

BULLETIN

ELECTION AMENDMENT ACT, 2017

Bill 3, *Election Amendment Act, 2017* received Royal Assent on November 30, 2017, resulting in many changes to the financing provisions of the *Election Act*. Elections BC's forms and guides are being updated to reflect the amendments. Under the new rules:

- Political contributions from organizations, corporations and unions are prohibited.
- Only eligible individuals can make political contributions. An eligible individual is someone who is a resident of B.C. and a Canadian citizen or permanent resident.
- An eligible individual may contribute up to \$1,200 per year to any one political party, including any constituency associations, candidates or nomination contestants of that party.
- The use of political contributions received prior to November 30, 2017 is restricted. Up to \$1,200 of such contributions from eligible individuals can be used for future election expenses and advertising messages conducted outside a campaign period.
- Information about specified fundraising functions is required to be disclosed both before and after the function.
- The election expenses limit for candidates is reduced to \$58,000. The election expenses limit for political parties is calculated by multiplying the total number of registered voters in all electoral districts by \$1.16.
- Loans and guarantees to political participants can only be received from savings institutions and must be at a non-preferential interest rate.

- Sponsorship contributions to third party advertising sponsors must not exceed \$1,200 per year from an eligible individual.
- Third party advertising sponsors that conduct election advertising during the 60-day period before a scheduled general election must register with Elections BC.
- Canvassing voters on a commercial basis is election advertising.
- Political parties and candidates may qualify for reimbursement of up to 50% of eligible election expenses in future elections.
- Political parties may qualify for an annual allowance based on the number of votes received in the previous provincial general election. Parties that receive an allowance payment are required to file interim financial reports semi-annually in 2018 and quarterly in subsequent years.

This bulletin applies to provincial electoral finance rules under the *Election Act*.

Questions?

**For more information, contact Provincial Electoral Finance
at Elections BC.**

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