

Crowdsource Funding

Donations received via crowdsource funding are “contributions” as defined in Section 166 (d) of the *Elections Act* as these funds are “money... donated to a registered party, electoral district association, candidate or registered third party ...”

Crowdsource funding (of a project or venture) is defined in the Oxford dictionary as raising money from a large number of people who each contribute a relatively small amount, typically via the Internet. As per Section 234 of the *Act*, no person may make a contribution to a registered party, electoral district association, candidate or registered third party except in accordance with the *Act* and none of these may accept a contribution except in accordance with the *Act*.

Further, as per Section 235, the official agent or financial agent shall record the full name and residential address of each contributor, the amount of the contribution and the date on which the contribution was received. Further, this information must be recorded on a single ledger. The official agent is responsible for reporting all contributions as outlined in Section 240 of the *Act*.

The names of individuals including their community names who contribute \$200 or more in a calendar year are published as outlined in Section 251(1) of the *Elections Act*.

Section 236 of the *Elections Act* states that only an “individual resident in the Province” may make a contribution to a registered political party, electoral district association, candidate or registered third party and organizations, (defined to include a corporation, partnership or trade union) are excluded from making a contribution to a registered party.

Should a contribution be received that does not meet the above criteria that contribution must be returned to the donor immediately. If for some reason this isn’t possible, an amount equal to the contribution must be paid to the Chief Electoral Officer who shall forward that amount to the Minister of Finance for deposit to the General Revenue Fund. (*Elections Act* s. 237(10)(b))

Tax receipts may be issued if of the above conditions are met and the donation is directed to a registered party outside a writ period or to a nominated candidate or a registered party during an election. The *Elections Act* details the rules for issuing tax receipts in Sections 252-258.

If you have any questions regarding the contents of this circular, please contact:

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The views expressed in this information sheet are not law and are not intended to replace the official text of the Act. How the Act applies to any particular case will depend on the individual circumstances of that case. Elections Nova Scotia reserves the right to reconsider any interpretations expressed in information sheets, either generally or in light of the actual circumstances of any case, and in accordance with continuing legislative and judicial developments.