

## Smith, Justin GCPE:EX

---

**From:** Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 22, 2016 11:32 AM  
**To:** Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: URGENT

On it. Give me a minute.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 22, 2016, at 11:30 AM, Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX <[Matt.Gordon@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Matt.Gordon@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

What do we say generally – not these qs specific about political donation limits

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Levin, Dan" <[dan.levin@nytimes.com](mailto:dan.levin@nytimes.com)>  
**Date:** December 22, 2016 at 11:16:22 AM PST  
**To:** [stephen.smart@gov.bc.ca](mailto:stephen.smart@gov.bc.ca)  
**Subject:** New York Times query for Premier Clark

Hi Stephen,

I'm Dan Levin, a reporter with The New York Times, covering Canada.

I have some questions for the Premier and would appreciate a response today (my deadline tomorrow morning).

1. Why are there no political donation limits in BC and why hasn't Premier Clark followed other provinces in implementing donation limits?
  2. Given the issues facing the federal government around cash-for-access events, how does Premier Clark explain her history of close connections to political donors, including foreign corporations, which then benefit from subsidies and tax cuts?
  3. Does money buy political influence in BC? How does Premier Clark prevent conflicts of interest from cash-for-access?
  4. Why does Premier Clark accept an annual \$50,000 stipend from political donations (which would be completely illegal across the United States) and how is this not a basic conflict of interest (profiting personally from political donations)?
  5. How is employing the son of the conflict of interest commissioner as a deputy minister in the Premier's office not a conflict of interest?
- Thanks for your help.

Best,  
Dan

--

Dan Levin

The New York Times

[dan.levin@nytimes.com](mailto:dan.levin@nytimes.com)

## **Smith, Justin GCPE:EX**

---

**From:** Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 22, 2016 1:32 PM  
**To:** Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** send to Dan Levin at the NY Times

### **Statement from Suzanne Anton, Minister of Justice and Attorney General:**

"In B.C., we have set a strong standard on electoral reform. We were the first to set fixed election dates and set expenditure limits for political parties, candidates and third party advertising.

"We also have a lobbyist registry, and were the first government in B.C. to bring it in, allowing the public to see who is lobbying and on which issues. The standards we have set in B.C., plus the steps we are taking to evaluate legislative options that would require more real-time disclosure of political contributions, should give the public confidence in the electoral system.

"I am advised that the BC Liberal party intends to begin real-time disclosure of political donations in the new year.

"Government decisions are made based on advice from non-partisan public servants, including statutory decision makers, and include other safeguards to ensure all decisions are made in the public interest and free of any conflicts.

### **Jason Kuzminski**

Director of Communications  
Ministry of Justice and Attorney General  
T: (250) 387-0520 C: (250) 920-9182

## Smith, Justin GCPE:EX

---

**From:** Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 22, 2016 1:33 PM  
**To:** Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Fwd: URGENT

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX" <[Matt.Gordon@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Matt.Gordon@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Date:** December 22, 2016 at 11:30:06 AM PST  
**To:** "Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX" <[Jason.Kuzminski@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jason.Kuzminski@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** URGENT

What do we say generally – not these qs specific about political donation limits

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Levin, Dan" <[dan.levin@nytimes.com](mailto:dan.levin@nytimes.com)>  
**Date:** December 22, 2016 at 11:16:22 AM PST  
**To:** [stephen.smart@gov.bc.ca](mailto:stephen.smart@gov.bc.ca)  
**Subject:** New York Times query for Premier Clark

Hi Stephen,

I'm Dan Levin, a reporter with The New York Times, covering Canada.

I have some questions for the Premier and would appreciate a response today (my deadline tomorrow morning).

1. Why are there no political donation limits in BC and why hasn't Premier Clark followed other provinces in implementing donation limits?
  2. Given the issues facing the federal government around cash-for-access events, how does Premier Clark explain her history of close connections to political donors, including foreign corporations, which then benefit from subsidies and tax cuts?
  3. Does money buy political influence in BC? How does Premier Clark prevent conflicts of interest from cash-for-access?
  4. Why does Premier Clark accept an annual \$50,000 stipend from political donations (which would be completely illegal across the United States) and how is this not a basic conflict of interest (profiting personally from political donations)?
  5. How is employing the son of the conflict of interest commissioner as a deputy minister in the Premier's office not a conflict of interest?
- Thanks for your help.

Best,  
Dan

--  
Dan Levin

The New York Times

[dan.levin@nytimes.com](mailto:dan.levin@nytimes.com)

## **ELECTION CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURE**

---

### **POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

**MANDATE:** Transparency and accountability

**TOP MESSAGES:**

- We are always looking for ways to increase transparency in the electoral process, which is why we asked the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) to advise on how to improve more frequent disclosure.
- Earlier this year, the CEO provided three options for more frequent reporting.
- The options that come closest to “real time” disclosure require more time for implementation than is possible before the next election.
- As a result, government will not be pursuing this legislation during summer session, and we will focus on the priority of taking urgent action on housing and real estate regulation (and amending the BC Human Rights Code) that will have immediate impact once passed.

## **ELECTION CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURE**

---

### **POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

#### **IF NEEDED RE: WHY DIDN'T YOU RUSH TO HAVE LEGISLATION READY SO CHANGES COULD HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED BEFORE THE NEXT ELECTION?**

- To have introduced legislation that would have been implemented before the next election would have meant choosing the least transparent of the three options presented by the Chief Electoral Officer.
- We know that transparency is important to British Columbians; that is why we are actively exploring the other, more transparent options presented.

#### **IF NEEDED RE: CALLS TO BAN CORPORATE AND UNION DONATIONS OUTRIGHT:**

- Our government will not be pursuing legislation to ban corporate and union donations.
- In B.C., we have set a strong standard on electoral reform:
  - We were the first to set fixed election dates.
  - We have set expenditure limits for political parties, candidates and third party advertising.
  - We also have a lobbyist registry, and were the first government in B.C. to bring it in, allowing the public to see who is lobbying and on which issues.
- Some provinces have a scheme in which tax dollars are used to directly fund political parties – this is not something we will be pursuing.
- The standards we have set in B.C., plus the steps we are taking to ensure disclosure of political contributions on a very real-time basis, should give the public confidence in the electoral system.

# ELECTION CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURE

---

## POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

### BACKGROUND:

On July 15, 2016, media criticized government's plan to take legislative action on housing real estate regulation in the summer session, but not giving attention to implementing the Chief Electoral Officer's (CEO's) recommendations on disclosure of political donations.

On April 1, 2016, the CEO received a written request from the Attorney General, who is responsible for Elections BC, to "undertake a process of evaluating the requirements for more frequent contribution reporting" and give consideration to the following questions: 1. How much time would be required to develop a proposal and to implement 'real time disclosure'?; 2. What cost would be involved?; 3. What legislative changes would be required?; and 4. are there precedents in other jurisdictions that could be considered?

On May 25, 2016, Keith Archer, Chief Electoral Officer of Elections B.C. released a discussion paper "Disclosure of Political Contributions" in response to the Attorney General's request with three options for changes:

- (1) monthly or quarterly reporting
- (2) disclosure within 10 business days of receipt
- (3) 24-48 hour reporting ("real time")

s.13

On July 21, 2016, the Premier ordered the Liberal Party to publicly release information every two weeks on the political donations received, starting in January. The information will be updated every 10 business days on the party's website, with the date, donor name and amount. Opposition continues calls for ban to corporate and union donations.

Program Area	Deputy / ADM	GCPE
Tyler Nyvall – Jul 19/16 Nancy Carter – Jul 11/16 Andrea Buzbuzian – July 19/16 Neil Reimer – Jul 26/16	Kurt Sandstrom – Jul 19/16	L. Cascaden – July 19/16 T. Nelson – July 26/16 J. Kuzminski – July 22/16