

BULLETIN

LOCAL ELECTIONS CAMPAIGN FINANCING AMENDMENT ACT, 2017

Bill 15, *Local Elections Campaign Financing Amendment Act, 2017* received Royal Assent on November 30, 2017, resulting in many changes to the financing provisions of the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*.

The new rules apply to the 2018 General Local Elections and are retroactive to October 31, 2017. The new rules do not apply to local by-elections and assent voting that occurs before the 2018 General Local Elections.

Elections BC's forms and guides are under review and will be updated to reflect the amendments. Under the new rules:

- Campaign contributions from organizations, corporations and unions are prohibited.
- Only eligible individuals can make campaign contributions. An eligible individual is someone who is a resident of B.C. and a Canadian citizen or permanent resident.
- An eligible individual may contribute up to \$1,200 per year per campaign to an unendorsed candidate or \$1,200 in total to each campaign of an elector organization and its endorsed candidates.
- Penalties will apply to contributions that exceed the limit.
- Contributions must be collected in relation to a specific campaign and cannot be shared between campaigns.
- Candidates and elector organizations can only accept loans from eligible individuals up to \$1,200 per year, or from savings institutions up to any value. If a loan from an eligible individual is forgiven it becomes a campaign contribution.

- The total of an eligible individual's campaign contributions and outstanding loans to a campaign must not exceed \$1,200 in a calendar year.
- The rules for determining who is the sponsor of election advertising have been revised to match the provincial *Election Act*.
- Only eligible individuals may give sponsorship contributions to third parties for use in election advertising. There is no annual sponsorship contribution limit for contributions to third parties.
- Third party advertising sponsors can only accept loans from eligible individuals or savings institutions. Loans must be recorded and disclosed by third party advertising sponsors.

This bulletin applies to the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* only.

Questions?

**For more information, contact Local Elections Campaign Finance
at Elections BC.**

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