
Elections Nova Scotia Circular 1201

Provision of a Hospitality Suite at a Registered Party Electoral District Association, Candidate or Registered Party Event

Elections Nova Scotia considers the provision of free food and drinks at a registered party, electoral district association, candidate or registered third party event to be the same as donating property and this is a contribution. A corporation, partnership or trade union may not provide a contribution to a registered party, electoral district association, candidate or registered third party and therefore, a registered party, electoral district association, candidate or registered third party may not accept free food and drinks from a corporation, partnership or trade union as this is contrary to the contribution rules outlined in the Act.

Background:

Who May Make a Contribution to a Registered Party, Electoral District Association, Candidate or Registered Third Party?

An individual resident in the Province may make a contribution to one or more registered parties, electoral district associations, candidates or registered third parties.

Reference: subsection 236 (1) of the Act.

No organization shall make a contribution to a registered party, electoral district association, candidate or registered third party.

Reference: subsection 236(5) of the Act.

The Act defines 'organization' as, "a corporation, partnership or trade union".

Reference: subsection 166(p) of the Act.

The Act goes on to define 'trade union' as, "a certified bargaining agent as defined in the Trade Union Act or a labour organization representing workers in the Province".

Reference: subsection 166(v) of the Act.

Therefore, no corporation, partnership or trade union shall make a contribution to a registered party, electoral district association, candidate or registered third party.

Is Providing Free Food and Drinks at a Registered Party, Electoral District Association, Candidate or Registered Third Party Event a Contribution?

Elections Nova Scotia considers the provision of free food and drinks at a registered party, electoral district association, candidate or registered third party event to be the same as donating property and this is a contribution.

The Act defines ‘contributions’ as:

166(d) “contributions” means services, money or other property donated to a registered party, electoral district association, candidate or registered third party or an individual acting on behalf of a registered party, electoral district association, candidate or registered third party to support the political purposes of a registered party, electoral district association, candidate or registered third party, but does not include ...

The Act goes on to clarify who may be exempted from the provisions in subsection 166(d):

245 For greater certainty, the exemptions to the definition of contributions in clause 166(d) are available only to an individual eligible to make a contribution under this *Act*.

May a Registered Party, Electoral District Association, Candidate or Registered Third Party Accept Free Food and Drinks From a Corporation, Partnership or Trade Union?

As was explained above, the provision of free food and drinks is considered a contribution. A corporation, partnership or trade union may not provide a contribution to a registered party, electoral district association, candidate or registered third party and therefore, a registered party, electoral district association, candidate or registered third party may not accept free food and drinks from a corporation, partnership or trade union as this is contrary to the contribution rules outlined in the *Act*.

Information for Official Agents

The responsibilities and duties of official agents have changed. Official agents should review the contribution rules that apply to political contributions by individuals, corporations, partnerships and trade unions.

If you have any questions regarding the contents of this circular, please contact:



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