

Political Contributions Regime Annual Report



January 1 to December 31, 2014

Published June 2015 by Chief Electoral Officer
pursuant to the *Elections Act*



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This report is prepared pursuant to the *Elections Act*. This report is available on the Elections Nova Scotia website or by contacting Elections Nova Scotia.

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Refer to the Office of the Legislative Counsel website at
<http://nslegislature.ca/legc/index.htm> for electronic versions of the *Elections Act*

1. Message from the Chief Electoral Officer

June, 2015

This report of annual disclosure of political contributions for the calendar year 2014 is published in accordance with Section 240 of the *Elections Act*.

This report will not be available broadly in print copy-- in electronic PDF searchable format only.

It includes reported political contributions to registered parties and electoral district associations during the 2014 calendar year. The last Provincial General Election took place on October 8, 2013. Candidate contribution disclosures were published on the website as the reports were received from the Official Agents. It is not within Elections Nova Scotia mandate to undertake a detailed review of the reports required to be filed.

There are no prescribed standards for the quality of the information disclosed and, aside from the deregistration process applicable to registered parties and electoral district associations under the *Elections Act*, there are no direct or effective consequences for failure to fully comply within the time limits prescribed for filing reports.

This annual report reflects the level of compliance with the *Elections Act* and its regulations, that is, the timeliness of filings and quality of reports filed, by those filing for the reporting year. Complete and timely disclosure and reporting as prescribed by the *Elections Act* are intended to provide transparency respecting the financial activities of those filing.

Timeliness of filing remains problematic but overall continues to improve. The quality of reports filed has also improved.

Elections Nova Scotia provides support to official agents of candidates, electoral district associations and registered parties, including financial support to electoral district associations, to assist them in record keeping and in meeting their reporting obligations.

Original signed by

Richard Temporale

2. Elections Nova Scotia Review Process

2.1 Political Contributions Rules

The *Elections Act* establishes the rules under which registered parties, electoral district associations and candidates may accept political contributions, make or receive loans, and issue tax receipts. The Act also provides the Chief Electoral Officer with the authority to prescribe forms and establishes deadlines by which these reports are to be filed.

2.2 Contribution Limit Review and Eligibility Review

Under subsection 236(1) of the *Elections Act* the contribution limit of \$5,000 applies to all contributions made to a registered party, its electoral district associations and its candidates combined in a calendar year. Compliance with the contribution limit can be problematic for a recognized party, electoral district association or candidate endorsed by that party since each associated entity can accept contributions independently. Even with collaboration, it is difficult to track contributions cumulatively in real time.

Elections Nova Scotia conducted a compliance review of the contribution limit. The review consolidated all political contributions disclosure statements for each registered party, its electoral district associations and its candidates on a contributor basis.

2.2.1 Registered Parties

Contributor eligibility respecting political contributions disclosure statements filed by each registered party was reviewed. Eligible contributors during the 2014 reporting year were limited to individuals resident in Nova Scotia. No evidence of ineligible contributors was found during the review.

2.2.2 Electoral District Associations

Contributor eligibility respecting political contributions disclosure statements filed by each electoral district association was reviewed. Either the official agent of the electoral district association or the official agent of the registered party that endorsed the electoral district

association addressed queries made by Elections Nova Scotia. Further communication with official agents is planned for outstanding issues with contributions. Amended disclosure statements were filed upon clarification where appropriate. Several errors and omissions were found in disclosures for contributions through fundraising that were not included, or provided for an incorrect value.

2.2.3 Candidates

Following the Provincial General Election, the candidates' contribution reports were posted on Elections Nova Scotia website as they were received. In 2014, contributions were reported by the NDP as a result of a loan forgiven for a candidate. No other candidates reported for 2014.

3. Registered Parties

Annually, by April 30th, the official agent of a registered party is required to file a disclosure statement detailing political contributions received by the official agent during the previous calendar year. While this statement discloses the name and full residential address of each contributor whose contributions received by the official agent during the calendar year exceeded \$200 and the total amount of the contributions, ENS discloses only the community name of the contributor as per Section 251 (3) of the *Elections Act*.

For the reporting period January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014, there were four registered parties in Nova Scotia:

- the Green Party of Nova Scotia (GPNS),
- the Nova Scotia Liberal Party (NSLP),
- the Nova Scotia New Democratic Party (NSNDP), and
- The Progressive Conservative Association of Nova Scotia (PC).

All four registered parties filed their statutory reports on or before the prescribed deadline.

4. Electoral District Associations

In 2014, there were 51 electoral districts in Nova Scotia; the Nova Scotia Liberal Party and The Progressive Conservative Association of Nova Scotia each had 51 electoral district associations. The Nova Scotia New Democratic Party had 46 and the Green Party of Nova Scotia had no registered electoral district association.

An electoral district association, with the endorsement of the leader of the registered party, must register in the prescribed form with the Chief Electoral Officer. The information contained in this registration must be confirmed annually under Section 196(2) of the *Elections Act*.

There were 148 registered electoral district associations in 2014. Of these, most filed Form 4-3, *Electoral District Association's Financial Statements and Supporting Schedules*. Several did not complete the forms in full and did not sign the forms appropriately. The official agent is the legislated person responsible for completing the annual filings and signing the declarations.

Registered Party	Number of EDA reports due	Number of EDA reports filed before the March 31 2015 deadline	Number of EDA reports not submitted as of June 24, 2015
Green Party of Nova Scotia	0	0	0
Nova Scotia Liberal Party	51	51	0
Nova Scotia New Democratic Party	46	32	3
The Progressive Conservative Association of Nova Scotia	51	47	0

5. Candidates

Subsection 230(1)(f) of the *Elections Act* requires the official agent of a candidate to provide a written loan agreement respecting all loans for their candidate's campaign. The loan agreement must be filed at the same time as the official agent files their disclosure statement of political contributions. The Act requires the official agent to report the outstanding balance of a loan and any changes to the loan agreement in years subsequent to the original loan contact. Loans must be paid within 2 years. Reports are due by March 31, and it was noted that none of the 6 official agents for candidates with outstanding loan commitments submitted the required report before the deadline.

The loans outstanding following the October 8, 2013 Provincial General Election are outlined below, based on information available on June 24, 2015.

Electoral District	Candidate	Party	Official Agent	Lender	Amount	Guarantor
03 - Argyle-Barrington	Kent Blades	NSLP	Cathy Blades	Cathy Blades	\$2,848.00	Cathy Blades
08 - Clare-Digby	Dean Kenley	NSNDP	Kim Thibaudeau	Dean Kenley	\$700.00	Dean Kenley
24 - Halifax Armdale	Drew Moore	NSNDP	Nelson Larsen	Credit Union Atlantic	\$8,093.60	John Moore, Gerald MacKinlay, Ian Johnson, Bruce Gates
25 - Halifax Atlantic	Tanis Crosby	NSNDP	Tim Covert	Royal Bank	\$1,545.20	Tanis Crosby
34 - Kings South	Shane Buchan	PC	Sheila McKeand	Sheila McKeand	\$5,005.90	Sheila McKeand
42 - Queens-Shelburne	Sterling Belliveau	NSNDP	Elizabeth Rhuland	CIBC	\$5,206.94	Sterling Belliveau

Links to Disclosure Reports

Registered Party	Disclosure Report for Party	Disclosure Report for EDA	Disclosure Report for Candidate
Green Party of Nova Scotia (GPNS)	GPNS	N/A	N/A
Nova Scotia Liberal Party (NSLP)	NSLP	NSLP	N/A
Nova Scotia New Democratic Party (NSNDP)	NSNDP	NSNDP	NSNDP
The Progressive Conservative Association of Nova Scotia (PC)	PC	PC	N/A