

# Eligible vs. Ineligible Contributor

## *Federal Election Contributor Guide*

**Core Principle: Only individuals using their own funds may contribute to federal political entities.**

### ✓ Who CAN Contribute?

- Canadian Citizens: Regardless of where they live in the world.
- Permanent Residents: Individuals with valid PR status in Canada.
- Minors: There is no age limit, provided the child is contributing their own money willingly.
- Candidates: Can contribute up to \$5,000 of their own funds to their own campaign.

### ✗ Who CANNOT Contribute?

- Corporations: Direct or indirect donations from any corporate entity are strictly prohibited.
- Trade Unions: No union funds may be used for political contributions.
- Foreign Entities: Any person or group that is not a Canadian citizen or permanent resident.
- Associations/Groups: "Pass-through" donations where a group collects money and gives it in their name are illegal.

### 💰 2026 Annual Contribution Limits

- To a Registered Party: \$1,775 per year.
- To all Associations, Nomination Contestants, and Candidates (of one party): \$1,775 total per year.
- To Leadership Contestants: \$1,775 in total for a particular contest.
- To Independent Candidates: \$1,775 per election.

🇨🇦 **Yearly Indexing:** Under the Canada Elections Act, these contribution limits automatically increase by \$25 on January 1 of each year to account for inflation.

### ⚠️ Red Flags for Financial Agents

- Cash Limit: Never accept cash over \$20; anything above must be via check, card, or traceable transfer.
- Indirect Donations: It is a serious offense to accept money from someone that was provided by another person or company for the purpose of donating.
- Anonymous Rule: If a donation over \$20 is anonymous (unknown source), it must be remitted to Elections Canada immediately.

*Let CPAET manage your political financing compliance*  
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