO Institute titled, "Key Concepts of Libertarianism".

***Individualism.*** Libertarians see the individual as the basic unit of **Social Analysis.** Only individuals make choices and are responsible for their actions. Libertarian thought emphasizes the dignity of each individual, which entails both rights and responsibility. The

progressive extension of dignity to more people — to women, to people of different religions and different races — is one of the great libertarian triumphs of the Western world.

***Individual Rights.*** Because individuals are **Moral Agents**, they have a right to be secure in their life, **Liberty**, and property. These rights are not granted by government or by society; they are inherent in the nature of human beings. It is intuitively right that individuals enjoy the security of such rights; the burden of explanation should lie with those who would take rights away.

***The Rule of Law. Libertarianism*** is not **Libertinism** or **Hedonism**. It is not a claim that “people can do anything they want to, and nobody else can say anything.” Rather, libertarianism proposes a society of liberty under law, in which individuals are free to pursue their own lives so long as they respect the equal rights of others. The rule of law means that individuals are governed by generally applicable and spontaneously developed legal rules, not by arbitrary commands; and that those rules should protect the freedom of individuals to pursue happiness in their own ways, not aim at any particular result or outcome.

Now, when it comes to Electoral Reform and Bill 201, there is one question that needs to be asked.

Why do we need this legislation?

Well, I believe it is in part due to the history of corruption in our political parties in obtaining funds from influential people and their businesses.

But is it reasonable for government to *prevent* politicians from

corrupting the fundraising process?

Shouldn't politicians just **not be corrupt**?

The People of Ontario want to know which politicians are apt to abusing the system we already have in place. We want to see which politicians will attempt to buy and sell votes through \$5000 per plate fundraising dinners, we want to see which individuals are attempting to buy favoritism, and which parties are accepting. We want to see the rot at the core of the corrupt parties. How will the people know which politicians are corrupt, if government prevents the parties from showing their true colours?

Do you not trust that the People of Ontario can make educated decisions of their own accord? Do you not trust that voters will hold corrupt politicians accountable at the polls? Do you imply that the people are incapable of forming an educated opinion, thus implying the need for the nanny state government to legislate in order to cover up the corrupt practices of political parties?

I also don't believe taxpayers should be funding the campaigns of political parties through pay-per vote subsidies.

By paying themselves through a pay-per-vote subsidy, political parties are sending a message, once again, to the People of Ontario that they can't be trusted with their own money, and that government is best spending it on their behalf.

Based on the 2014 election results, a pay-per-vote subsidy would cost the taxpayers roughly \$11 million per year, or \$44 million over 4 years. That is equal to one year's worth of IBI treatment for 511 Autistic Children.

This is a major insult to the People of Ontario  
In reality, if a political party were honest, transparent and hardworking; they would actually need to spend LESS to win the

trust as well as the votes of the People of Ontario. The trust of the People shouldn't need to be bought through advertisements smearing other parties, or through expensive \$5000 per plate fundraising dinners....

The amount of money a party needs to spend should send the message to the People of Ontario as to just how self-serving and corrupt their party is.

Ontario is adopting practices that have been working in other jurisdictions to inform its approach to Open Government. Governments in Canada and about 60 other countries are implementing Open Government initiatives to improve transparency, effectiveness and accountability.

I believe Ontario can do MORE when it comes to Election financing transparency and accountability.

Recently, the Ontario Liberals have been investigated for corrupt practices by the O.P.P. But, having the O.P.P. investigate the government with the majority of power is like asking an employee to investigate their own boss, if you find them guilty you're fired and if you find them not guilty you're accused of favoritism. Also, since the Ontario Provincial Police Association has a history of contributing to political campaigns, it is a conflict of interest to have them investigate the very parties to whom they contribute.

This is an example of why we need to end corporate and union donations to political parties. Since 2013, the top 30 contributors to the Liberals, PC and NDP donated almost \$5 million. See table 1.1

Corporations and public sector unions can buy government favours, because government has favours to sell.

From 2001 to 2009, the Ontario Government paid out almost \$25 Billion in grants and subsidies to businesses. In these 9 years,

government granted DOUBLE the amount of subsidies to businesses from 1981 to 2000 combined. (See Table 1.2)

If we truly want to eliminate corporate favoritism, we need to put stipulations on exactly who qualifies for grants and subsidies. Not only do we need to end corporate and union donations to political parties, we need to end corporate welfare.

If the current political parties in power claim to support transparent and accountable government, I suggest the following:

- No pay per vote subsidies. The People of Ontario should only do donations to parties voluntarily.
- End Corporate and Union donations to political parties. Businesses shouldn't be able to buy favoritism.
- End corporate welfare, government should NOT be subsidizing large corporations with taxpayer money.
- Allow candidates and political parties to fundraise how they deem ethically fit.
- Parties should regularly and publicly disclose their assets, income and expenditures to an independent agency or the office of the Ontario Ombudsman
- Any charges against a Member of Provincial Parliament, a candidacy association or political party should be turned over to the RCMP for investigation
- Institute Recall Legislation so The People of Ontario can hold those guilty of corrupt practices accountable.

In Conclusion, I understand that, under the current government Modus Operandi, the belief is that in order to solve problems, we need more government. Instead, I implore the parties in power to have faith in the People, that we can make the choices we believe are in our own best interests, that we can freely support any party we so desire, within our means, and that we can institute the proper legislation that allows the People to hold our representatives accountable for their actions.

I thank you all for allowing me to speak today, and I hope you take my words in to consideration when making your final decision.

Thank You,

Matthew Radford  
Ontario Libertarian Party Candidate  
Oxford County, Ontario

**Table 1.1**  
**Top 30 Political Donors Since 2013**

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Liberal</b>	<b>PC</b>	<b>NDP</b>
1. United Association of Plumbers & Pipefitters (UA)	\$491,723	\$341,026	\$9,975	\$140,722
2. United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners (UBCJ)	\$484,265	\$413,690	\$51,650	\$18,925
3. Federation of Rental-housing Providers of Ontario (FRPO)	\$327,665	\$145,550	\$153,392	\$28,763
4. Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC)	\$315,310	\$152,325	\$143,035	\$19,950
5. GreenField Specialty Alcohols Inc.	\$266,640	\$249,350	\$17,290	\$0
6. Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF)	\$265,615	\$24,550	\$0	\$241,065
7. Bruce Power Inc.	\$256,991	\$104,325	\$99,245	\$53,421
8. LIUNA (Labourers' Int'l Union of North America)	\$253,333	\$182,350	\$24,950	\$46,033
9. Service Employees International Union (SEIU)	\$227,246	\$111,658	\$0	\$115,588
10. Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association (OPFFA)	\$221,990	\$165,912	\$0	\$56,078
11. The Toronto-Dominion Bank (TD)	\$221,900	\$125,450	\$96,450	\$0
12. LifeLabs Medical Laboratory Services Inc.	\$201,838	\$98,900	\$55,690	\$47,248
13. United Steelworkers (USW)	\$198,687	\$0	\$0	\$198,687
14. Labatt Brewing Company Ltd	\$195,393	\$123,675	\$48,525	\$23,193
15. UFCW (United Food & Commercial Workers)	\$174,503	\$77,875	\$0	\$96,628
16. Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association (OECTA)	\$173,362	\$91,101	\$9,300	\$72,961
17. Amalgamated Transit Union Ont	\$169,783	\$0	\$0	\$169,783
18. Aecon Group Inc.	\$164,975	\$118,750	\$46,225	\$0
19. Iron Workers District Council of Ontario	\$152,660	\$143,400	\$0	\$9,260
20. Morguard Corporation	\$152,290	\$152,290	\$0	\$0
21. EllisDon Corporation	\$149,705	\$93,000	\$56,705	\$0
22. Rogers Communications Inc	\$148,875	\$90,650	\$53,225	\$5,000
23. CUPE	\$146,852	\$0	\$0	\$146,852
24. Teranet Inc.	\$143,220	\$91,475	\$39,225	\$12,520
25. Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)	\$142,200	\$9,975	\$0	\$132,225
26. Molson Coors Canada Inc.	\$138,685	\$74,275	\$48,550	\$15,860
27. Resolute Forest Products Canada Inc.	\$137,497	\$77,547	\$59,950	\$0
28. Int'l Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)	\$136,972	\$52,875	\$0	\$84,097
29. Moryto, Adam	\$129,925	\$0	\$129,925	\$0
30. Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council	\$128,116	\$70,525	\$23,725	\$33,866

Source: CBC News

Table 1.2  
 Provincial taxpayer subsidies to corporations, Crowns and  
 consumers, 2001–2009

Millions of dollars

	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Newfoundland & Labrador	166	139	112	107	177	127	188	164	144	160
Prince Edward Island	17	18	19	28	45	62	48	52	54	55
Nova Scotia	320	365	342	314	244	176	222	336	296	171
New Brunswick	25	74	53	55	33	36	22	40	41	42
Quebec	1,655	1,778	2,297	2,442	2,914	2,780	2,402	2,487	2,830	2,835
Ontario	908	1,309	983	839	784	1,018	1,395	1,378	1,459	1,660
Manitoba	206	347	370	306	370	453	326	571	424	454
Saskatchewan	702	528	710	967	821	709	371	905	655	963
Alberta	1,173	2,360	4,064	3,862	3,598	3,969	2,612	1,935	1,865	1,645
British Columbia	1,503	1,130	1,196	1,187	1,119	1,703	1,332	1,121	685	719
Territories	-32	-38	-63	-87	-84	-88	-195	-22	-48	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,644</b>	<b>8,008</b>	<b>10,084</b>	<b>10,021</b>	<b>10,021</b>	<b>10,945</b>	<b>8,723</b>	<b>8,967</b>	<b>8,406</b>	<b>8,720</b>

  

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Newfoundland & Labrador	199	142	126	133	108	83	79	79	67	72
Prince Edward Island	56	53	57	67	56	52	35	44	46	63
Nova Scotia	128	96	98	89	94	88	82	110	128	93
New Brunswick	73	113	75	67	69	61	43	106	135	104
Quebec	3,089	3,938	3,077	3,387	2,994	2,951	2,919	4,223	4,418	4,866
Ontario	1,809	1,667	1,604	497	1,121	979	1,013	572	476	533
Manitoba	513	594	598	559	329	217	277	316	438	278
Saskatchewan	845	1,224	768	463	449	525	227	332	391	525
Alberta	1,281	1,510	1,153	762	350	291	304	356	300	734
British Columbia	848	902	954	1,006	984	909	1,005	1,065	2,390	2,423
Territories	21	53	36	16	10	15	23	19	24	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,863</b>	<b>10,290</b>	<b>8,546</b>	<b>7,047</b>	<b>6,565</b>	<b>6,170</b>	<b>6,008</b>	<b>7,224</b>	<b>8,811</b>	<b>9,712</b>

  

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	TOTAL
Newfoundland & Labrador	62	48	59	57	61	70	84	58	54	3,125
Prince Edward Island	70	55	76	68	54	57	75	75	87	1,548
Nova Scotia	79	80	88	88	93	84	109	109	99	4,620
New Brunswick	80	71	60	120	124	180	186	172	187	2,445
Quebec	5,397	5,349	6,022	6,074	5,902	6,172	6,716	6,396	7,206	115,518
Ontario	900	1,646	4,691	2,589	3,239	3,224	2,455	3,083	2,865	46,695
Manitoba	266	222	237	291	412	295	235	283	313	10,499
Saskatchewan	683	1,133	915	627	453	329	323	335	444	18,323
Alberta	4,667	1,576	1,564	1,314	1,397	1,682	1,397	1,297	877	49,896
British Columbia	1,312	1,373	970	989	1,163	1,081	1,199	1,086	1,180	34,534
Territories	23	16	17	39	34	26	26	36	20	-169
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,539</b>	<b>11,569</b>	<b>14,698</b>	<b>12,255</b>	<b>12,932</b>	<b>13,198</b>	<b>12,804</b>	<b>12,930</b>	<b>13,332</b>	<b>287,033</b>

Source: Statistics Canada (2014a, 2014b).

## GLOSSARY of TERMS

**Hedonism** is the belief that pleasure or happiness is the most important goal in life

**Libertarianism** is a collection of political philosophies that uphold liberty as their principal objective. Libertarians seek to maximize autonomy and freedom of choice, emphasizing political freedom, voluntary association, and the primacy of individual judgment.

**Libertinism** A libertine is one devoid of most moral or sexual restraints, which are seen as unnecessary or undesirable, especially one who ignores or even spurns accepted morals and forms of behaviour sanctified by the larger society. **Libertinism** is described as an extreme form of hedonism.

**Liberty** is the state of being free within society from oppressive restrictions imposed by authority on one's way of life, behavior, or political views.

**Moral agency** is an individual's ability to make **moral** judgments based on some notion of right and wrong and to be held accountable for these actions. A **moral agent** is "a being who is capable of acting with reference to right and wrong."

**Social analysis** is the practice of systematically examining a **social** problem, issue or trend, often with the aim of prompting changes in the situation being **analyzed**.