



**International
Union of
Operating
Engineers**

BRIEFING NOTES: Pierre Poilievre Conservative Party Leader

2023 October

- **Pierre Poilievre is a career politician.** He has been a Member of Parliament for nearly 20 years, first elected when he was only 24 years old. Politics has been his only job.
- **Poilievre's record when it comes to unions is one of attacking workers' rights and trying to weaken the labour movement.**
- **Poilievre was proud to be "the first federal politician to make a dedicated push" to bring right-to-work laws to Canada.** He stated that he was "going to do my part to see that happens at the federal level and would encourage provincial governments to do likewise."
- **Poilievre mounted a campaign to allow public sector union members to opt out of paying union dues and took aim at the Rand formula, which requires workers under collective agreements to pay union dues.** To critics who said he was trying to destroy unions he replied, "you can call it that. I consider it enhancement of workers' rights and freedoms." As part of the Harper government, he continuously attacked the Rand formula.
- **Poilievre delivered 100 parliamentary speeches supporting anti-union legislation like Bill C-377 and Bill C-525, along with other similar anti-union efforts.** He believes that unions enjoy "extraordinary and unmatched powers under labour legislation in all 10 provinces and in the federal jurisdiction." He once called unions a "\$4 billion-a-year industry" viciously attacking organized labour's advocacy and campaign work.
- **Based on his track record, Poilievre would be openly hostile towards workers and their unions if he becomes Prime Minister.**
- **Poilievre promises that, under his leadership, Canada would be "open for business" and that he would approve more resource projects, but his record doesn't reflect his rhetoric:**
 - As Minister of Democratic Reform, he advocated for an absolute moratorium on industrial wind projects in Ontario.
 - He opposed the federal government's purchase of the Trans Mountain pipeline – the only way to ensure the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion Project would actually be built.
 - He has also voted against legislation to promote labour standards and provide greater tax credits on new energy projects.

