

Political Donations Annual Report 2020



January 1 to December 31, 2020

Published June 2021 by Chief Electoral Officer pursuant
to the *Elections Act*



Political Donations Annual Report, January 1 to December 31, 2020

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This report is prepared pursuant to Sections 240 and 251 of the *Elections Act*. This report is available on the Elections Nova Scotia (ENS) website or by contacting ENS.

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

Message from the Chief Electoral Officer

June 2021

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.

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.

Richard Temporale
Chief Electoral Officer

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 2020 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

Fourteen (14) Candidates were registered in 2020.

Party	District Number	District name	Candidate Name	Official Agent	Date Registered	Date Filed

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NDP	24	Glace Bay-Dominion	Morgan, John	Smith, Garry	10-Nov-20	31-Mar-21
NDP	47	Sackville-Cobequid	Fawthrop, Lara	Cormier, Michael	20-Dec-20	31-Mar-21
PC	17	Eastern Passage	Adams, Barbara	Seburn, Karen	17-Aug-20	11-May-21
PC	21	Dartmouth East	Halman, Timothy	Awalt, Sean	29-Sep-20	29-Mar-21
PC	23	Fairview-Clayton Park	Mosher, Nicole	Farmer, Paul	19-Nov-20	31-Mar-21
PC	24	Glace Bay-Dominion	White, John	Brenda McNeil	24-Sep-20	1-Jun-21
PC	33	Hants West	Sheehy-Richard, Melissa	Davison, Laura	15-Sep-20	9-Apr-21
PC	35	Kings North	Lohr, John	Brian Chute	13-Aug-20	7-May-21
PC	37	Kings West	Palmer, Chris	Smith, Annette	13-Nov-20	29-Mar-21
PC	41	Pictou Centre	Dunn, Patrick	Sharpe, Ryan	24-Aug-20	29-Mar-21
PC	42	Pictou East	Houston, Timothy	Robert Rogers	16-Sep-20	6-May-21
PC	46	Richmond	Boudreau, Trevor	Campbell, Louise	13-Aug-20	6-May-21
PC	47	Sackville-Cobequid	Craig, Stephen	Reid, Lucille	15-Sep-20	18-Feb-21
PC	52	Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River	Ritcey, David	Johson, Myles	16-Sep-20	30-Mar-21

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, 2020, there were five 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).

Three of the registered parties filed their audited financial statements by the prescribed April 30 deadline. The Green party submitted on May 4 and the Atlantica party was granted an extension to May 26, 2021 by the CEO, which they met.

Electoral District Associations

In 2020, there were 55 electoral districts in Nova Scotia. The NSLP, NSNDP and the PC each had 54 EDAs and the Atlantica had one EDA. The Green Party did not have 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 163 registered EDAs in 2020, 141 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 4 except one from each of the Liberal and PC parties. 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, 2021 deadline*
Atlantica Party Association of Nova Scotia (Atlantica)	1	1
Green Party of Nova Scotia (Green Party)	0	0
Nova Scotia Liberal Party (NSLP)	54	39
Nova Scotia New Democratic Party (NSNDP)	54	49
The Progressive Conservative Association of Nova Scotia (PC)	54	52
Total	163	141

Candidates

Subsection 230(1)(f) of the *Act* requires that for any loan, the official agent of a candidate provide a written loan agreement respecting each loan for their candidate's campaign. The loan agreement must be filed at the same time the official agent files their disclosure statement of political donations. The *Act* requires the official agent to report the outstanding balance of a loan and any changes to the loan agreement in the year subsequent to the original loan contract. Loans must be repaid within two years. In cases where a loan remains unpaid after two years, all avenues for compliance are used by ENS including legal remedies available through the *Act*.

Following the 2017 PGE, a loan remained outstanding for Mitch Bonnar, PC candidate in Yarmouth. ENS has followed up with the official agent for the candidate and party and ENS received information that included the contributions of four individuals who forgave the loans. These contributions were not eligible for tax receipts.

Name	Community	Amount
Stephanie Bonnar	Hebron, NS	\$412.02
Carlynn Bonnar	Hebron, NS	\$2,000.00
Linda Bonnar	Hebron, NS	\$4,000.00
Mitch Bonnar	Hebron, NS	\$4,000.00

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	Lara Fawthrop John Morgan
The Progressive Conservative Association of Nova Scotia (PC)	PC	PC EDA	Barbara Adams Trevor Boudreau Stephen Craig Patrick Dunn Timothy Halman Timothy Houston John Lohr Nicole Mosher Chris Palmer David Ritcey John White Melissa Sheely- Richard

(1) - Atlantica did not have registered EDAs.

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	Lara Fawthrop John Morgan
The Progressive Conservative Association of Nova Scotia (PC)	PC	PC EDA	Barbara Adams Trevor Boudreau Stephen Craig Patrick Dunn Timothy Halman Timothy Houston John Lohr Nicole Mosher Chris Palmer David Ritcey John White Melissa Sheely- Richard

(2) – Atlantica did not have registered EDAs.

Readability Measure

ENS has a strategic goal to measure and improve the readability of reports like this one. The reading level of this report is 11.7.