



A public service to vote for: **ELECTION 2015**

Bulletin #5

On October 19th, Put the **Public Back** in Public Service!

For years, Canadians have been told that private sector contractors are less expensive and more efficient than government employees. Not true. Canadians have paid a hefty price for the federal government's obsessive reliance on external consultants. Over the past decade, the price tag of contracting out public sector work to the private sector has almost doubled, and now costs Canadians over a billion dollars each year.

Are taxpayers getting value for their money? Absolutely not!

Even when initial bids seem competitive, a contract frequently becomes a "foot in the door" that results in a dramatic increase in costs and in the duration of contracts. A 2011 study by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives demonstrated that taxpayers end up paying, on average, 3.5 times more than the initial bid.

Is contracting-out safe? Don't count on it!

Excessive use of contracted-out services in the federal government has resulted in a "shadow public service", with thousands of contractors

not subject to Access to Information and Privacy requests – making the money channelled to the private sector significantly less accountable than other government expenditures. And they have been granted access to confidential information related to the federal government and to individual Canadians – a situation rife with security concerns.

Is contracting-out wise? Not really.

Outsourcing essential services results in a loss of expertise that creates a dependency on contractors as government departments and agencies lose their ability to provide services internally over time. Institutional knowledge, and valuable intellectual property rights, shift away from the public sector and to these contractors, giving them significant leverage in negotiating extensions or new agreements.

On October 19th, Vote for a public service!

