

Political Donations Annual Report 2018



January 1 to December 31, 2018

Published June 2019 by Chief Electoral Officer
pursuant to the *Elections Act*



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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 2019

Elections Nova Scotia (ENS) reports annually through the ENS website outlining provincial political donations over the past calendar year. Under the direction of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), ENS provides support to individuals, groups, and 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*. It includes information on the timeliness and quality of the filings for political donations to registered political parties, electoral district associations (EDAs), and registered candidates. 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 a registered party, EDA, or candidate.

Collecting and sharing this information in a timely way, as prescribed by the *Elections 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 imposed 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 ENS's website at <http://www.electionsnovascotia.ca/Electoral-Finance-Reports>. It includes PDF and Excel files for each disclosure report.

Richard Temporale
Chief Electoral Officer

Elections Nova Scotia Review Process

Political Donations Rules

The *Elections Act* defines 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 deadlines for filing these reports.

Contribution Limit Review and Eligibility Review

Under subsection 236(1) of the *Elections Act*, the contribution limit of \$5,000 applies to all donations made by a resident of Nova Scotia to a registered party, its EDAs, and its registered candidates combined in a calendar year. Compliance with the contribution limit can be problematic because each associated entity can accept donations independently. Even with collaboration, it is difficult to track donations cumulatively within a registered party 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 their personal 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 by ENS. Eligible contributors during the 2018 reporting year were limited to individuals resident in Nova Scotia. No evidence of ineligible contributors was found during the review.

Electoral District Associations

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

Candidates

Following the June 19, 2018 Cumberland South by-election, the candidates' donations reports were posted on the ENS website as they were received. These reports are available online: https://electionsnovascotia.ca/2018_CumberlandSouth.

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 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 equal to or exceeding \$200. ENS discloses only the community name of the contributor as per Section 251(3) of the *Elections Act*.

For the reporting period January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018, there were five registered parties in Nova Scotia:

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

All five registered parties filed their statutory reports by the prescribed April 30th deadline.

Electoral District Associations

In 2018, there were 51 electoral districts in Nova Scotia. The NSLP and PC parties each had 51 EDAs and the NSNDP had 41. The Atlantica and GPNS did not have registered EDAs.

EDAs endorsed by the leader of a 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 *Elections Act*.

There were 143 registered EDAs in 2018. Of these, 133 or 93% filed the *Electoral District Association's Financial Statements and Supporting Schedules* on or before the deadline. All outstanding reports were filed before June 1.

Issues with incomplete or missing forms are followed up with the relevant official agent who 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. If this happens, all bank accounts for that EDA must be closed and the any funds forwarded to the registered party.

Registered Party	Number of EDA reports due	Number of EDA reports filed before the March 31, 2019 deadline
Atlantica Party Association of Nova Scotia (Atlantica)	0	0
Green Party of Nova Scotia (GPNS)	0	0
Nova Scotia Liberal Party (NSLP)	51	51
Nova Scotia New Democratic Party (NSNDP)	41	32
The Progressive Conservative Association of Nova Scotia (PC)	51	50
Total	143	133

Candidates

Subsection 230(1)(f) of the *Act* requires the official agent of a candidate to provide ENS with written loan agreements respecting all loans for their candidate's campaign. The loan agreements 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 years subsequent to the original loan contract. Loans must be fully paid within two years. In cases where a loan remains unpaid after two years, all avenues available through the *Act* for compliance are pursued by ENS.

There were no candidate loans outstanding at the end of 2018.

Links to Disclosure Reports (PDF)

Registered Party	Disclosure Report for Party	Disclosure Report for EDA (1)
Atlantica Party Association of Nova Scotia (Atlantica)	Atlantica	N/A
Green Party of Nova Scotia (GPNS)	GPNS	N/A
Nova Scotia Liberal Party (NSLP)	NSLP	NSLP EDA
Nova Scotia New Democratic Party (NSNDP)	NSNDP	NSNDP EDA
The Progressive Conservative Association of Nova Scotia (PC)	PC	PC EDA

Links to Disclosure Reports (Excel)

Registered Party	Disclosure Report for Party	Disclosure Report for EDA (1)
Atlantica Party Association of Nova Scotia (Atlantica)	Atlantica	N/A
Green Party of Nova Scotia (GPNS)	GPNS	N/A
Nova Scotia Liberal Party (NSLP)	NSLP	NSLP EDA
Nova Scotia New Democratic Party (NSNDP)	NSNDP	NSNDP EDA
The Progressive Conservative Association of Nova Scotia (PC)	PC	PC EDA

(1) – Atlantica and GPNS 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 12.3.