



# Provincial Electoral Finance Newsletter

## Introduction

Welcome to the fall edition of the electoral finance newsletter. In this newsletter we will discuss the recent changes to the electoral boundaries in British Columbia. The *Electoral Districts Act*, Bill 42, was introduced to the legislature this fall, and received Royal Assent on November 17, 2015.

This newsletter will provide you with information to assist with the transition from the current 85 electoral districts to the new 87 electoral districts, and includes tips to ensure compliance with registration, deregistration and financial reporting requirements.

## Impact of the Electoral Boundaries Commission

Royal Assent of the *Electoral Districts Act* sets the groundwork for BC's new 87 electoral districts. Although the new electoral districts have been established, they do not come into force until the writs are issued for the next provincial general election. This is expected to occur



*Electoral Boundaries Commission members traveled BC to collect input on their recommendations.*

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on April 11, 2017. Any by-elections held before the next general election will be based on the existing 85 electoral districts.

All constituency associations registered under the 85 electoral districts will be automatically deregistered on the day the writs are issued for the next general election. However, constituency associations are encouraged to voluntarily deregister before then.

An information package will be mailed to all registered constituency associations and their political parties in early 2016. This package will contain detailed checklists describing the process for registration and deregistration, and the Constituency Association Application for Deregistration (form 469).

To request information before the packages are sent, please contact Provincial Electoral Finance at Elections BC.

## Deregistration process

During a change in electoral districts, the *Election Act* allows political parties to have constituency associations registered under both the current electoral districts and the future electoral districts.

Elections BC recommends that all constituency associations registered under the current 85 electoral districts do the following:

- Discuss with your political party to determine if a new constituency association will be registered. If so, complete the constituency association application for registration package and forward to your political party to authorize the registration and forward the forms to Elections BC.
- In consultation with your political party, transfer all funds not required to pay outstanding debts to either the political party or the new registered constituency association. The distribution of money, other assets and liabilities from the old constituency association must be determined by the constituency association and the political party. Elections BC cannot provide advice or assistance on how to allocate assets or liabilities.

- Once the new constituency association is registered, request deregistration of the old constituency association by completing a Constituency Association Application for Deregistration (form 469). Send the form to your political party to authorize and forward the form to Elections BC. This form must be signed by two principal officers of the constituency association and a principal officer of the political party. Once Elections BC receives the form and approves the deregistration, the constituency association will be notified of their official deregistration date.

Every deregistered constituency association must file a deregistration financial report for the period from the date of their last annual financial report to the date of deregistration (as notified by Elections BC). The report does not need to be audited if the constituency association was deregistered because of new electoral district boundaries.

## New constituency association registration

Remember that a constituency association must be registered in order to issue tax receipts, incur election expenses on behalf of a candidate, or transfer money, goods or services to political parties, other constituency associations or candidates.

The old constituency association will be deregistered even if the electoral district name and boundaries are remaining the same. If you want a registered constituency association in an electoral district, you still must complete an application for a new registration.

After the writs for the election are issued, constituency associations cannot be registered in time to participate in the election. It is important to file your registration forms well in advance if you want to be registered and participate in the 2017 General Election!

Applications to register new constituency associations will be sent to all existing constituency associations in early 2016 as part of the information package. If you are unsure about when to register, or if you have any questions, please contact us.



## Updating registration information

It's important that Elections BC has current information for your organization. Please let us know if there are any changes to your registration information, including communication address, principal officers, banking information, appointed financial agent or appointed auditor.

The *Election Act* requires that all political parties and constituency associations provide Elections BC with written notification of any changes in registration information within 60 days after the change occurs.



## Contact Provincial Electoral Finance

If you need assistance, or have specific questions, please contact our office.

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