

# Political Donations Annual Report 2023 January 1 – December 31, 2023

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



## Political Donations Annual Report

January 1 to December 31, 2023

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](http://www.electionsnovascotia.ca)) or by contacting ENS.

Elections Nova Scotia  
505-202 Brownlow Avenue PO Box 2246  
Dartmouth, NS B3B 1T5  
Phone: 902.424.8584  
TTY: 902.424.7475  
Toll Free: 1.800.565.1504  
Fax: 902.424.6622  
Email: [elections@novascotia.ca](mailto:elections@novascotia.ca)  
[www.electionsnovascotia.ca](http://www.electionsnovascotia.ca)

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

## Message from the office of the Chief Electoral Officer

June 2024

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, and the amount of the donation to registered political parties, Electoral District Associations (EDAs), 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* states 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 contributions 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 were residents in Nova Scotia during the 2023 reporting year. No evidence of ineligible contributors was found.

### 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

Two candidates registered during the 2023 reporting year. Contributor eligibility respecting political donation disclosure statement filed by the Candidates were reviewed. No evidence of ineligible contributors was found.

## Registered Parties

By April 30<sup>th</sup> 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, 2023, 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 (Liberal)
- Nova Scotia New Democratic Party (NSNDP)
- Progressive Conservative Association of Nova Scotia (PC)
- Nova Scotians United Party (NS United)

Four of the registered parties filed their audited financial statements by the prescribed April 30 deadline. The CEO granted a grace period to May 3, 2024 to the NS United, and May 21, 2024 to the Atlantica, which they met.

\*Atlantica was voluntarily deregistered effective April 30, 2024.

## Electoral District Associations

In 2023, there were 55 electoral districts in Nova Scotia. The Liberal, PC and NSNDP each had 55 EDAs, and the Green Party had 1 EDA. The Atlantica and NS United 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 166 registered EDAs in 2023, 145 or 87% filed the *Electoral District Association's Financial Statements and Supporting Schedules* on or before the deadline. All outstanding reports were filed before June 5, 2024.

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.

<b>Registered Party</b>	<b>Number of EDA reports due</b>	<b>Number of EDA reports filed before the April 2, 2024 deadline</b>
Atlantica Party Association of Nova Scotia (Atlantica)	0	0
Green Party of Nova Scotia (Green Party)	1	1
Nova Scotia Liberal Party (Liberal)	55	35
Nova Scotia New Democratic Party (NSNDP)	55	54
The Progressive Conservative Association of Nova Scotia (PC)	55	55
The Nova Scotians United Party	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>145</b>

### Links to Disclosure Reports (PDF)

<b>Registered Party</b>	<b>Disclosure Report for Party</b>	<b>Disclosure Report for EDA*</b>	<b>Disclosure Report for Candidate</b>
Atlantica Party Association of Nova Scotia (Atlantica)	<a href="#">Atlantica</a>	N/A	N/A
Green Party of Nova Scotia (Green Party)	<a href="#">Green Party</a>	<a href="#">Green Party EDA</a>	N/A
Nova Scotia Liberal Party (Liberal)	<a href="#">Liberal</a>	<a href="#">Liberal EDA</a>	N/A
Nova Scotia New Democratic Party (NSNDP)	<a href="#">NSNDP</a>	<a href="#">NSNDP EDA</a>	N/A
The Progressive Conservative Association of Nova Scotia (PC)	<a href="#">PC</a>	<a href="#">PC EDA</a>	N/A
Nova Scotians United Party (NS United)	<a href="#">NS United</a>	N/A	N/A
Candidate(s)	N/A	N/A	<a href="#">Liam MacDonald</a>  <a href="#">Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin</a>

\*Atlantica and NS United did not have registered EDAs.



### Links to Disclosure Reports (Excel)

<b>Registered Party</b>	<b>Disclosure Report for Party</b>	<b>Disclosure Report for EDA*</b>	<b>Disclosure Report for Candidate</b>
Atlantica Party Association of Nova Scotia (Atlantica)	<a href="#">Atlantica</a>	N/A	N/A
Green Party of Nova Scotia (Green Party)	<a href="#">Green Party</a>	<a href="#">Green Party EDA</a>	N/A
Nova Scotia Liberal Party (Liberal)	<a href="#">Liberal</a>	<a href="#">Liberal EDA</a>	N/A
Nova Scotia New Democratic Party (NSNDP)	<a href="#">NSNDP</a>	<a href="#">NSNDP EDA</a>	N/A
The Progressive Conservative Association of Nova Scotia (PC)	<a href="#">PC</a>	<a href="#">PC EDA</a>	N/A
Nova Scotians United Party (NS United)	<a href="#">NS United</a>	N/A	N/A
Candidate(s)	N/A	N/A	<a href="#">Liam MacDonald</a>  <a href="#">Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin</a>

\*Atlantica and NS United did not have registered EDAs.