

## **The right 'not to associate'**

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Re: Right To Fight?, Jan. 10.

Professor Larry Haiven says forcing unionized employees to support political causes against their will is not a big deal.

"Unions are fairly democratic organizations," he says. "If the membership doesn't like what the union is doing, they can remove the person that is doing it, vote against the action ... members get a say and they get a chance to raise hell."

This misses the point.

Even if 51% of CUPE members, for instance, supported Sid Ryan's controversial political stance on Israel, it's still wrong to force the other 49% to financially support this cause.

In a true democracy, the rights of the minority must be protected -- including the right not to associate. As Thomas Jefferson said: "To compel a man to furnish funds for the propagation of ideas he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical."

Gerry Nicholls, Oakville, Ont.