**#2 - Proposed Constitutional Amendment**

**Article: Political Education and Political Action Fund**

**Subject: Elimination of Political Action Funding**

**HEU Will:**

HEU shall amend the constitution to **completely eliminate** the $375,000 bi-annual political action allocation. These funds will be **permanently redirected** to member-focused initiatives, including workplace advocacy, education, and community engagement. Political advocacy should be conducted **exclusively through the BC Federation of Labour (BCFED)** with **proportional contributions** from all affiliated unions to ensure fairness, accountability, and transparency.

**Because:**

1. **Partisan Misuse of Funds:**
   * The Political Action Fund has been **exclusively used** to support the NDP, disregarding other pro-labor candidates.
   * This blatant favoritism **creates a conflict of interest** and erodes trust among the 60,000 HEU members who have diverse political beliefs.
2. **Failure to Deliver for Members:**
   * In the most recent provincial election, HEU spent **$470,401 in advertising**—**more than all other unions combined**—yet received **inferior benefits** compared to other labor organizations.
   * HEU’s political influence **has not translated into meaningful improvements** for its members. Other unions, with significantly smaller expenditures, **negotiated better deals** for their workers.
3. **Political Nepotism and Self-Interest:**
   * HEU’s leadership is the **primary beneficiary** of political action spending, as it **secures their future political aspirations** at the expense of rank-and-file members.
   * HEU’s Provincial Executive includes:
     + A **failed NDP candidate** who continues to push partisan interests.
     + A **spouse of an MLA**, creating a direct political pipeline.
     + An **NDP trustee**, further solidifying undue influence.
   * These personal political ties **erode democratic integrity** and enable HEU insiders to arbitrarily decide how **members’ dues** are used to **advance their own careers.**
4. **Undermining Democracy and Union Integrity:**
   * HEU’s **60,000 members are fully capable of making their own political decisions** without a handful of insiders dictating their choices.
   * The **misuse of union dues** to support a single party undermines the democratic rights of members who may support alternative labor-friendly parties or independent candidates.
   * The **lack of financial transparency** means members have **no visibility** into which ridings receive funding or how each dollar is spent.
5. **Conflict of Interest and Unchecked Spending:**
   * HEU’s decision to allocate **a fixed amount of $375,000 every year**—regardless of political conditions—**lacks strategic flexibility** and results in wasteful spending.
   * The absence of independent oversight ensures that **political funds continue to be funneled** to the same inner circle, ensuring re-election and unchecked power.

**Proposed Changes:**

1. **Permanent Elimination of the $375,000 Political Action Fund**
   * All political action spending shall be eliminated **with immediate effect**.
   * These funds shall be **permanently redirected** toward initiatives that directly benefit HEU members, such as workplace education, community outreach, and stronger advocacy for fair wages and working conditions.
2. **Shift Political Advocacy to BCFED**
   * Political lobbying and advocacy shall be conducted **through BCFED**, ensuring **all unions share costs equitably**.
   * This prevents **partisan manipulation** and promotes a more unified labor movement.
3. **Annual Review of Political Engagement**
   * HEU shall establish a **strict annual review** of political engagement strategies to ensure any involvement aligns with the best interests of its members.
   * All decisions must be based on **tangible benefits** delivered to members, not on securing **political appointments** for HEU executives.
4. **Mandatory Financial Transparency**
   * HEU shall implement **full transparency measures** to ensure members **have access to** detailed financial reports **on political spending**.
   * These reports must include **itemized spending by riding, candidate, and campaign activity**.
5. **Empowerment of Members Over Political Insiders**
   * HEU shall prioritize **member-focused empowerment** over political maneuvering.
   * Investments shall be made in **education and grassroots organizing** to strengthen union advocacy **without dependence on a single political party**.

**New Language for the Amendment:**

**Section A – Permanent Elimination of Political Action Funding**

The $375,000 annual allocation for political action shall be **completely eliminated**. These funds shall be permanently redirected toward member-focused initiatives, including workplace advocacy, education, and community engagement.

**Section B – Collaboration with BCFED for Fair Political Representation**

Political lobbying and advocacy shall be **managed through the BC Federation of Labour (BCFED)**, with **shared contributions** from all affiliated unions, ensuring fair and proportional representation without partisan bias.

**Section C – Mandatory Annual Review of Political Engagement**

HEU shall establish a **strict annual review process** to ensure that **any political actions align with the direct interests of its membership** and are **responsive to evolving political landscapes**.

**Section D – Transparency and Accountability in Political Spending**

HEU shall **implement mandatory financial transparency measures**, providing **detailed, publicly accessible reports** on any political-related expenditures, including specific amounts, recipients, and intended outcomes.

**Section E – Grassroots Member Empowerment Over Political Insiders**

HEU shall prioritize **grassroots organizing, workplace advocacy, and education initiatives** to empower members **to engage politically as individuals**, rather than having their dues controlled by a select group of political insiders.

**Conclusion:**

The elimination of the $375,000 political action fund is an **urgent necessity** to restore HEU’s integrity, eliminate conflicts of interest, and **refocus resources on direct member benefits**. By prioritizing **transparency, member empowerment, and strategic political engagement through BCFED**, HEU will enhance its ability to advocate for **all members—without political bias, secrecy, or self-serving interests**.