

**Election Advisory Committee**  
**1:00 p.m., November 29, 1995**  
**203 - 815 Hornby Street**  
**Vancouver, British Columbia**

**Attending:**

Committee Members (alpha by party)

British Columbia New Democratic Party: Sherry Hyde (for Brian Gardiner), Bruce Ralston

British Columbia Social Credit Party: Larry Gillanders, Ben Hume, Lorraine Hilton

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

Reform Party of B.C.: Bruce Hallsor

Elections BC:

Robert A. Patterson, A/Chief Electoral Officer

Linda M. Johnson, Deputy Chief Electoral Officer

Ken Maskell, Manager, Registration Operations

Deidre Wilson, Senior Policy Analyst

Steve Gold, A/Manager, Election Finance

Shannon Holms, Communications Manager

Linda Stagg, Administrative Assistant (Recording Secretary)

**Administration:**

Chair Robert Patterson called the meeting to order. He welcomed the Committee members who were present, and asked the attendees to introduce themselves.

Mr. Patterson pointed out that only one clarifying amendment had been made to the draft Minutes of the August 22, 1995 Meeting which had been circulated among the representatives.

Mr. Patterson further informed the representatives present that he had been asked to raise a question regarding standards for Elections British Columbia's Voter Identification Cards. A discussion followed on the value and utility of Voter ID cards as perceived by British Columbia's registered voters. Ken Maskell informed the committee that the voter ID card has been Elections BC policy since 1989. He added that a high percentage of registered voters bring these cards to their voting places. Their intended use, however, is to generate address change data for Elections BC, which these cards do with a high degree of success. The consensus of the committee was that Elections BC should maintain the Voter ID card program in its current form.

**Election Financing Regulations:**

Elections BC staff noted that their forms design efforts have been 'event-driven', having started with those for candidates, shifted to those for annual reporting, and currently are focused on those for party leadership contests. The end of 1995 is Elections BC's target to have most in 'final form'.

Mr. Gold distributed and led a discussion on 'Notes to Election Financing Forms' and a handout containing 14 draft forms. He suggested that the representatives take the draft forms to their auditors and financial agents for their comments. Also, in the future, Elections BC will develop packages of related forms and send them also to the parties for their comments.

The following points were addressed during discussions: Prime rate is specifically the prime rate of the principal banker of the Province at the time a loan was obtained. Personal expenses of party leadership contestants are required to be disclosed, however, at this time the format for disclosure has not been determined. Prohibited contributions must be returned to the contributor or remitted to the Chief Electoral Officer. Registration is imperative for the transference of funds between constituency associations and political parties.

Ms. Wilson pointed out that during a Writ period, transfers between registered organizations should not be election expenses. This will be addressed by Regulation.

**Voter Registration by Parties and F200 Distribution:**

Mr. Maskell distributed and spoke to the guide, "Instructions for Registration of Voters by Political Parties and Constituency Association", noting that it was designed for use by individuals actually involved in voter registration. He underscored that the *Election Act* allows voter registration application cards to be issued only to registered political parties and registered constituency associations. Parties with unregistered constituency associations can 'delegate' cards to them, however, the responsibility for the cards remains with the party.

Day 3 of the election cycle is the deadline for the return of completed registration forms to Elections BC.

Mr. Maskell discussed the issue of confidentiality of personal voter information. A confidentiality clause in the brochure states that this data is collected and utilized for electoral purposes only.

Mr. Maskell was asked about integration of municipal and provincial voters lists. He said that a number of municipalities use the provincial list as a preliminary list. Others also use Elections BC's registration forms and share their data with Elections BC. Municipal voters, however, cannot assume automatic provincial registration because procedures differ between municipalities.

**Nomination Procedures:**

Ms. Johnson told the committee Elections BC is currently preparing packages for both 'standing' nominations and 'classic or ordinary' nominations. In addition to the nomination forms, each package will include a Guide to the *Election Act* and a Guide for Candidates. A Candidate's Kit is being also being prepared for nominees/candidates who file nomination papers. These kits will be customized with a street index and map for the candidate's respective electoral district.

Ms. Johnson pointed out that for purposes of election finance and communications, a candidate is someone who plans to file nomination papers. But, for purposes of nomination and voting, a candidate is one who has filed nomination papers and has received a Certificate of Candidacy.

Ms. Johnson stressed that 'standing' and 'classic' nominations are two separate and distinct procedures and that there is no opportunity for cross-over between them.

**General Discussions:**

A number of issues with regard to the election financing provisions in the *Election Act* were brought forward by committee members. It was requested that the Chief Electoral Office broadly share responses to questions from political parties in this regard if the responses would be seen as policy decisions or advisory opinions.

Elections BC was asked if it would provide a Voters List which included telephone numbers. Elections BC staff replied that to do so would be contrary to the spirit of the privacy provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Telephone number information is collected only for the purpose of confirming, at the time voter information is entered into the provincial Voters List system (PVLS), personal voter information. However, telephone numbers are not entered into PVLS. To enter, store and maintain current telephone numbers in PVLS is not practical as voters do not have individual telephone numbers. Additionally, there would be considerable costs associated with the capture, storage and maintenance of the data for which Elections BC does not have an ongoing requirement.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting is anticipated to be called for late January 1996, once more in a location on the Lower Mainland. The agenda will include a briefing on the voter registration drive slated for early

February 1996, which will include a direct mail piece delivered to all households in British Columbia on the new electoral legislation. Also included will be a review of year-end reporting forms.

**Attachment:**

Instructions for Registration of Voters by Political Parties and Constituency Associations

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