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For Immediate Release

Nova Scotia New Democratic Party Fined

Halifax – The Nova Scotia New Democratic Party today was fined \$10,000 for accepting a contribution in excess of \$5,000 from a contributor and for failure to return \$45,000 in contributions received from 8 unions and 1 union affiliate when they “knew or should have known” that the contributions had been funded by a single entity - the Mainland Building and Construction Trades Council.

Christine McCulloch, the Chief Electoral Officer and the “designated person” under the Members and Public Employees Disclosure Act that governs political contributions, determined that the offences were serious and levied the maximum fine permitted under the Act.

Today’s announcement by the Chief Electoral Officer followed an inspection of the records of the NDP conducted by an independent auditor and a formal inquiry which together spanned several months. Ms McCulloch noted the cooperation of the NDP and its official agent in the process.

While the NDP received a fine for its contravention of MPEDA, Ms McCulloch said that the Act does not provide an avenue for the designated person to conduct an inquiry or inspection directed at a contributor, in this case the unions involved and the Trades Council, and has referred her report to the Halifax Regional Police Service for “such investigation as it considers appropriate.”

Ms McCulloch said that a recent change to MPEDA limits political contributions to individuals and specifically prohibits contributions by corporations, partnerships and unions. However, she cautioned that official agents of recognized parties, electoral district associations and candidates will have to be diligent in ensuring that contributions by individuals are in conformance with the Act and her office will continue to scrutinize these contributions accordingly.

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Full report available on Elections Nova Scotia website:

[Report and Disposition of Complaint dated June 9, 2009 against the Nova Scotia New Democratic Party](#)

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