

November 28, 2016



Canada Revenue Agency
c/o Charities Directorate
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0L5

Re: Political Activities Consultation

Greetings,

I am writing on behalf of the Toronto & York Region Labour Council, which represents 205,000 women and men who work in every sector of the economy. The Labour Council is a founding member of the United Way of Toronto and York Region, and enjoys a strong partnership with United Way through the Labour Community Services project. As well, our Labour Education Centre does extensive work in labour adjustment, adult literacy and community benefits.

Over the last decade we have worked with many organizations that have charitable status, and have seen how the "chill effect" of targeted audits on certain organizations has spread across the sector. Therefore we fully support the recommendations of Imagine Canada to this review.

The fact is that our world is changing. There is an urgent need for voices to be heard that highlight issues of income, racial and gender inequality if the decision-makers in both public and private sectors are to comprehend the impact of these problems in our communities.

Climate Change is happening on a much faster timeline than anyone had imagined. In order to spur leaders to respond to the urgency of change, there will need to be uncomfortable conversations at every level of decision-making. Nobody should have to worry about crossing the line between advocacy and political dialogue in order to create the environment for those difficult conversations.

Organizations that are closest to the ground see these issues every day in their work, and must be free to ring the alarm bells for the rest of us. Only through a real, honest examination of our current practices and future options will we be able to shape a healthy future for our society and our country.

I trust that you will take these comments into account as you prepare your report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Cartwright". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

John Cartwright
President

c.c. Ontario Non-profit Network

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