

Election Advisory Committee
1:00 p.m., January 29, 1996
203 - 815 Hornby Street
Vancouver, British Columbia

Attending:

Committee Members (alpha by Party):

British Columbia New Democratic Party: Brian Gardiner, Bruce Ralston

British Columbia Social Credit Party: Larry Gillanders, Lorraine Hinton

Green Party of B.C.: Steve Kisby

Liberal Party of British Columbia: R. Hector MacKay-Dunn, David George

Progressive Democratic Alliance: Jerry Walter

Elections BC

Robert Patterson, A/Chief Electoral Officer

Linda Johnson, Deputy Chief Electoral Officer

Steve Gold, A/Manager, Election Finance

Linda Stagg, Administrative Assistant (Recording Secretary)

Administration:

Chair Robert Patterson called the meeting to order. He welcomed the Committee members and following a short discussion it was agreed that no taping of proceedings would be permitted as this could inhibit discussions.

Mr. Patterson noted that no formal agenda had been prepared as the subject matter of the meeting, review of election financing forms, had been stated in the notice of meeting.

Draft Minutes:

Draft minutes of the Committee's November 29, 1995 meeting were distributed, with a request to bring any errors and omissions to the attention of Elections BC staff by February 15, 1996.

Financial Forms:

Mr. Gold presented packages of forms for political party and constituency association annual financial reporting and for leadership contestant financing reporting. He noted that the forms contained in all three packages were similar, in particular the annual financial reports for political parties and constituency associations.

He clarified section 180(6), saying only that transfers of money must be reported, and not transfers of property or provision of services.

Mr. Gold noted that a 'Guide for Financial Agents' is being prepared and should be available in a short time.

He reviewed the contents of each form and instruction page, received the Committee's comments and noted suggested amendments.

The Chief Electoral Office will accept computer printouts of data that meet the reporting requirements of the forms, provided that the format of the printouts have been pre-approved by the Chief Electoral Office and the official form is attached as a 'header'. If a solemn declaration is required, it must be attached as well.

Preferred-rate Loans - The amount of a political contribution is the difference between the interest amount payable based on the actual rate charged and the higher amount that would be payable based on the prime rate of the provincial banker (CIBC) to the Province (section 181(2)). Mr. Gold will research what information is available on the prime rate.

Guide for Leadership Contestants:

Ms. Johnson presented the Guide and noted that it contained sections on how to complete the forms leadership contestants are required to file under section 211 of the *Election Act*, a series of questions and answers, and an overview of the relevant legislation. This Guide is expected to be ready for distribution the first week in February.

Proposed Regulation:

Mr. Patterson presented a proposed Election Financing Regulation, 'Election expenses not to be included for election expenses limit', pursuant to section 203(1)(i). The intent of the Regulation is to clarify that transfers under section 180(6) are not to be included when calculating expenses subject to expense limits. The Committee approved the Regulation.

Standing Nominations:

Ms. Johnson informed the Committee that Standing Nomination forms are available and being distributed to those who had requested them. She pointed out that the *Financial Disclosure Act* form and the 'Guide for Candidates' will follow as soon as possible.

Candidates' Kits:

Ms. Johnson also noted that Candidates' Kits, which will include the *Election Act*, 'Guide for Scrutineers', a reproducible form for appointing scrutineers, as well as a street index and maps specific to the candidate's respective electoral district, would be available to individuals filing Standing Nominations. Individuals filing Regular Nominations will receive their kits when they file their nomination documents with their District Electoral Officers.

Next Meeting:

The meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 22, 1996 at 203 - 815 Hornby Street, Vancouver was cancelled. At this time, a subsequent meeting date has not been set.
