

Friends in High Places:

Donations to Political Parties by Military Contractors

Military contractors are helping to bankroll Canada's three largest political parties. For a detailed list of 122 Canadian military-related corporations and how much they are known to have donated to these parties, see Table 12 (pages 48-49).

Summary

- Between 1993 and 2002, 122 military corporations are known to have donated a total of almost \$7.93 million to one or more of Canada's three biggest political parties.
- The Liberal Party received \$4,926,444. This is by far the highest percent of the disclosed total, i.e., 62%.
- The Progressive Conservative party (PC) received \$1,808,083, i.e., 23% of the disclosed total.
- The Reform and Canadian Alliance parties received \$1,189,658, or 15% of the disclosed total.

Secret Donations!

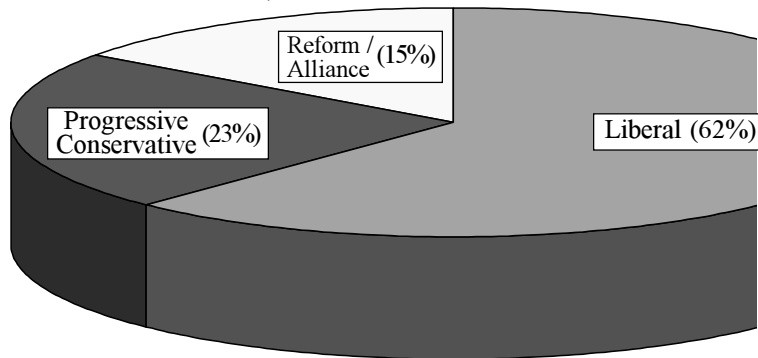
There are several major loopholes in Election Canada regulations on the disclosure of donations to political parties. For instance, Canadian political parties are *not* required to disclose donations that are given:

- (1) to their local riding associations,
- (2) to MPs between election campaigns,
- (3) to party leadership campaigns.

Canadians therefore have no way of knowing how much money the political parties are really receiving in donations from either individuals or corporations. This knowledge is however significant in that it reveals the alliances between corporate and political power.

These loopholes should be closed so that political parties can no longer hide their friends and financiers.

Liberals get Biggest Piece of the Military Industry Pie: Donations from Military Contractors to Canadian Political Parties (1993-2002)



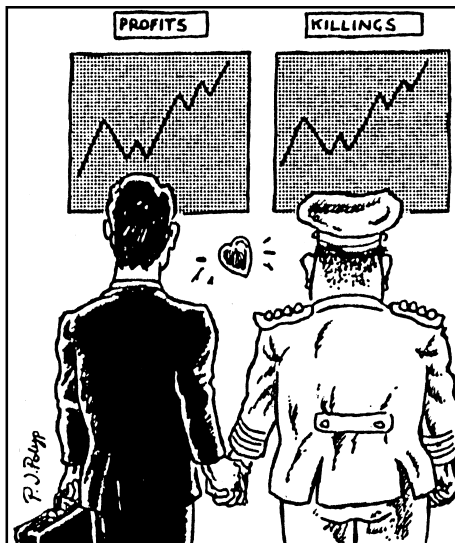
Between 1993 and 2002, Canada's three biggest political parties are known to have received at least \$7.93 million in donations from military-related corporations.

Of that amount, the Liberal Party received \$4.93 million (62%), while the Progressive Conservative Party was given \$1.81 million (23%) and the Reform & Alliance parties got the remaining \$1.19 million (15%).

War: A Conflict of Great Interest

When wars are raging, war business is booming. Military contractors have a vested interest in conflict. War is actually good for their bottom line. As such, there is a direct contradiction between the profit-seeking interest of these corporations and the broader, public interest in promoting peace, human rights and social justice.

As the data presented here clearly shows, the ruling Liberal Party receives substantial support from a very special interest group, Canada's military corporations. How can Canadian citizens trust their government to uphold policies that serve the public's interest in peace, when the ruling party



is beholden to an economic sector that benefits from war? And, how can Canadians reconcile the widespread belief that the Liberal government is a force for global peace when it receives millions in donations from military corporations and then gives billions back to them in grants?

Conflicts of interest also exist for the Progressive Conservatives and the Canadian Alliance. How can they objectively critique and expose hypocritical government policies on foreign affairs, militarism and corporate hand-outs, when they too receive significant financial support from Canada's biggest military industries?