

Political Donations Annual Report 2022 January 1 – December 31, 2022

Published June 28, 2023

by the Chief Electoral Officer Pursuant to the *Elections Act*



Political Donations Annual Report

January 1 to December 31, 2022

The Political Donations Annual Report is prepared pursuant to Sections 240 and 251 of the *Elections Act*. The [Political Donations Annual Report](#) is available on the Elections Nova Scotia (ENS) website (www.electionsnovascotia.ca) or by contacting ENS.

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Please click here for an online version of the [Elections Act](#)

Message from the office of the Chief Electoral Officer

June 2023

Elections Nova Scotia (ENS) publishes on the ENS website annually the reported provincial political donations over the past calendar year. Under the direction of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), ENS provides support to individuals, groups, and registered parties by assisting them with record keeping so they can meet their reporting obligations.

This report is published in accordance with Sections 240 and 251 of the *Elections Act* (the *Act*). -

This report includes information on the timeliness and quality of the filings for political donations. The report lists the name and community of each person who contributes \$200 or more in the calendar year, plus the amount of the donation to registered political parties, electoral district associations, and registered candidates. An annual contribution limit of \$5,000 to a party and its' related entities or an independent candidate is in place. Only individuals who reside in Nova Scotia are permitted to contribute to a registered political entity.

Collecting and sharing this information in a timely way, as prescribed by the *Act*, helps to enhance transparency of the financial activities of those registered parties, EDAs, and candidates who are required to file. ENS has been proactive in sending reminders to the entities regarding filing deadlines. Most reports are filed on or before the legislated deadline.

It is not within the mandate of ENS to undertake a detailed review of the filed reports. However, if financial donations are not filed, the political parties and associations run the risk of becoming de-registered.

This report is available online at <http://www.electionsnovascotia.ca/Electoral-Finance-Reports>. It includes searchable Excel files for each disclosure report.

Dorothy Rice
Chief Electoral Officer of Nova Scotia

Elections Nova Scotia Review Process

Political Donations Rules

The *Act* spells out the rules under which registered parties, EDAs, and candidates may accept political donations, make or receive loans, and issue tax receipts. The *Act* also provides the CEO with the authority to prescribe forms and it includes the deadlines for filing these reports.

Contribution Limit Review and Eligibility Review

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

ENS conducted a compliance review of the contribution limit after the reports were received and did not find any individual who had exceeded the limit. The review consolidated all political donations disclosure statements for each registered party, its EDAs, and its candidates on a contributor basis.

Registered Parties

Contributor eligibility respecting political donations disclosure statements filed by each registered party was reviewed. Eligible contributors were individuals who are residents in Nova Scotia during the 2022 reporting year. No evidence of ineligible contributors was found.

During the 2022 year-end review process, an incident of unintentional non-compliant activity was discovered by the Liberal party. The annual audit uncovered a cash contribution of \$200 received in error. The limit for cash contributions is \$100. The party informed ENS immediately and took corrective actions to prevent future occurrence of non-compliance activity.

Electoral District Associations

Contributor eligibility respecting political donations disclosure statements filed by each EDA was reviewed. All questions raised by ENS of either the official agent of the EDA or registered party were satisfactorily addressed.

Candidates

One candidate registered during the 2022 reporting year. Contributor eligibility respecting political donation disclosure statement filed by the Candidate was reviewed. No evidence of ineligible contributors was found.

Registered Parties

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

For the reporting period January 1, to December 31, 2022, there were six registered parties in Nova Scotia:

- Atlantica Party Association of Nova Scotia (Atlantica)
- Green Party of Nova Scotia (Green Party),
- Nova Scotia Liberal Party (NSLP),
- Nova Scotia New Democratic Party (NSNDP), and
- Progressive Conservative Association of Nova Scotia (PC)
- Nova Scotians United Party (NSU)

Two of the registered parties filed their audited financial statements by the prescribed April 30 deadline. The New Democratic Party, Atlantica Party, Nova Scotians United Party and the PC Party were granted a grace period by the CEO to May 9, 2023, which they met.

Electoral District Associations

In 2022, there were 55 electoral districts in Nova Scotia. The NSLP and NSNDP each had 55 EDAs, the PC had 54 EDAs and the Green Party had one EDA. The Atlantica and NSU Parties did not have any registered EDAs.

An EDA, with the endorsement of the leader of the registered party, must register in the prescribed form with the CEO. The information contained in this registration must be confirmed annually under Section 196(2) of the *Act*.

Of the 165 registered EDAs in 2022, 151 or 92% filed the *Electoral District Association's Financial Statements and Supporting Schedules* on or before the deadline. All outstanding reports were filed before May 19, 2023.

Issues with incomplete or missing forms are followed up with the relevant official agents. The official agent is the legislated person responsible for completing the annual filings and signing the declarations. Where an EDA fails to file their report, ENS follows up with the official agents for the party and EDA. If the reports from the EDA are not filed, a process to deregister commences and all bank accounts must be closed.

Registered Party	Number of EDA reports due	Number of EDA reports filed before the March 31, 2023 deadline
Atlantica Party Association of Nova Scotia (Atlantica)	0	0
Green Party of Nova Scotia (Green Party)	1	1
Nova Scotia Liberal Party (NSLP)	55	42
Nova Scotia New Democratic Party (NSNDP)	55	54
The Progressive Conservative Association of Nova Scotia (PC)	54	54
The Nova Scotians United Party (NSU)	0	0
Total	165	151

Links to Disclosure Reports (PDF)

Registered Party	Disclosure Report for Party	Disclosure Report for EDA (1)	Disclosure Report for Candidate
Atlantica Party Association of Nova Scotia (Atlantica)	Atlantica	N/A	N/A
Green Party of Nova Scotia (Green Party)	Green Party	Green Party EDA	N/A
Nova Scotia Liberal Party (NSLP)	NSLP	NSLP EDA	N/A
Nova Scotia New Democratic Party (NSNDP)	NSNDP	NSNDP EDA	N/A
The Progressive Conservative Association of Nova Scotia (PC)	PC	PC EDA	N/A
Nova Scotians United Party (NSU)	NSU	N/A	N/A
Candidate	N/A	N/A	Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin

Links to Disclosure Reports (Excel)

Registered Party	Disclosure Report for Party	Disclosure Report for EDA (1)	Disclosure Report for Candidate
Atlantica Party Association of Nova Scotia (Atlantica)	Atlantica	N/A	N/A
Green Party of Nova Scotia (Green Party)	Green Party	Green Party EDA	N/A
Nova Scotia Liberal Party (NSLP)	NSLP	NSLP EDA	N/A
Nova Scotia New Democratic Party (NSNDP)	NSNDP	NSNDP EDA	N/A
The Progressive Conservative Association of Nova Scotia (PC)	PC	PC EDA	N/A
Nova Scotians United Party (NSU)	NSU	N/A	N/A
Candidate	N/A	N/A	Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin

(1) – Atlantica Party and NSU did not have registered EDAs.