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June 25, 2013

**Notice to banks and credit unions regarding opening of bank accounts for registered candidates**

In January 2012, a new *Elections Act* (the "Act") was proclaimed in Nova Scotia.

Section 204 of the Act reads:

204 A prospective candidate shall not accept a contribution or transfer, or incur an expense in consequence of an election until such time as the candidate receives confirmation of registration pursuant to subsection 203(6) or is deemed to be registered pursuant to subsection 203(3).

The requirement that a candidate open a bank account is a new provision in the Act.

The Official Agent of a candidate must be a signing officer on any bank accounts opened on the candidate's behalf. A co-signer may also be named, such as the president of the electoral district association ("EDA").

Appendix E of the Handbook for the Official Agent of a candidate is attached for your reference.

For further information, please contact the Director of Electoral Finance at Elections Nova Scotia at 902-424-8265.

Thank you,

  
Richard Temporale  
Chief Electoral Officer

## Appendix E

### Information regarding opening of a Bank Account

The opening of a bank account is required in order to complete the registration process for candidates and EDA's.

The Act does not require that a candidate or an EDA be incorporated. Subsections 2(c), (m) and (n) of *the Act* state:

- (c) "candidate" means a person who has been officially nominated as a candidate pursuant to Section 67 and for the purpose of Part II includes a person registered pursuant to this Act;
- (m) "electoral district association" means an electoral district association that is
  - (i) endorsed by the leader of a registered party and includes a trust or a fund established to further the goals of such an association, and
  - (ii) registered by the Chief Electoral Officer;
- (n) "endorsed" means declared by the leader of a registered party as the official candidate of the party or in the case of an electoral district association means designated as an electoral district association by the leader of the registered party;

*The Act* contains numerous provisions which set out in detail the many rights and responsibilities of a candidate and EDA once registered by the Chief Electoral Officer. These rights include, but are not limited to, the ability to receive contributions, make and receive transfers of services, money or property and to enter into loan agreements.

The responsibilities of a candidate and EDA include, but are not limited to, opening a bank account on behalf of the candidate or EDA, maintaining books, records and accounts of their financial transactions, filing reports with the Chief Electoral Officer. They are also required to have an official agent and other officers.