

To: ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members
From: Craig Smith, President, ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local (ETFO TVTL)
Date: March 10, 2023
Regarding: **Ontario Court of Appeal Decision: Working Families Coalition (Canada) Inc. v. Ontario (Attorney General), 2023 ONCA 139**

Message from Lisa Mastrobuono, ETFO Provincial:

Presidents,

As you may have heard, earlier today the Ontario Court of Appeal issued a majority (2 to 1) decision that has struck down the Ford government's restrictions on election ads when it amended the *Election Finances Act* in 2021. This Court decision says the provincial government's change to the limits on third-party elections spending violated Section 3 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, which protects the "right to meaningful participation in the electoral process" and is not subject to the notwithstanding clause.

This decision by the Ontario Court of Appeal overturns a lower court ruling that had determined the government's election ad rules did not violate the Constitution. Today's decision gives the government twelve months to develop a new version of its law that complies with the Charter.

This is a **significant win** for the coalition of unions - including ETFO - that challenged the government's move to extend a \$600,000 limit on spending by groups other than political parties to apply for 12 months before a provincial vote.

A copy of the Ontario Court of Appeal's decision is attached. Happy reading!!

Lisa

For more information regarding this *Communiqué* please contact the Local office by phone at 519-474-3150, or by email at etfotvtl@etfothamesvalley.com