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June 1999

The Honourable Gretchen Mann Brewin
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Province of British Columbia
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia
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Honourable Speaker:

Pursuant to section 13 (1) (a) of the *Election Act*, I have the honour to present the 1998 Annual Report of the Chief Electoral Officer to the Legislative Assembly.

This is the third Annual Report of the Chief Electoral Officer submitted under the *Election Act*, and covers the period January 1, 1998 to December 31, 1998.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert A. Patterson
Chief Electoral Officer

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CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER'S MESSAGE

1998 was a year like none before with external demands consuming significant amounts of Elections BC's time and resources. That the staff of the Office were able to meet those demands, while giving due regard to their customary responsibilities, attests to their commitment that Elections BC be a well-performing organization.



Elections BC continues to strive towards meeting the highest standards of electoral and administrative fairness. I am very pleased to note this is being recognized through increasing requests for our assistance from many and varied sources. For example, Elections BC has been asked by BC Supreme Court Justices to provide personnel to supervise community group elections and we have been asked for technical assistance by aboriginal electoral organizations, the Superannuation Commission and the Four Corners Community Savings Bank.

Part of what ensures fairness is public awareness of the electoral process. We were very pleased to recruit an experienced communications manager to develop strategies to ensure that the electorate, electoral participants and election administrators in the field are kept informed on a timely basis.

The *Recall and Initiative Act* continues to place ever-increasing demands on the resources of this office. In 1998, seven applications for recall petitions were filed. Six petitions were issued while one application was withdrawn before approval in principle was granted. Additionally, three recall campaigns concluded from petitions issued in 1997.

The resignation of the Member for the Parksville-Qualicum electoral district following a recall campaign in that district resulted in a by-election being held on December 14, 1998.

For all electoral organizations which utilize a continuous Voters List, the process of maintaining the currency of that list is, to a very large degree, dependent on the electorate keeping their registration information up to date when they move and/or change their name. However, this tends to be the exception rather than the rule unless an election is imminent. Consequently, it falls to the electoral organization to undertake activities which will promote and enhance the currency of the Voters List.

To that end, in 1998 Elections BC undertook a major campaign to identify and remove those voter records which were no longer current. Approximately 240,000 notices were printed from voter records which were considered inactive and mailed to the respective voters to seek reconfirmation of their registration. This mailing resulted in 37,000 voters updating their registration status and over 200,000 records being purged from the Voters List. We also made significant progress to increase Voters List updating through enhancements to our Motor Voter systems programs, and we have continued to work with our colleagues in other jurisdictions to find ways to efficiently and economically maintain Voters Lists.

This office continues to maintain its affiliations with various associations of electoral administrators. These contacts provide opportunities for staff to exchange operational ideas and concerns and obtain valuable information which assists us to regularly assess our policies and procedures with fresh perspectives.

I am very pleased to report that there has been a significant increase in the number of registered political parties and registered constituency associations which have filed their financing reports on time. Additionally, we have noted improved accuracy in those reports. The efforts of those respective financial agents are greatly appreciated.

Unfortunately, we had to seek injunctions to compel two deregistered political parties to file statutory financing reports. It is regrettable that some individuals and organizations will take advantage of the benefits available to registered organizations, yet resist meeting their obligations in relation to those benefits.

The *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act* requires that electoral district boundaries be reviewed after every second general election. The Electoral Boundaries Commission was appointed in December 1997 and, by statute, the Chief Electoral Officer is a member of the Commission. In addition to my participation, Elections BC was asked by the Commission to provide start-up administrative support and ongoing technical assistance from our Electoral Geography Division.

In addition to assisting the Commission, the Electoral Geography Division continued its work redefining voting area boundaries from materials submitted by our District Electoral Officers. These new boundaries were drawn to facilitate voter access to convenient voting places, and to simplify the utilization of the Provincial Voters List for local government elections. The Division has also been working with GeoData BC to create a comprehensive province-wide, geo-referenced and digitally-depicted address register.

The address register was but one of a number of systems applications which were identified in our Strategic Information Systems Plan (SISP). Following executive approval of the SISP, our Information Technology Division, with assistance from the Purchasing Commission, prepared a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the development of a complete Electoral Information System (EIS) which would encompass all business functions of our organization. The successful bidder to the RFP was EDS Canada. The first stage of the project called for the development of an integrated and detailed business solution which would form the base for the development of a Statement of Work and also a base from which to negotiate a systems development contract.

The needs associated with introducing an entirely new information processing infrastructure are directly related to significant elements of change in our business environment occurring within the current electoral cycle.

Remaining event-ready has always been the mandate of Elections BC, but now our challenge of maintaining that level of readiness has been increased substantially by the continually evolving internal and external business environments.

Robert A. Patterson
Chief Electoral Officer

ABOUT ELECTIONS BC

Our Mandate

Elections BC is a non-partisan Office of the Legislature and is responsible for the impartial administration of Provincial elections and referendums, recalls and initiatives, as well as voter registration and outreach.

Elections BC's mission is:

“To serve the people of British Columbia by ensuring the effective and impartial administration of the electoral process.”

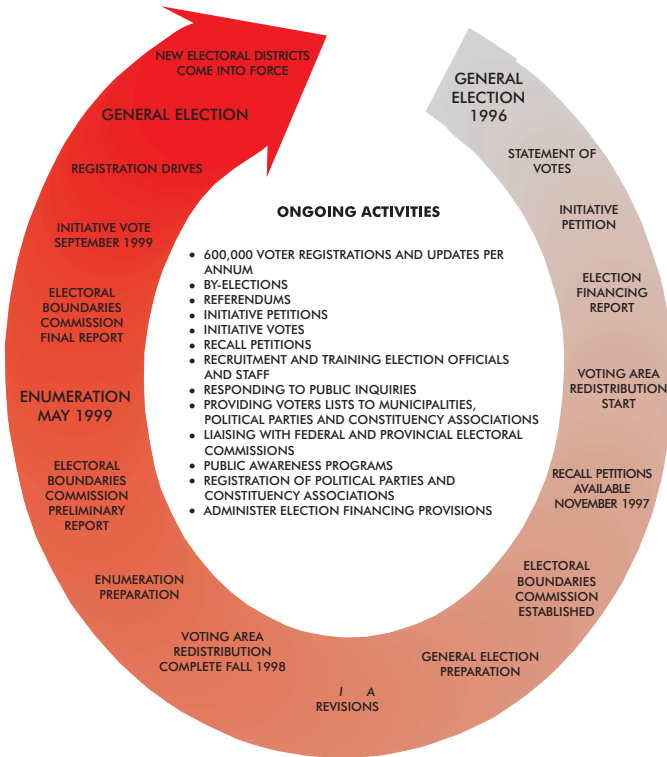
Elections BC's guiding principles are:

- upholding the democratic rights of British Columbians which are enshrined in the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.
These include:
 - the right to vote
 - the right to representation
 - the right to political participation
- respecting the rule of law;
- impartially administering the electoral process; and
- working with integrity, openness and transparency.

The organization prides itself in having dedicated staff, operating with fairness and equity, and respecting individual differences and individual rights. Elections BC places high value on honesty, knowledge, and professionalism.

ELECTIONS BRITISH COLUMBIA BUSINESS CYCLE

ELECTIONS BRITISH COLUMBIA BUSINESS CYCLE



Statutory Officers' Fundamental Operating Principles and Related Legislation

After two years of consultation and drafting, a report entitled "Statutory Officers of the British Columbia Legislature: Fundamental Operating Principles and Related Legislation" was submitted to the Speaker in April, and later tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The purpose of this report was to make a clear statement of those operating principles that the independent Officers of the Legislature believe to be fundamental to effectively carry out their legislated mandates.

The principles are described under the six general headings of Legislated Mandate and Authority, Accountability, Independence: Personal and Managerial, Reporting, Access to Information and Confidentiality.

Corporate Restructuring

Within the next year, Elections BC will have a new corporate structure in place. The new structure is the result of an organizational review commenced in December 1996, and reflects Elections BC's commitment to effectively deploy its human resources to support the administrative and operational workloads stemming from the demands of its expanded legislated mandate. In late March our regional offices in Kamloops and Prince George were closed and the FTEs assigned to divisional positions in Victoria. Both cities have Government Agent offices which provide voter registration services. Other responsibilities were transferred to our Vancouver and Kelowna offices.

The role of the Regional Managers will expand from what has historically been a focus on voter registration to include increased participation in the delivery of Elections BC's various lines of business.

Working Group on Sharing Initiatives

In March, the Chief Electoral Officer attended a two-day meeting in Ottawa of the Working Group of Chief Electoral Officers on Sharing

Initiatives. The objective was to forge partnerships through which the organizations can develop products and services to serve multiple jurisdictions.

Included on the agenda were the legislative and operational issues associated with inter-jurisdictional sharing of data. As a result of the meeting, Elections BC is exploring the feasibility of cooperation between the local, Provincial and federal jurisdictions for the development of common voting area boundaries, the potential for a joint voter education program to reach first-time voters, and the exchange of voter data to update Voters Lists.

Partnership Agreement with Elections Canada

Following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Exchange and Sharing of Data, Expertise and Technology in 1997, this year Elections BC and Elections Canada signed an Agreement to facilitate the exchange of electoral data from our respective computer systems.

Elections BC will provide information to Elections Canada from its Motor Voter Program with the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia. Elections BC and Elections Canada will use the information only within the limits prescribed under our respective legislation.

Electoral Boundaries Commission

A great deal of the Chief Electoral Officer's year was taken up by duties and obligations to the Electoral Boundaries Commission appointed December 3, 1997. The *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act* requires that after every second general election, a Commission be appointed to review electoral district boundaries. The Commission makes recommendations to the Legislative Assembly as to the area, boundaries, names and number of the electoral districts of British Columbia, with a view to effective and equitable representation in the Provincial Legislature.

A 1996 amendment allows the Commission to propose up to an additional six electoral districts, but not less than the present 75. The Commission's Preliminary Report, submitted to the Legislative Assembly on December 3, 1998, proposes 79 electoral districts. The Commission's final report must follow in early June of 1999.

Proposed Amendments to Legislation

The Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the 36th Provincial General Election contained 51 recommendations for amendments to the *Election Act*. Subsequent to that Report, more recent events have brought to light four additional areas for recommendations for amendments to the *Election Act* and the *Recall and Initiative Act*:

Electoral Redistribution

Effect of redistribution on an initiative petition

For the purposes of an initiative petition that is in process at the time new electoral districts come into effect, it is recommended that the electoral districts in effect at the time the petition was issued should apply for the purposes of signature canvassing and petition verification.

Requirement for Audited Financing Reports

Constituency associations are automatically deregistered as a result of electoral district redistribution and are currently required to file an audited financing report pursuant to section 170 (3). It is recommended that this audit requirement be removed, as it places undue administrative and financial burdens on these organizations as a result of circumstances beyond their control.

The Provincial Voters List

Restricted access to the Voters List

The Provincial Voters List is currently available to three other organizations in government. The *Maintenance Enforcement Act*, the

Adoption Act and the *Election Act*, for jury selection, all provide for non-electoral purpose access to the Voters List. It is recommended that use of the Voters List be restricted to electoral purposes. This recommendation will have no impact on the availability of Voters Lists to registered political parties, registered constituency associations, MLAs or candidates.

By restricting use of the Provincial Voters List to electoral purposes, Elections BC will gain access to the Voters List information held by Elections Canada. Access to the federal list is not possible without this amendment. Use of the federal data, updated through voters' informed consent on income tax returns and citizenship documents, will provide for improved on-going currency of the Provincial Voters List by incorporating changes to the federal list, and will provide our clients with improved service by facilitating updates of their voter records.

Elimination of Calendared Enumerations

It is anticipated that access to and use of the federal Voters List updates, in conjunction with the Motor Voter Program, will eliminate the need for general enumerations in the future. A door-to-door enumeration is estimated to cost \$14 million. The *Election Act* currently requires that a general enumeration be conducted in the third calendar year following a general election. The recall and initiative legislation places additional emphasis on the need for a Voters List with on-going currency.

Door-to-door canvassing is an increasingly anachronistic process. It does not address the needs of our highly mobile population, and is a static process in a necessarily fluid Voters List. It is increasingly difficult to find enumerators who are willing to perform the work, and voters are reluctant to open their doors to strangers through concerns for personal security. Many voters find the enumeration process to be unnecessarily intrusive.

It is recommended that the legislated requirement for a general enumeration in the third calendar year following a general election be repealed to provide this office with more flexibility with respect to maintenance of a current Voters List in an efficient and economical way.

This office should retain authority to conduct general or special enumerations if necessary.

Court Cases and Challenges

Friesen et al v. Hammell et al

In August 1996, three voters from three different electoral districts filed a Petition under section 150 of the *Election Act* for a declaration that the May 1996 elections of all 39 New Democratic Party Members be declared invalid. The Petition alleges that the New Democratic Party (NDP) and its candidates used fraudulent means to persuade voters to vote for them, citing misleading campaign commentary on the state of the Provincial budget.

As these three voters could only directly challenge the election of their respective Member, they also filed a second Petition under the *Class Proceedings Act* in order to bring the other 36 MLAs into the action. In November 1997, this petition was dismissed, essentially for the reason that the three petitioners lacked standing to launch a claim on behalf of others.

On December 18, 1998 the Chambers Judge dismissed the Petition against all MLAs except the three Members from the petitioners' electoral districts. The petition against the NDP, Premier Clark and former Minister of Finance and Corporate Relations, Andrew Petter, were also dismissed.

At December 31, 1998, a trial date had been set for July 1999. The Members, however, have made an Application for Leave to Appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada. Consequently, if Leave to Appeal is granted, there will be an automatic stay of the trial proceedings.

Third Party Advertising and Constitutional Challenges

The Supreme Court of Canada's Libman decision, from a challenge of Quebec's referendum legislation, has resulted in further delay to the

constitutional challenge of British Columbia's *Election Act* by Pacific Press, publishers of the Vancouver Sun and Province newspapers. This case originated with a challenge by Robert Foret to legislated restrictions on third party advertisers and reporting of opinion polls in the news media. In February, the court declined to strike down the Pacific Press claim despite the Libman decision without first establishing a factual basis for the claim.

The Government appealed this ruling. The British Columbia Court of Appeal in November upheld this decision. The Attorney-General of British Columbia has subsequently applied to the Supreme Court of Canada for leave to appeal on grounds that the constitutionality has already been addressed in the Libman decision.

Garry B. Nixon, who was fined some \$13,000 for exceeding third party expenditure limits during the May 1996 General Election campaign, has joined Pacific Press in this action. Enforcement of his fine was suspended earlier pending the outcome of the case.

In September 1996, Cariboo Press and North Shore Free Press together filed a similar Petition in the Supreme Court of BC. This Petition also questions the constitutionality of the *Election Act's* requirements for third party advertisers to register and subsequently file financial reports, but is on hold pending the outcome of the Pacific Press/Nixon challenge.

Court Challenge of the Recall and Initiative Act

In May of this year, the BC Civil Liberties Association (BCCLA) challenged the constitutionality of the recall provisions in the *Recall and Initiative Act*. The BCCLA claims the Act is ultra vires of the Province and therefore void. It further claims the Act infringes on section 3 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms - the citizen's right to vote. As well, the BCCLA claims the Act "undermines government stability". No date has been set for a hearing.

Representative of the Office of the Ombudsman of Hong Kong visits Elections BC

On October 7, 1998 we welcomed MOK Yun-Chuen, the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Ombudsman, Hong Kong, China. He had expressed particular interest in community relations and public outreach.

Legislative Interns

The Chief Electoral Officer and Deputy Chief Electoral Officer briefed this year's group of Legislative Interns on the history and role of Elections BC. The presentation provided an opportunity for the interns to learn about the mandate of this office and its activities, and to ask questions regarding the electoral process.

Lambrick Park Secondary School Students

Elections BC welcomed two students from Lambrick Park Secondary School of Victoria from May 25 to June 17, 1998 as part of their 'work experience' program. They had the experience of a mock public service panel interview and received orientation to all Elections BC's Divisions. They were given a variety of tasks including data entry, accounts processing and records management. The enthusiasm, knowledge and skills they brought to our office were impressive.

Initiatives

The office received a number of inquiries regarding the initiative process. No petitions were issued during 1998.

Recall Petitions

During 1998, the Chief Electoral Officer received seven recall applications for petitions to recall Members of the Legislative Assembly under the *Recall and Initiative Act*.

The status of recall petitions are as follows:

Petition R98001-VPG

Proponent: Robert David Bradley
MLA: Gordon Campbell
Electoral District: Vancouver-Point Grey
Issue Date: January 13, 1998
Return Date: March 16, 1998

Outcome of the recall petition:

The recall petition failed as it was not returned to the Chief Electoral Officer by the return date.

Petition R98002-PRN

Proponent: James Loughery
MLA: Paul Ramsey
Electoral District: Prince George North
Issue Date: January 16, 1998
Return Date: March 17, 1998

Outcome of the recall petition:

The recall petition failed as it was not returned to the Chief Electoral Officer by the return date.

Petition R98003-FTL

Proponent: Walter Bueckert

MLA: Rich Coleman

Electoral District: Fort Langley-Aldergrove

Issue Date: January 27, 1998

Return Date: March 30, 1998

Outcome of the recall petition:

The recall petition failed as it was not returned to the Chief Electoral Officer by the return date.

Petition R98004-CMX

Proponent: Robert Saint Amour

MLA: Evelyn Gillespie

Electoral District: Comox Valley

Issue Date: February 12, 1998

Return Date: April 14, 1998

Outcome of the recall petition:

The recall petition failed as it was not returned to the Chief Electoral Officer by the return date.

Petition R98005-PAR

Proponent: Mark Robinson

MLA: Paul Reitsma

Electoral District: Parksville-Qualicum

Issue Date: April 15, 1998

Return Date: June 15, 1998

Outcome of the recall petition:

In Parksville-Qualicum, 42,549 voters were registered to vote at the general election of May 28, 1996. Therefore, the number of signatures required for a successful petition was 17,020. On the return date, the preliminary count indicated that there were 2,846 petition signature sheets submitted. This preliminary count also confirmed that there were

enough signatures (25,470) to continue the next phase of the verification process. During the second phase of the verification process, which found 17,318 exact matches to voter records for signature verification, Paul Reitsma, Member for the electoral district of Parksville-Qualicum resigned his seat effective June 23, 1998.

Petition R98006-CMX

Proponent: Robert Saint Amour
MLA: Evelyn Gillespie
Electoral District: Comox Valley

Outcome of the recall petition:

The recall petition application was withdrawn by the proponent on July 23, 1998, prior to approval in principle being granted.

Petition R98007-PRN

Proponent: Bob Viergever
MLA: Paul Ramsey
Electoral District: Prince George North
Issue Date: October 7, 1998
Return Date: December 7, 1998

Outcome of the recall petition:

The recall petition failed as it was not returned to the Chief Electoral Officer by the return date.

British Columbia is the only jurisdiction in Canada with recall legislation. The *Recall and Initiative Act* received Royal Assent in July of 1994, and was brought into force in February of 1995.

Parksville-Qualicum By-election

On Monday, November 16, 1998, pursuant to Order in Council 1397, a Writ of Election was issued by the Chief Electoral Officer to Jeanne Blue,

the District Electoral Officer for the Parksville-Qualicum electoral district. The Writ ordered that an election be held on December 14, 1998.

At the commencement of the by-election, temporary voter registration centres were set up in the electoral district at nine locations with high pedestrian traffic. The centres were open from Tuesday, November 17, 1998 (Day 1) up to and including Monday, November 23, 1998 (Day 7).

Voter Registration Activity:

■ Number of registered voters on Writ Day (Day 0)	41,814
■ Number of registered voters at the close of general registration period (Day 7)	42,545
■ Number of registered voters at the conclusion of general voting (Day 28)	43,942

Under section 41 of the *Election Act*, voter registration and updating was available at all voting opportunities for qualified individuals who were not registered or who were no longer registered at the correct address.

There were 2,523 voter registration transactions completed at the time of voting, resulting in 1,397 new registrations and 1,126 updates to the Voters List for the Parksville-Qualicum electoral district.

Three standing nominations were filed with the Chief Electoral Officer under section 57 of the *Election Act*. Nominations filed under section 56 of the *Election Act* were accepted by the District Electoral Officer from 9:00 a.m. Monday, November 23, 1998 until 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 1, 1998. At the close of nominations, seven additional candidates had filed with the District Electoral Officer, for a total of ten candidates.

The *Election Act* requires a 12-day delay before commencing Final Count unless an earlier time is authorized by the Chief Electoral Officer. At a by-election, when there are no coincidental by-elections, there is no Absentee Voting outside the electoral district, and consequently, no need to wait for ballots from other electoral districts. Therefore, the Chief Electoral Officer authorized the District Electoral Officer to begin Final Count on December 17, 1998, and the count was concluded that day.

At the conclusion of the Final Count, Judith Reid, the candidate endorsed by the BC Liberal Party, was declared elected as the Member to represent the Parksville-Qualicum electoral district in the Legislative Assembly. On Thursday, December 24, 1998, the District Electoral Officer returned the Writ of Election to the Chief Electoral Officer, and on that date the Chief Electoral Officer delivered a certified report to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly confirming the election of Judith Reid.

BC Rail Pension Board Election

The Superannuation Commission requested the assistance of Elections BC in administering the nomination and voting processes for the election of two BC Rail employee representatives to the BC Rail Pension Board.

Elections BC staff provided assistance by reviewing existing policies and procedures for the nomination and voting processes, tallying nominations and determining which candidates' names would appear on the ballot, and tallying the results of the subsequent election.

Following the election, Elections BC provided a summary of voting results and documented the policies and procedures. Additionally, Elections BC made recommendations for policy and procedural amendments that the Board may wish to consider for future elections.

Four Corners Community Savings Bank Vote

The Four Corners Community Savings Bank of Vancouver requested that Elections BC provide an election official to observe its Advisory Council election in mid-January. Joe Dang, District Electoral Officer for Vancouver-Hastings, attended the election as an observer. Following the election, Mr. Dang submitted a report to Four Corners Community Savings of his observations and recommendations for future Advisory Council elections.

Metis Provincial Council of B.C.

In February 1998, the Deputy Chief Electoral Officer addressed the Board of the Metis Provincial Council of B.C. The topic of her address was principles of democratic elections. The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer provided technical assistance to the Metis Provincial Council by reviewing proposed electoral policies and procedures and providing sample forms and materials.

Nisga'a Referendum Commission

In September 1998, the Deputy Chief Electoral Officer met with Corinne McKay, Referendum Commissioner for the Nisga'a Treaty and Constitution Ratification Referendum, to discuss electoral procedures and provide technical assistance in the form of sample guides and election materials.

Khalsa Diwan Society Election

The Supreme Court of British Columbia in Victoria ordered in December that an experienced District Electoral Officer from Elections BC or an experienced Returning Officer from Elections Canada be appointed to conduct the election of officers for the Victoria Khalsa Diwan Society. Elections BC identified a number of qualified election officials residing in the Victoria area. A selection is expected early in 1999.

Ross Street Temple Election

The Supreme Court of British Columbia in Vancouver set out guidelines in September for the election of officials for Vancouver's Ross Street Temple, and ordered that the election be supervised by an experienced, independent returning officer nominated from a list provided by Elections BC. Stan Roberts, District Electoral Officer for Vancouver-Burrard, was chosen to administer the election, which was held in early December.

Appointment of Deputy District Electoral Officers

Deputy District Electoral Officers were appointed to most electoral districts during 1998. Deputies are responsible for providing assistance to the District Electoral Officer (DEO) and act in that capacity in the event of absence or illness of the DEO.

Training for Election Officials

In 1998, training for election officials was conducted on a regional basis. A series of nine two-day sessions were held, providing orientation training for Deputy DEOs and operational training for Deputies and District Electoral Officers.

Director, Electoral Operations

The position of Director, Electoral Operations has been vacant since October of 1997. The vacancy was posted in June 1998, and 75 individuals applied. A decision on the successful candidate is expected to be announced in early 1999.

Manager, Corporate Communications

In May 1998, the position of Manager, Corporate Communications was posted. When the competition closed in mid-June, 45 individuals had applied. Interviews were conducted later in the year, and the successful candidate will join Elections BC early in 1999.

Annual Financial Reports

Annual financial reports covering activities of registered political parties and registered constituency associations during the 1997 calendar year were due March 31, 1998. One registered political party and one registered constituency association failed to file annual financial reports and were deregistered. The *Election Act* allows the Chief Electoral Officer to make Orders to accommodate extraordinary circumstances. One

registered political party and four constituency associations requested and were granted extensions to the legislated filing deadlines. The party subsequently requested and was granted a further extension. The Orders are summarized in Appendix I of this Report.

Recall Financing Reports

The *Recall and Initiative Act* requires that within 28 days after the end of a recall petition period, the financial agents for the proponent and the respective Member of the Legislative Assembly must file financing reports with the Chief Electoral Officer.

The Chief Electoral Officer cannot make a final determination as to the success of a recall effort until the financial report of the proponent is reviewed. If the proponent's financing reports are not submitted or if the recall expense limit is exceeded, the recall petition fails even if the signature verification process shows that a sufficient number of valid signatures were collected.

Summarized in Appendix D of this Report are the recall financing reports for petitions submitted to this office during 1998.

Requirement for Audited Financial Reports on Deregistration

The Chief Electoral Officer applied to the Supreme Court of British Columbia in May for injunctions to direct two deregistered political parties to file audited financial reports as required by section 170 of the *Election Act*.

The two deregistered parties are the British Columbia Libertarian Party and the Common Sense, Community, Family Party. Both were deregistered by the Chief Electoral Officer for failure to file election financing reports subsequent to the 1996 General Election.

On May 29, 1998, the Court ordered that the Libertarian Party file its audited financial reports no later than December 31, 1998, and if

necessary, transfer surplus funds as disclosed in those reports to the office of the Chief Electoral Officer.

The Common Sense, Community, Family Party's audited financial statements were filed with Elections BC on June 18, and the matter was adjourned.

Presentations to Registered Political Parties

At the request of two registered political parties, the Director of Electoral Finance provided instruction on the election finance provisions of the *Election Act*. The presentations provided instruction and direction to financial agents and other principal officers of the parties on compliance with the requirements of British Columbia's election finance legislation.

Voter Registration

The Provincial Voters List System (PVLS) contains the names, birthdates and residential and mailing addresses of registered voters. This data is used by Elections BC to develop Voters Lists for electoral events. The majority of this data is supplied to Elections BC by the Province's voters.

Elections BC is continually looking for ways to increase the currency, completeness and accuracy of the Voters List, and for levelling out the 'peaks and valleys' of activity during and between elections.

The volume of transactions performed on the Provincial Voters List System increased from approximately 300,000 in 1997 to approximately 600,000 in 1998. This includes new voter registrations, deletions and changes of name and address information resulting from various registration activities.

The "Motor Voter Program", in which address changes to drivers' licence records are provided to Elections BC, generated approximately 170,000 updates to the Voters List, an increase from approximately 82,000 the previous year. The *Election Act* permits access to the Insurance

Corporation of British Columbia's drivers licence address data for this purpose.

With one in four people moving every year, an accumulation of inactive records can result from unreported moves. In May of this year, a mail campaign was conducted, targeting approximately 240,000 voters whose voter records indicated they had not voted in the last two elections and whose records showed no address change or confirmation activity since the 1996 general election. Voters could confirm their voter registration by mail or telephone. Under section 46 of the *Election Act*, voters have 60 days to respond if they wish to remain on the Voters List. Approximately 37,000 voters confirmed their voter records; the remaining 200,000-plus records were purged from the Voters List system.

Voters who want to register to vote, or who wish to update their registration, may contact any Elections BC or Government Agent office. Toll-free telephone service to Elections BC is available by calling 1-800-661-8683. Voter registration is also available in conjunction with any voting opportunity.

Voting Area Redistribution

The *Election Act* establishes that no more than 400 registered voters can be assigned to a voting area (formerly known as 'polling division'). To ensure compliance and facilitate an efficient conversion to any new electoral district boundaries, Elections BC commenced a province-wide voting area redistribution project in October 1997. The project was completed in September 1998.

Of the 7,124 voting areas established for the 1996 General Election, many had to be redistributed due to over-population, new highway construction and accessibility issues. 1,147 new voting areas were created, resulting in 8,271 voting areas in total.

Assistance to the Electoral Boundaries Commission

Early in the year, the Manager of the Electoral Geography Division was called upon to assist the newly-appointed Electoral Boundaries Commission with identification of GIS data and other reference requirements to support the Commission's mandate. The Manager continues to provide advice and assistance on such matters as verification of data, electronic mapping and review of boundary descriptions prepared by the Commission.

Memorandum of Understanding with GeoData BC

The concept of an electronic geographically-referenced Address Register as a tool for the Voter Registration and Electoral Geography divisions has been under review by Elections BC for some time. In August, Elections BC entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Geographic Data BC (GeoData BC) to develop such a Register. The Address Register will be especially useful for future redistributions of voting areas and electoral districts.

Within the Register will be geo-coded address and map coordinates for every residential address in the Province. By partnering with GeoData BC, Elections BC can develop systems that link the Address Register, GeoData BC's Digital Road Atlas and the 'Street Index' portion of the Provincial Voters List System to increase efficiencies in electoral administration.

Electoral Information System (EIS)

Elections BC's Strategic Information Systems Plan, known as SISP, articulated our systems goals in terms of structure and timelines with a view to reducing operational and workload 'spikes', and to provide for a fully integrated electoral information system. It also identified issues and options for further systems development.

A Request for Proposal was issued this spring for a complete redesign of Elections BC's information technology systems. At this time, our management team is holding preliminary meetings with EDS Canada, the team of consultants chosen for this far-reaching project.

Y2K Conversion

The Provincial Voters List System was the first ADF mainframe system to complete Y2K conversion within the British Columbia government systems environment.

The Elections BC Y2K conversion project commenced in May 1997 and wrapped up in April 1998. All dates in the Provincial Voters List System were converted from the YYMMDD (year month day) format to the CCYYMMDD (century year month day) identifier. This required the modification of five databases, 22 online programs, 588 batch programs and subroutines, and all report layouts.

Although the elapsed time was 11 months, the programming time was approximately six months. The other five months were spent on testing. The Parksville-Qualicum by-election provided an opportunity for 'live' testing with a 100 per cent successful result.

International Association of Clerks, Recordors, Election Officials and Treasurers (IACREOT)

In July, the Chief Electoral Officer attended an IACREOT Conference in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Topics of discussion included attracting first-time voters, voting systems and standards, training election officials, updates on judicial decisions concerning elections and new technology of election administration and voter registration.

In conjunction with the conference is a large trade fair where exhibitors feature systems and other products designed to support the electoral process.

Council on Governmental Ethics Laws (COGEL)

The 20th Annual Conference of the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws (COGEL) was held in Seattle, Washington, September 13-16, 1998. It was attended by the CEO, the Deputy Chief Electoral Officer and the Director of Electoral Finance.

As a member of COGEL's Steering Committee, the CEO chaired the 1998 Awards Committee as well as serving as Treasurer for the organization. The CEO also chaired a panel discussion entitled "Courts v. Third Party Advertising, Independent Expenditures and Issues Advocacy".

The Conference Agenda included a discussion of ethics education in today's government, freedom of information legislation, the relationship between agency personnel and their attorneys/lawyers, development of campaign finance software and the use of databases in enforcement.

The COGEL Annual Conference provides a venue for exchange of information and significant developments in a number of areas of interest to Elections BC. COGEL is an international professional organization for government agencies, organizations and individuals with responsibilities or interests in governmental ethics, elections, campaign finance, lobby law and open public meetings and records regulation.

COGEL's Electronic Disclosure Committee

The Director of Electoral Finance, a member of COGEL's Electronic Disclosure Committee, joined other governmental representatives in Washington, D.C. for a five-day meeting facilitated by the Logistics Management Institute. This meeting was a first step to establishing a uniform electronic filing format for campaign finance and lobbying statements for jurisdictions in the United States and Canada.

Conference of Canadian Election Officials

Canadian Election Officials have been meeting annually for 25 years. Senior federal, Provincial and territorial election administrators share information on jurisdictional activities, administration, policy, legal issues and international electoral activities.

Among the topics of discussion at the 1998 Conference were training for financial agents, computerization of electoral forms, electoral geography and electronic record-keeping.

A highlight of the 1998 Conference for the British Columbia delegates was the presentation of the François Drouin Award to Synneva Leonard, who retired in October 1997 from her position as Elections BC's Manager of Election Operations. The award is given to individuals who have shown outstanding service in the field of electoral administration, but who are no longer active in it. Accepting the award on her behalf, the Chief Electoral Officer noted her contributions in implementing the sweeping changes that resulted from the *Election Act-1995*, and putting into operation the computerized Statement of Votes and Election Inventory Management systems.

Workshop for Canadian Election Officials

In early April the Director of Election Finances travelled to Toronto to attend a two-day workshop organized by Ontario's Commission on Election Finances. It provided an opportunity for representatives from most Canadian jurisdictions to interact and exchange information on the administration of election finance law. The agenda included modules on staff training, independent candidates, plain language and referendum legislation.

Federal Election Commission Advisory Panel

In April, the Director of Information Technology travelled to Portland, Oregon to take part in a two-day meeting of the Advisory Panel of the United States' Federal Election Commission.

The Advisory Panel dealt with a number of systems applications including using the Internet in election offices, developing state-wide voter registration databases, Y2K compliance, confirming identity through biometric technology and the United States' census planned for the year 2000.

Meetings with Regional Managers

Elections BC's Regional Managers are based in Victoria, Vancouver, Langley and Kelowna. Regional Managers meet regularly with the Executive Committee to discuss projects and issues. Historically, they have focused primarily on Voters List maintenance. As a result of corporate restructuring, their duties have been expanded to include more responsibility for voter education and increased involvement in other operational areas such as recall, initiative, election financing and nomination of candidates.

Five meetings were held in 1998. Topics of discussion included implementation of the new corporate structure, voting area redistribution, the effect of new electoral district boundaries, election readiness and requirements for the integrated electoral information system (EIS).

Canadian Study of Parliament Group (CSPG) Conference

The Chief Electoral Officer and Deputy Chief Electoral Officer attended the 1998 Spring Conference of the Canadian Study of Parliament Group which was held in Victoria in late April. Under the theme, "Rethinking Representation", the conference discussed recall and electoral representation from the viewpoints of political scientists, politicians and

public servants. Established in 1978, the organization fosters discussion and understanding of parliamentary institutions, the legislative process and related reforms.

Provincial Employees Community Services Fund Awards

Throughout the year Elections BC holds in-house events such as bake sales to raise funds for the Provincial Employees Community Services Fund. Early in 1998 the office was presented with two awards for its fund-raising efforts during the previous year's campaign. We received the "Most Improved" award in terms of percentage of staff participation, and an award for offices with more than 75% staff participation and an average donation of \$100.00 or more per employee.

The Provincial Employees Community Services Fund contributes to a number of non-profit agencies in the community.

Information Workshops

Elections BC has a strong commitment to internal communications and staff training. To achieve our goals in this regard, informal Information Workshops are held in the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer. To allow all Victoria staff to attend, the workshops are held Friday mornings, and repeated Friday afternoons.

Topics have included detailed reviews of electoral legislation, overviews of current projects and broad-ranging discussions on a variety of related subjects.

APPENDICES

Appendix A

Statutory Authorities

As a non-partisan Office of the Legislature, Elections BC is responsible for the impartial administration of Provincial elections, referendums, recalls and initiatives as well as voter registration and outreach.

Our mandate is outlined by the following statutes:

- *Constitution Act*
- *Constitutional Amendment Approval Act*
- *Election Act*
- *Electoral Districts Act*
- *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act*
- *Financial Disclosure Act*
- *Income Tax Act*
- *Recall and Initiative Act*
- *Referendum Act*

Appendix B Political Parties

Registered Political Parties as at December 31, 1998

Accountability British Columbia Party
Alliance of Concerned Taxpayers
B.C. Conservative Party
BC First Alliance Association
BC Social Credit Party
British Columbia Liberal Party
Citizens Commonwealth Federation
Communist Party of B.C.
Consensual Democratic Party of British Columbia
Green Party Political Association of British Columbia
Labour Welfare Party
Natural Law Party
New Democratic Party of B.C.
Party of Citizens Who Have Decided To Think
 For Themselves And Be Their Own Politicians
Progressive Democratic Alliance
Real Democracy Association of BC
Reform Party of British Columbia
The Alternative Party
The British Columbia Party
The Enterprise Party of British Columbia
The Family Coalition Party of British Columbia
The Voters Choice/Direct Democracy Party of B.C.
United British Columbia Association
Western Canada Concept Party of B.C.

Deregistered During 1998 for Failure to File 1997 Annual Financial Report

BC Republican Party

Appendix C

Constituency Associations

Registered Constituency Associations as at December 31, 1998

Abbotsford NDP Constituency Association

Alberni NDP Constituency Association

Bulkley Valley-Stikine NDP Constituency Association

Bulkley Valley-Stikine Social Credit Constituency Association

Burnaby-Edmonds NDP Constituency Association

Burnaby-Edmonds Social Credit Constituency Association

Burnaby North NDP Constituency Association

Burnaby North Social Credit Constituency Association

Burnaby-Willingdon NDP Constituency Association

Burnaby-Willingdon Social Credit Constituency Association

Cariboo North NDP Constituency Association

Cariboo North Reform Party of BC Constituency Association

Cariboo North Social Credit Constituency Association

Cariboo South Green Party Constituency Association

Cariboo South NDP Constituency Association

Cariboo South Reform Party of BC Constituency Association

Chilliwack NDP Constituency Association

Columbia River-Revelstoke NDP Constituency Association

Comox Valley Accountability BC Constituency Association

Comox Valley NDP Constituency Association

Coquitlam-Maillardville NDP Constituency Association

Coquitlam-Maillardville Reform Party of BC Constituency Association

Cowichan-Ladysmith NDP Constituency Association

Delta North Family Coalition Party Constituency Association

Delta North NDP Constituency Association

Delta South Family Coalition Party Constituency Association

Delta South NDP Constituency Association

Delta South Reform Party of BC Constituency Association

Delta South Social Credit Constituency Association

Esquimalt-Metchosin NDP Constituency Association

Fort Langley-Aldergrove NDP Constituency Association

Fort Langley-Aldergrove Social Credit Constituency Association

Kamloops NDP Constituency Association

Kamloops Reform Party of BC Constituency Association

Kamloops Social Credit Constituency Association

Registered Constituency Associations as at December 31, 1998 (continued)

Kamloops-North Thompson NDP Constituency Association
Kamloops-North Thompson Reform Party of BC Constituency Association
Kamloops-North Thompson Social Credit Constituency Association
Kootenay NDP Constituency Association
Kootenay Social Credit Constituency Association

Langley NDP Constituency Association
Langley Reform Party of BC Constituency Association
Langley Social Credit Constituency Association

Malahat-Juan de Fuca NDP Constituency Association
Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows NDP Constituency Association
Matsqui NDP Constituency Association
Mission-Kent NDP Constituency Association

Nanaimo Family Coalition Party Constituency Association
Nanaimo NDP Constituency Association
Nelson-Creston Green Party Constituency Association
Nelson-Creston NDP Constituency Association
New Westminster NDP Constituency Association
New Westminster Social Credit Constituency Association
North Coast NDP Constituency Association
North Coast Social Credit Constituency Association
North Island NDP Constituency Association
North Vancouver-Lonsdale NDP Constituency Association
North Vancouver-Lonsdale Social Credit Constituency Association
North Vancouver-Seymour NDP Constituency Association

Oak Bay-Gordon Head NDP Constituency Association
Okanagan-Boundary NDP Constituency Association
Okanagan-Boundary Social Credit Constituency Association
Okanagan East NDP Constituency Association
Okanagan East Social Credit Constituency Association
Okanagan-Penticton Green Party Constituency Association
Okanagan-Penticton NDP Constituency Association
Okanagan-Vernon NDP Constituency Association
Okanagan West NDP Constituency Association
Okanagan West Social Credit Constituency Association

Parksville-Qualicum NDP Constituency Association
Peace River North NDP Constituency Association
Peace River North Social Credit Constituency Association
Peace River South NDP Constituency Association
Peace River South Social Credit Constituency Association

Registered Constituency Associations as at December 31, 1998 (continued)

Port Coquitlam NDP Constituency Association
Port Moody-Burnaby Mountain NDP Constituency Association
Powell River-Sunshine Coast NDP Constituency Association
Powell River-Sunshine Coast Social Credit Constituency Association
Prince George-Mount Robson NDP Constituency Association
Prince George North Green Party of British Columbia Constituency Association
Prince George North NDP Constituency Association
Prince George-Omineca NDP Constituency Association

Richmond Centre NDP Constituency Association
Richmond Centre Social Credit Constituency Association
Richmond East NDP Constituency Association
Richmond East Social Credit Constituency Association
Richmond-Steveston NDP Constituency Association
Richmond-Steveston Social Credit Constituency Association
Rossland-Trail NDP Constituency Association
Rossland-Trail Social Credit Constituency Association

Saanich North and the Islands Green Party Constituency Association
Saanich North and the Islands NDP Constituency Association
Saanich South BC Liberal Constituency Association
Saanich South NDP Constituency Association
Shuswap NDP Constituency Association
Shuswap Reform Party of BC Constituency Association
Shuswap Social Credit Constituency Association
Skeena NDP Constituency Association
Skeena Social Credit Constituency Association
Surrey-Cloverdale Green Party Constituency Association
Surrey-Cloverdale NDP Constituency Association
Surrey-Green Timbers NDP Constituency Association
Surrey-Newton NDP Constituency Association
Surrey-Whalley Family Coalition Party Constituency Association
Surrey-Whalley NDP Constituency Association
Surrey-White Rock NDP Constituency Association

Vancouver-Burrard NDP Constituency Association
Vancouver-Burrard Social Credit Constituency Association
Vancouver-Fraserview Family Coalition Party Constituency Association
Vancouver-Fraserview Green Party Constituency Association
Vancouver-Fraserview NDP Constituency Association
Vancouver-Hastings NDP Constituency Association
Vancouver-Hastings Social Credit Constituency Association
Vancouver-Kensington NDP Constituency Association

Registered Constituency Associations as at December 31, 1998 (continued)

Vancouver-Kensington Social Credit Constituency Association
Vancouver-Kingsway NDP Constituency Association
Vancouver-Kingsway Social Credit Constituency Association
Vancouver-Langara Family Coalition Party Constituency Association
Vancouver-Langara NDP Constituency Association
Vancouver-Langara Social Credit Constituency Association
Vancouver-Little Mountain NDP Constituency Association
Vancouver-Little Mountain Social Credit Constituency Association
Vancouver-Mount Pleasant NDP Constituency Association
Vancouver-Mount Pleasant Social Credit Constituency Association
Vancouver-Point Grey NDP Constituency Association
Vancouver-Point Grey Social Credit Constituency Association
Vancouver-Quilchena Green Party Constituency Association
Vancouver-Quilchena NDP Constituency Association
Vancouver-Quilchena Social Credit Constituency Association
Victoria-Beacon Hill Green Party Constituency Association
Victoria-Beacon Hill NDP Constituency Association
Victoria-Hillside NDP Constituency Association

West Vancouver-Capilano NDP Constituency Association
West Vancouver-Capilano Social Credit Constituency Association
West Vancouver-Garibaldi NDP Constituency Association
West Vancouver-Garibaldi Reform Party of BC Constituency Association
West Vancouver-Garibaldi Social Credit Constituency Association

Yale-Lillooet NDP Constituency Association
Yale-Lillooet Social Credit Constituency Association

Deregistered During 1998 for Failure to File 1997 Annual Financial Report

Surrey-Whalley Reform Party of BC Constituency Association

Voluntarily Deregistered During 1998

Peace River South Reform Party of BC Constituency Association
Surrey-Newton Family Coalition Party Constituency Association
Vancouver-Burrard Family Coalition Party Constituency Association
Vancouver-Point Grey Family Coalition Party Constituency Association
Vancouver-Quilchena Family Coalition Party Constituency Association

Appendix D

Summary of Recall Financing Reports

Petition R97001-PRN

	Paul Ramsey MLA	Pertti Harkonen Proponent
	\$	\$
Income		
Recall Contributions		
Individuals	17,304	21,976
Corporations	8,200	8,175
Unincorporated Businesses	-	-
Trade Unions	8,978	-
Non-Profit Organizations	353	-
Other Contributors	-	306
Anonymous Contributors	-	-
Total Recall Contributions	34,835	30,457
Fundraising Income	-	-
Other Income	2	-
Total Income	34,837	30,457
Expenses		
Bank Charges and Interest	30	1,544
Brochures and Signs	1,715	2,081
Fundraising Functions	-	-
Furniture and Equipment	458	319
Insurance and Utilities	563	-
Media Advertising	21,058	18,479
Meetings Hosted	67	-
Office Rental	3,300	600
Office Supplies and Postage	1,793	2,205
Participants' Personal Expenses	-	1,660
Professional Services	3,810	4,890
Recall Application Fee	-	50
Research and Polling	-	-
Salaries and Benefits	-	2,688
Social Functions	-	-
Telecommunications	2,194	514
Travel	-	-
Other	-	-
Total Expenses	34,988	35,030
Recall Expenses Not Subject to Limit	-	8,178
Recall Expenses Subject to Limit	24,343	26,518
Other Expenses	10,645	334
Recall Expense Limit	27,442.22	27,442.22

Note: This summary includes all amendments filed on or before May 14, 1999.

**Summary of Recall Financing Reports
(continued)
Petition R97002-SKN**

	Helmut Giesbrecht MLA \$	Lorne Sexton Proponent \$
Income		
Recall Contributions		
Individuals	5,811	10,334
Corporations	-	10,759
Unincorporated Businesses	-	-
Trade Unions	9,810	-
Non-Profit Organizations	2,098	751-
Other Contributors	-	-
Anonymous Contributors	-	-
Total Recall Contributions	17,719	21,844
Fundraising Income	-	-
Other Income	-	-
Total Income	17,719	21,844
Expenses		
Bank Charges and Interest	-	219
Brochures and Signs	1,395	2,802
Fundraising Functions	-	-
Furniture and Equipment	150	460
Insurance and Utilities	-	-
Media Advertising	8,787	10,366
Meetings Hosted	-	-
Office Rental	690	3,130
Office Supplies and Postage	736	589
Participants' Personal Expenses	-	837
Professional Services	-	3,263
Recall Application Fee	-	50
Research and Polling	-	-
Salaries and Benefits	4,228	-
Social Functions	-	-
Telecommunications	913	1,375
Travel	717	837
Other	4,414	-
Total Expenses	22,030	23,928
Recall Expenses Not Subject to Limit	-	3,919
Recall Expenses Subject to Limit	14,523	19,243
Other Expenses	7,508	766
Recall Expense Limit	28,967.63	28,967.63

Note: This summary includes all amendments filed on or before May 14, 1999.

**Summary of Recall Financing Reports
(continued)
Petition R97003-SKN**

	Helmut Giesbrecht MLA \$	John Henry How Proponent \$
Income		
Recall Contributions		
Individuals	-	50
Corporations	-	-
Unincorporated Businesses	-	-
Trade Unions	-	-
Non-Profit Organizations	-	-
Other Contributors	-	-
Anonymous Contributors	-	-
Total Recall Contributions	-	-
Fundraising Income	-	-
Other Income	-	-
Total Income	-	50
Expenses		
Bank Charges and Interest	-	-
Brochures and Signs	-	-
Fundraising Functions	-	-
Furniture and Equipment	-	-
Insurance and Utilities	-	-
Media Advertising	-	-
Meetings Hosted	-	-
Office Rental	-	-
Office Supplies and Postage	-	-
Participants' Personal Expenses	-	-
Professional Services	-	-
Recall Application Fee	-	50
Research and Polling	-	-
Salaries and Benefits	-	-
Social Functions	-	-
Telecommunications	-	-
Travel	-	-
Other	-	-
Total Expenses	-	50
Recall Expenses Not Subject to Limit	-	50
Recall Expenses Subject to Limit	-	-
Other Expenses	-	-
Recall Expense Limit	28,967.63	28,967.63

Summary of Recall Financing Reports (continued) Petition R98001-VPG

	Gordon Campbell MLA	Robert Bradley Proponent
	\$	\$
Income		
Recall Contributions		
Individuals	-	-
Corporations	-	-
Unincorporated Businesses	-	-
Trade Unions	-	-
Non-Profit Organizations	-	-
Other Contributors	-	-
Anonymous Contributors	-	-
Total Recall Contributions	-	50
Fundraising Income	-	-
Other Income	-	-
Total Income	-	50
Expenses		
Bank Charges and Interest	-	-
Brochures and Signs	-	-
Fundraising Functions	-	-
Furniture and Equipment	-	-
Insurance and Utilities	-	-
Media Advertising	-	-
Meetings Hosted	-	-
Office Rental	-	-
Office Supplies and Postage	-	-
Participants' Personal Expenses	-	-
Professional Services	-	-
Recall Application Fee	-	50
Research and Polling	-	-
Salaries and Benefits	-	-
Social Functions	-	-
Telecommunications	-	-
Travel	-	-
Other	-	-
Total Expenses	-	50
Recall Expenses Not Subject to Limit	-	50
Recall Expenses Subject to Limit	-	-
Other Expenses	-	-
Recall Expense Limit	28,204.19	28,204.19

**Summary of Recall Financing Reports
(continued)
Petition R98002-PRN**

	Paul Ramsey MLA \$	James Loughery Proponent \$
Income		
Recall Contributions		
Individuals	-	50
Corporations	-	-
Unincorporated Businesses	-	-
Trade Unions	-	-
Non-Profit Organizations	-	-
Other Contributors	-	-
Anonymous Contributors	-	-
Total Recall Contributions	-	50
Fundraising Income	-	-
Other Income	-	-
Total Income	-	50
Expenses		
Bank Charges and Interest	-	-
Brochures and Signs	-	-
Fundraising Functions	-	-
Furniture and Equipment	-	-
Insurance and Utilities	-	-
Media Advertising	-	-
Meetings Hosted	-	-
Office Rental	-	-
Office Supplies and Postage	-	-
Participants' Personal Expenses	-	-
Professional Services	-	-
Recall Application Fee	-	50
Research and Polling	-	-
Salaries and Benefits	-	-
Social Functions	-	-
Telecommunications	-	-
Travel	-	-
Other	-	-
Total Expenses	-	50
Recall Expenses Not Subject to Limit	-	50
Recall Expenses Subject to Limit	-	-
Other Expenses	-	-
Recall Expense Limit	27,501.16	27,501.16

**Summary of Recall Financing Reports
(continued)
Petition R98003-FTL**

	Rich Coleman MLA \$	Walter Bueckert Proponent \$
Income		
Recall Contributions		
Individuals	1,703	269
Corporations	-	-
Unincorporated Businesses	-	-
Trade Unions	-	-
Non-Profit Organizations	-	-
Other Contributors	-	-
Anonymous Contributors	-	-
Total Recall Contributions	1,703	269
Fundraising Income	-	-
Other Income	-	-
Total Income	1,703	269
Expenses		
Bank Charges and Interest	-	-
Brochures and Signs	-	-
Fundraising Functions	-	-
Furniture and Equipment	-	-
Insurance and Utilities	-	-
Media Advertising	1,703	-
Meetings Hosted	-	-
Office Rental	-	-
Office Supplies and Postage	-	57
Participants' Personal Expenses	-	-
Professional Services	-	-
Recall Application Fee	-	50
Research and Polling	-	-
Salaries and Benefits	-	-
Social Functions	-	-
Telecommunications	-	162
Travel	-	-
Other	-	-
Total Expenses	1,703	269
Recall Expenses Not Subject to Limit	-	50
Recall Expenses Subject to Limit	1,703	219
Other Expenses	-	-
Recall Expense Limit	27,424.33	27,424.33

**Summary of Recall Financing Reports
(continued)
Petition R98004-CMX**

	Evelyn Gillespie MLA \$	Robert Saint Amour Proponent \$
Income		
Recall Contributions		
Individuals	3,895	1,204
Corporations	-	150
Unincorporated Businesses	-	-
Trade Unions	5,100	-
Non-Profit Organizations	-	-
Other Contributors	700	-
Anonymous Contributors	822	266
Total Recall Contributions	10,517	1,620
Fundraising Income	-	-
Other Income	-	1
Total Income	10,517	1,621
Expenses		
Bank Charges and Interest	37	5
Brochures and Signs	-	369
Fundraising Functions	-	-
Furniture and Equipment	663	-
Insurance and Utilities	-	-
Media Advertising	3,975	1,199
Meetings Hosted	-	-
Office Rental	800	-
Office Supplies and Postage	888	65
Participants' Personal Expenses	381	92
Professional Services	-	657
Recall Application Fee	-	50
Research and Polling	-	-
Salaries and Benefits	1,875	-
Social Functions	-	-
Telecommunications	-	-
Travel	-	-
Other	-	-
Total Expenses	8,619	2,437
Recall Expenses Not Subject to Limit	380	568
Recall Expenses Subject to Limit	8,239	1,868
Other Expenses	-	153
Recall Expense Limit	29,617.06	29,617.06

Note: This summary includes all amendments filed on or before May 14, 1999.

**Summary of Recall Financing Reports
(continued)
Petition R98005-PAR**

	Paul Reitsma MLA \$	Mark Robinson Proponent \$
Income		
Recall Contributions		
Individuals	-	1,283
Corporations	-	-
Unincorporated Businesses	-	-
Trade Unions	-	-
Non-Profit Organizations	-	-
Other Contributors	-	1
Anonymous Contributors	-	478
Total Recall Contributions	-	1,762
Fundraising Income	-	-
Other Income	-	-
Total Income	-	1,762
Expenses		
Bank Charges and Interest	-	50
Brochures and Signs	-	64
Fundraising Functions	-	75
Furniture and Equipment	-	-
Insurance and Utilities	-	-
Media Advertising	-	252
Meetings Hosted	-	191
Office Rental	-	225
Office Supplies and Postage	-	513
Participants' Personal Expenses	-	267
Professional Services	-	-
Recall Application Fee	-	50
Research and Polling	-	-
Salaries and Benefits	-	-
Social Functions	-	-
Telecommunications	-	75
Travel	-	-
Other	-	-
Total Expenses	-	1,762
Recall Expenses Not Subject to Limit	-	525
Recall Expenses Subject to Limit	-	1,237
Other Expenses	-	-
Recall Expense Limit	29,602.74	29,602.74

**Summary of Recall Financing Reports
(continued)
Petition R98006-CMX**

	Evelyn Gillespie MLA \$	Robert Saint Amour Proponent \$
Income		
Recall Contributions		
Individuals	-	50
Corporations	-	-
Unincorporated Businesses	-	-
Trade Unions	-	-
Non-Profit Organizations	-	-
Other Contributors	-	-
Anonymous Contributors	-	-
Total Recall Contributions	-	50
Fundraising Income	-	-
Other Income	-	-
Total Income	-	50
Expenses		
Bank Charges and Interest	-	-
Brochures and Signs	-	-
Fundraising Functions	-	-
Furniture and Equipment	-	-
Insurance and Utilities	-	-
Media Advertising	-	-
Meetings Hosted	-	-
Office Rental	-	-
Office Supplies and Postage	-	-
Participants' Personal Expenses	-	-
Professional Services	-	-
Recall Application Fee	-	50
Research and Polling	-	-
Salaries and Benefits	-	-
Social Functions	-	-
Telecommunications	-	-
Travel	-	-
Other	-	-
Total Expenses	-	50
Recall Expenses Not Subject to Limit	-	50
Recall Expenses Subject to Limit	-	-
Other Expenses	-	-
Recall Expense Limit	27,442.22	27,442.22

Note: This summary includes all amendments filed on or before May 14, 1999.

Summary of Recall Financing Reports (continued) Petition R98007-PRN

	Paul Ramsey MLA	Bob Viergever Proponent
	\$	\$
Income		
Recall Contributions		
Individuals	-	3,200
Corporations	-	10,500
Unincorporated Businesses	-	-
Trade Unions	210	-
Non-Profit Organizations	-	-
Other Contributors	-	165
Anonymous Contributors	-	208
Total Recall Contributions	210	14,073
Fundraising Income	-	-
Other Income	-	-
Total Income	210	14,073
Expenses		
Bank Charges and Interest	-	14
Brochures and Signs	-	1,081
Fundraising Functions	-	-
Furniture and Equipment	-	100
Insurance and Utilities	-	300
Media Advertising	-	6,316
Meetings Hosted	210	-
Office Rental	-	3,859
Office Supplies and Postage	-	1,631
Participants' Personal Expenses	-	100
Professional Services	-	118
Recall Application Fee	-	50
Research and Polling	-	-
Salaries and Benefits	-	-
Social Functions	-	-
Telecommunications	-	497
Travel	-	-
Other	-	-
Total Expenses	210	14,066
Recall Expenses Not Subject to Limit	-	150
Recall Expenses Subject to Limit	210	10,892
Other Expenses	-	3,024
Recall Expense Limit	27,530.09	27,530.09

Note: This summary includes all amendments filed on or before May 14, 1999.

Appendix E

Summary of Recall Advertising Sponsors who spent \$500 or more

Petition R97001-PRN

	Prince George North NDP Constituency Association	Khiem Lawlor
	\$	\$
Inflows		
Contributions		
Individuals	-	-
Corporations	-	4,025
Unincorporated Businesses	-	-
Trade Unions	-	-
Non-Profit Organizations	-	-
Other Contributors	400	-
Anonymous Contributors	-	-
Total Contributions	400	4,025
Amount of Sponsor's Assets used	4,211	485
Total Inflows	4,611	4,510
Outflows		
Advertising Expenses		
Brochures and Signs	-	-
Newspaper and Magazines	4,611	2,434
Radio and Television	-	2,076
Other	-	-
Total Advertising Expenses	4,611	4,510
Advertising Expenses Subject to Limit	4,611	4,510
Advertising Expenses Not Subject to Limit	-	-

Note: Recall advertising sponsors who spend less than \$500 are not required to file detailed disclosure reports. See Appendix F.

**Summary of Recall Advertising Sponsors
who spent \$500 or more (continued)
Petition R97001-PRN**

	David Toldy \$	George Seggie \$
Inflows		
Contributions		
Individuals	100	-
Corporations	-	-
Unincorporated Businesses	-	-
Trade Unions	-	1,000
Non-Profit Organizations	-	-
Other Contributors	-	-
Anonymous Contributors	419	-
Total Contributions	<u>519</u>	<u>1,000</u>
Amount of Sponsor's Assets used	-	-
Total Inflows	<u>519</u>	<u>1,000</u>
Outflows		
Advertising Expenses		
Brochures and Signs	-	-
Newspaper and Magazines	-	-
Radio and Television	519	930
Other	-	-
Total Advertising Expenses	<u>519</u>	<u>930</u>
Advertising Expenses Subject to Limit	519	930
Advertising Expenses Not Subject to Limit	-	-

**Summary of Recall Advertising Sponsors
who spent \$500 or more (continued)
Petition R97001-PRN**

	Francois M. Bosman	Prince George and District Labour Council
	\$	\$
Inflows		
Contributions		
Individuals	2,025	-
Corporations	-	-
Unincorporated Businesses	-	-
Trade Unions	-	100
Non-Profit Organizations	-	100
Other Contributors	-	-
Anonymous Contributors	-	-
Total Contributions	<u>2,025</u>	<u>200</u>
Amount of Sponsor's Assets used	-	3,529
Total Inflows	<u>2,025</u>	<u>3,729</u>
Outflows		
Advertising Expenses		
Brochures and Signs	-	-
Newspaper and Magazines	2,025	-
Radio and Television	-	-
Other	-	3,709
Total Advertising Expenses	<u>2,025</u>	<u>3,709</u>
Advertising Expenses Subject to Limit	2,025	3,709
Advertising Expenses Not Subject to Limit	-	-

**Summary of Recall Advertising Sponsors
who spent \$500 or more (continued)
Petition R97001-PRN**

	James Hankins	Prince George and District Regional Council of BC Forum
	\$	\$
Inflows		
Contributions		
Individuals	-	-
Corporations	4,956	-
Unincorporated Businesses	-	-
Trade Unions	-	-
Non-Profit Organizations	-	-
Other Contributors	-	-
Anonymous Contributors	-	-
Total Contributions	<u>4,956</u>	-
Amount of Sponsor's Assets used	-	1,953
Total Inflows	<u>4,956</u>	<u>1,953</u>
Outflows		
Advertising Expenses		
Brochures and Signs	-	-
Newspaper and Magazines	2,517	1,953
Radio and Television	2,439	-
Other	-	-
Total Advertising Expenses	<u>4,956</u>	<u>1,953</u>
Advertising Expenses Subject to Limit	4,956	1,953
Advertising Expenses Not Subject to Limit	-	-

**Summary of Recall Advertising Sponsors
who spent \$500 or more (continued)
Petition R97001-PRN**

	Society for Direct Democracy	Bob Viergever
	\$	\$
Inflows		
Contributions		
Individuals	-	-
Corporations	3,000	-
Unincorporated Businesses	-	-
Trade Unions	-	-
Non-Profit Organizations	-	-
Other Contributors	-	-
Anonymous Contributors	550	-
Total Contributions	<u>3,550</u>	-
Amount of Sponsor's Assets used	-	957
Total Inflows	<u>3,550</u>	<u>957</u>
Outflows		
Advertising Expenses		
Brochures and Signs	257	-
Newspaper and Magazines	2,145	957
Radio and Television	749	-
Other	399	-
Total Advertising Expenses	<u>3,550</u>	<u>957</u>
Advertising Expenses Subject to Limit	3,550	957
Advertising Expenses Not Subject to Limit	-	-

**Summary of Recall Advertising Sponsors
who spent \$500 or more (continued)
Petition R97002-SKN**

**Skeena NDP
Constituency
Association**
\$

Inflows

Contributions

Individuals	-
Corporations	-
Unincorporated Businesses	-
Trade Unions	275
Non-Profit Organizations	-
Other Contributors	757
Anonymous Contributors	-
Total Contributions	<u>1,032</u>
Amount of Sponsor's Assets used	886
Total Inflows	<u><u>1,918</u></u>

Outflows

Advertising Expenses

Brochures and Signs	275
Newspaper and Magazines	1,109
Radio and Television	-
Other	534
Total Advertising Expenses	<u><u>1,918</u></u>

Advertising Expenses Subject to Limit	1,918
Advertising Expenses Not Subject to Limit	-

**Summary of Recall Advertising Sponsors
who spent \$500 or more (continued)
Petition R98004-CMX**

**Comox Valley NDP
Constituency
Association**
\$

Inflows

Contributions

Individuals	-
Corporations	-
Unincorporated Businesses	-
Trade Unions	-
Non-Profit Organizations	-
Other Contributors	-
Anonymous Contributors	-

Total Contributions

Amount of Sponsor's Assets used	605
---------------------------------	-----

Total Inflows

605

Outflows

Advertising Expenses

Brochures and Signs	90
Newspaper and Magazines	515
Radio and Television	-
Other	-

Total Advertising Expenses

605

Advertising Expenses Subject to Limit	605
Advertising Expenses Not Subject to Limit	-

Appendix F

Summary of Recall Advertising Sponsors who spent less than \$500

R97001-PRN

Industry Wood and Allied Workers of Canada

Family Coalition Party of B.C.

R97002-SKN

Family Coalition Party of B.C.

Appendix G

Minutes of the Meeting of the Election Advisory Committee - November 30, 1998

This meeting was called by the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) at the request of Election Advisory Committee representatives from the Green Party of British Columbia, the British Columbia Liberal Party and Reform Party of British Columbia. The Green Party wished to raise the issue of its exclusion from a televised debate produced by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) scheduled for the evening of November 30, 1998.

The conference call went online at 3:09 p.m. Chair Robert Patterson thanked the representatives for their availability on short notice, stated the purpose of the meeting, and had all participants identify themselves. He noted that the role of the Committee is to provide advice to the CEO on the functioning of the *Election Act* (the Act). He reminded attendees that the members of the Election Advisory Committee had agreed at their meeting of August 22, 1995 that no motions would be put forward, nor votes taken by the committee in its deliberations.

Mr. Patterson gave 'the floor' to Green Party representative, Mr. West, who thanked the Committee for assembling, and his committee colleagues from the Liberal Party and Mr. Bruce Hallsor, for the Reform Party, for supporting the request for a meeting. He stated that the meeting was unprecedented, as it was the first occasion in which the provisions of section 15 (2) of the *Election Act* had been invoked. It allows a meeting if one is requested in writing by at least 1/3 of the members of the committee.

Mr. West pointed out that the Chair had advised the Green Party that the matter at hand was outside the jurisdiction of the Chief Electoral Officer and the Election Advisory Committee. He acknowledged that the CEO could not issue a legal directive to the CBC to change the format or participation of the debate. He raised the question of whether the television debate constitutes a leaders' debate in the context of an election, one in a series of debates, or perhaps a mirror of the current debate in the Legislature. Mr. West noted that he felt the quality of the

Green Party's dialogue with the CBC had been extremely low, as the CBC had not responded to the Green Party's correspondence.

The Green Party had requested observer status for a representative of the CBC and a panelist to answer questions at this meeting. It was not granted by the CEO, and the CBC expressed no interest in attending.

Mr. West added that panelist Vaughn Palmer had expressed interest in attending as an observer, however, his invitation to Mr. Palmer had to be rescinded.

Mr. West stated that if the televised debate was an attempt to share with the broader public the arguments to be brought to the Legislature, then only parties with official status in the Legislature should be included and only Mr. Clark and Mr. Campbell invited. Alternatively, perhaps all parties represented in the House should be included, and Messrs. Clark, Campbell and Wilson would be invited. At the limit, perhaps independents should also be included, in which case then Mr. Weisgerber would also be invited. In none of these scenarios would Mr. Vander Zalm qualify for an invitation.

Mr. West described a debate of this nature as it is not limited to parties having a vote in the present legislative session, as a preview for those voters who are undecided about how to vote in an election. He added that it is unprecedented in British Columbia to have a televised debate outside a General Election. It seems at best an unfortunate coincidence that the very first such event should fall in the middle of a Provincial by-election. Therefore, there are repercussions for the voters of Parksville-Qualicum. It is a de facto leaders' debate.

A by-election is a critical event in the life of a Legislature, as it monitors the performance of the government and the opposition and sets the tenor for the remainder of the mandate. Mr. West said that the Green Party did very well in last year's by-election in Surrey-White Rock. He added that it attained its second-highest results ever for a Green Party candidate in British Columbia. As a result, the party's credibility with the media and public improved. This is of particular benefit, as the Green Party relies heavily on news coverage to carry its message.

Mr. West further noted that the CBC said that as there are 23 registered political parties in British Columbia, it has drawn the line below parties which performed well in the last general election and, in the CBC's words, are currently represented in the Legislature. As Reform is not represented in the Legislature, he believes the line was 'bent' to include Reform but not the Green Party. If performance at a previous election is the benchmark, this creates a systematic bias against emerging parties. A continuous bias in favour of the parties from the past is an impediment to the political process and will result in ossification of the Legislature.

Mr. MacKay-Dunn enquired if Mr. West was asking for the committee to consider a symbolic resolution or motion. Mr. West expressed concern about this being a challenge to the Chair. Mr. MacKay-Dunn expressed support for the Green Party's stance, and suggested that a non-binding resolution of support was a measure to consider in these circumstances.

Mr. Gardiner pointed out that this is not what was originally envisioned for the Committee. Furthermore, this body is not mandated to be determining these matters, as this is not within the purview of the CEO. The matter is entirely outside the jurisdiction of the Committee and the CEO. Rather, any valid arguments should be attempted in front of the CBC.

Mr. MacKay-Dunn again asked if the Green Party wanted the committee to consider a motion. Mr. West acknowledged that this would be a resolution with no force. Mr. Gardiner said he believed it would be entirely out of order.

Mr. George said he disagreed, as the role of the committee is to advise the CEO, as set out in section 16 of the Act. He further noted that included in the duties and powers of the CEO, set out in section 12 of the Act, is the responsibility to provide information to the public regarding the voter registration and other electoral processes under the Act. There is also a duty to be seen to be fair to everyone in British Columbia.

Mr. Gardiner again questioned the validity of a motion. Mr. West responded that he feels the Green Party has been ignored by the CBC. When an individual is slighted in some way, he or she can appeal to a regulatory body. There apparently is no regulatory body overseeing this

action by the CBC. Mr. West stated that the CRTC shuffled the matter back to Elections BC. It may, therefore, fall outside all existing legislation. Mr. West suggested that new legislation might need to be drafted, and noted that one purpose of the Election Advisory Committee is to suggest possible changes in legislation.

Mr. West said that Mr. Campbell and Mr. Wilson had both stated they would welcome the opportunity to debate with Mr. Parker. If Mr. Campbell and Mr. Wilson want to debate with Mr. Parker, then shouldn't the CBC be facilitating that? The goal should be to treat each other in a collegial manner and debate each other publicly.

Mr. West put forth the following motion:

"WHEREAS the *Election Act* makes a distinction between major and minor parties based on the number of candidates presented by each party in the previous general election;

AND WHEREAS the *Election Act* created an Advisory Committee of the major parties to discuss issues surrounding the interpretation of the *Election Act* and the drafting and administration of Regulations thereunder;

AND WHEREAS it is the opinion of this committee that public debates between participants in an election which are aired for no charge by a radio or television corporation ("Debates") are a form of advertising and/or communication during an election for the participants in those Debates;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Electoral Advisory Committee should be consulted in the organization of all DEBATES between candidates or party leaders held during elections.

Mr. Patterson called for comments from the representatives.

Mr. Gardiner stated that he felt the motion was out of order, as it is not within the jurisdiction of the committee or the office of CEO, and the Act does not speak to these forums. Drawing in the CEO is impractical. Also, it is inappropriate to be directing Chambers of Commerce and Labour Councils which might be sponsors of debates. It is up to the party leaders

to decide if they want to participate in debates. As well, the parties themselves might have preferences as to who might participate, or if the party is to participate at all. The CBC has a number of vehicles for appeal, one of which is the CBC Ombudsman. The CBC's response is moot to this Committee. It is not the CEO's job to mediate or negotiate, and no kind of advice should be recorded in the minutes.

Mr. Kurvers stated he felt the issue was beyond the scope of the Committee.

Mr. Beck said that he agreed entirely with the concerns of the Green Party, as he believed that smaller parties should be involved in televised debates, however, he did not see how it falls under political communications and advertising as defined in the Act, unless the committee wants to recommend changing the Act to deal with televised debates.

Mr. George pointed out that a by-election is underway at the moment. The duties and responsibilities of the committee, as set out in section 16 of the Act, are to advise. Whether or not the CEO listens is up to him. He asked if the CEO has taken legal counsel regarding section 12 (1) (c) in the context of giving direction to the CBC. The original intent of the legislation was to create a level playing field.

Mr. Patterson replied that his office does not have jurisdiction over a federally regulated agency. He also made reference to sections 180 and 183 of the *Election Act* which exclude public affairs programs from being considered political contributions or election expenses, and put such programs outside the scope of election advertising.

Mr. West responded to Mr. Gardiner's suggestion to direct his complaint to the CBC Ombudsman by saying that he was unlikely to get a response in time to affect a broadcast this very evening. The CRTC has advised Mr. West that the CRTC does not involve itself in the composition of panels for debates.

At 4:00 p.m. Mr. Beck excused himself from the meeting.

Mr. West noted that perhaps the motion was too broad. He did not wish to imply that the Committee should take on the role of mediator with all debates. He would restrict it to discussion of debates among party leaders or individuals at the cabinet level.

Mr. MacKay-Dunn advised Mr. West to seek an expression of support among committee representatives. Mr. MacKay-Dunn spoke to the Liberals' support of the Green Party. Mr. Gardiner again expressed his view that the motion was out of order. Mr. Kurvers said he felt it inappropriate for the committee to be making these statements.

Mr. Patterson pointed out that when he, at previous meetings, had made recommendations for amendments to the *Election Act*, he would "go around the table" and see what kind of support there was for it. The same courtesy would be extended to Mr. West.

Mr. George: Supports position of Green Party.

Mr. MacKay-Dunn: Supports position of Green Party.

Mr. Kurvers: Would like to see the Green Party included, but this committee is an inappropriate venue for the issue.

Mr. Gardiner: Does not support the motion, as it is inappropriate. Does not believe it is appropriate to discuss changes to the Act in this regard.

Mr. West stated that the Reform Party of BC, by proxy, supports the resolution.

Mr. West added that the resolution does not propose to change the statute but rather is formal documentation of the discussion. He noted that if the Green Party has to wait until it has a representative in the Legislature to be included in debates, it will potentially be closed out of the Legislature forever.

He stated that Mr. Hallsor would support broadening the requirement for inclusion in debates of those parties which show electoral strength but are not necessarily represented in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Gardiner said he felt the committee has been canvassed thoroughly.

Mr. West stated that he did not feel that his points had been adequately addressed.

Mr. Patterson asked if there were any further comments. None were forthcoming.

Mr. Patterson again thanked the representatives for their participation, and said that the next regular Election Advisory Committee meeting will likely be called in the spring of the coming year.

The conference call concluded at approximately 4:10 p.m.

Appendix H Elections BC Expenditures/Budgeted Appropriation

1997/98 Expenditures¹

	\$
Salaries and Benefits	2,448,000
Operating Costs	2,486,000
Asset Acquisition	186,000
Other	6,000
Recoveries	(40,000)
Total 1997/98 Expenditures	<u>5,086,000</u>

1998/99 Budgeted Appropriation²

Salaries and Benefits	2,381,000
Operating Costs	1,426,000
Asset Acquisition	83,000
Other Expenditures	3,101,000
Total 1998/99 Budgeted Appropriation	<u>6,991,000</u>

1 From 1997/98 Public Accounts

2 From 1998/99 Estimates

Appendix I Orders of the Chief Electoral Officer

Section 280 of the *Election Act* establishes the authority of the Chief Electoral Officer to make specific or general orders. During 1998, five orders were made by the Chief Electoral Officer.

Order Number	Date	Order
ORD0001/98	April 3, 1998	Extensions granted to one political party and four registered constituency associations for filing their annual financial reports for the 1997 calendar year as required by section 207 (2) of the <i>Election Act</i> .
ORD0002/98	April 9, 1998	Further extensions granted to one registered political party for filing its annual financial reports for the 1997 calendar year as as required by section 207 (2) of the <i>Election Act</i> .
ORD0003/98	Aug. 28, 1998	Two registered political parties and five registered constituency associations were granted extensions to deadlines for providing reports supplementary to their annual financial reports for the 1997 calendar year as may be required by section 212 of the <i>Election Act</i> .
ORD0004/98	Oct. 2, 1998	One registered political party and three registered constituency associations were granted extensions to deadlines for providing reports supplementary to their annual financial reports for the 1997 calendar year as may be required by section 212 of the <i>Election Act</i> .
ORD0005/98	Dec. 15, 1998	Final Count for the Parksville-Qualicum by-election to commence not before the third day after General Voting Day.