



ELECTOR ORGANIZATION NEWSLETTER

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Introduction

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Elector Organization Newsletter published by Elections BC. In this newsletter and in future editions we will discuss the campaign financing and election advertising rules in the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* (LECFA) that elector organizations must follow. This issue covers campaign accounts and campaign contribution rules. There is also information about the new expense limit rules that will be in place for the 2018 General Local Elections.

Campaign Accounts

The financial agent for an elector organization must open a separate campaign account for each election campaign they run. An elector organization endorsing candidates in more than one jurisdiction (such as a municipality and a school district) are



running multiple election campaigns and must open a separate campaign account for each jurisdiction. The finances for each campaign must be kept separate and detailed records for all money going in and out of the accounts must be kept.



Elector organizations are not allowed to use funds from their operating accounts for election purposes except to pay for fundraising activities and functions. If your elector organization has received campaign contributions or anonymous contributions to use in a future election and not deposited the proceeds into a separate campaign account, contact Elections BC as soon as possible.

Campaign Contributions

Elector organizations must record details for all campaign contributions, including contributions of money, in-kind contributions, contributions received at fundraising functions, items donated for auction at a fundraising function, etc. If you are unsure of what information must be recorded, please contact Elections BC for help.

As mentioned previously, to use contributions in an election campaign the funds must be deposited into the campaign account for which the contribution was received. Campaign contributions deposited into an operating account cannot be used for election campaigns.



Legislative Changes

The *Local Elections Campaign Financing (Election Expenses) Amendment Act* (Bill 17) received Royal Assent on May 19, 2016. The changes in the Bill, which limits campaign period expenses, will not apply until the 2018 General Local Elections. The details of changes in Bill 17 will be discussed in future newsletters.

Elections BC will update our website, guides and the disclosure statement forms to reflect the new rules and feedback received from participants in the 2014 General Local Elections. Any suggestions for further improvement to our materials is welcomed.

If you need assistance, or have specific questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

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A non-partisan Office of the Legislature

Elections BC is the independent, non-partisan Office of the Legislature responsible for administering electoral processes in British Columbia under the *Election Act*, *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, *Recall and Initiative Act* and *Referendum Act*.