

Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX

From: Stagg, Linda R GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 2:30 PM
To: Watson, Jason GCPE:EX; Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: And it's across the wire - BC Gov News - Comprehensive reform of political financing system in British Columbia

From: noreply.newsondemand@gov.bc.ca [<mailto:noreply.newsondemand@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 2:25 PM
To: Stagg, Linda R GCPE:EX
Subject: BC Gov News - Comprehensive reform of political financing system in British Columbia

For Immediate Release
2017JAG0009-001257
June 26, 2017

Ministry of Justice

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Comprehensive reform of political financing system in British Columbia

VICTORIA - The Government of British Columbia introduced legislation for comprehensive reforms to the province's election financing system.

The proposed Election Amendment Act, 2017 would set annual contribution limits, require "real-time" disclosure of donations, and ensure greater transparency and accountability of political parties and candidates to the public.

Key changes that place limits on political contributions include:

- * A ban on corporate and union donations, including donations in kind, to political parties, their candidates and constituency associations.
- * A ban on foreign donations, with the requirement that only individuals residing in British Columbia and who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents are eligible to donate.
- * A maximum annual contribution limit of \$2,500 for individuals to any one political party, and up to \$2,500 to a party's candidates and constituency associations (for a total allowable annual limit of \$5,000 per year).
- * Loans and guarantees to political parties and candidates must be only by a Canadian chartered bank or credit union at a fair rate of interest.

The proposed legislation includes a broader range of legislative measures that are aimed at creating a level playing field between political parties and third parties who sponsor election communications by applying the same rules. The amendments would regulate third party activities beyond paid advertising to include paid canvassing, direct mail and broadcasting opinion poll results if carried out on a paid commercial basis. Other measures include:

- * Contributions to third parties will be limited to eligible individuals and limited to \$2,500 per calendar year.
- * Third party sponsors who raise more than \$10,000 will be required to open a dedicated account at a financial institution for deposits and expenses.
- * Sponsors who spend more than \$10,000 on elections communications activities will require an audited disclosure report.

These reforms build on a similar bill that was introduced in March 2017, which included the following amendments:

- * Lowering the threshold for reporting political contributions from a single contributor to \$100 (currently it is \$250).
- * Reporting contributions by major political parties, candidates and constituency associations within 14 days of their deposit, including the nature of the contribution, whether it is a donation or a ticket charge or sponsorship at a fundraising function.
- * Posting fundraising functions on the political party's website within five days of the event.
- * A penalty of \$10,000 for failing to publish fundraising information as required.
- * Giving the chief electoral officer authority to publish disclosure reports and other financing reports online.

Quick Facts:

- * British Columbia would become, along with Ontario, the only two Canadian jurisdictions that require "real-time" reporting of political contributions.
- * British Columbia has spending limits on parties during election campaign periods, regardless of how much parties raise. In the last election, it was \$4.6 million for political parties and \$73,000 for candidates.
- * British Columbia's current electoral financing system has largely been in place since 1996.

Contact:

Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Justice
250 213-3602

► [READ MORE](#)

Government Operations, Justice

Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX

From: Lafrance, Martyn JAG:EX
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 2:01 PM
To: Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: Election Amendment Act, 2017 - Coms materials for review
Attachments: JSB - IB - Election Act - 26JUNE17 Draft.docx

As discussed, please post IB to the news room. Thx.

M

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

INFORMATION BULLETIN

[release number]
June 26, 2017

Ministry of Justice

Comprehensive reform of political financing system in B.C.

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- A ban on foreign donations, with the requirement that only individuals resident in B.C. and who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents are eligible to donate
- A maximum annual contribution limit of \$2,500 for individuals to any one political party, and up to \$2,500 to a party's candidates and constituency associations (for a total allowable annual limit of \$5,000 per year)
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The proposed legislation includes a broader range of legislative measures that are aimed at creating a level playing field between political parties and third parties who sponsor election communications by applying the same rules. The amendments would regulate third party activities beyond paid advertising to include paid canvassing, direct mail and broadcasting opinion poll results if carried out on a paid commercial basis. Other measures include:

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Quick Facts:

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- B.C. has spending limits on parties during election campaign periods, regardless of how much parties raise. In the last election, it was \$4.6 million for political parties and \$73,000 for candidates.
- B.C.’s current electoral financing system has largely been in place since 1996.

Contacts:

Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Justice
250 213-3602

Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX

From: Watson, Jason GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 1:28 PM
To: Carruthers, Dana GCPE:EX
Cc: Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX; Stagg, Linda R GCPE:EX; Chant, Jon GCPE:EX; Kerr, Grant GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Should be final - approved copy - Comprehensive reform of political financing system in British Columbia

Hi Dana,

I spoke with Kuzminski who confirmed that Matt approved this IB release via txt message.

I will send you all a "green light" message when this is ready for distribution, based on what is happening in the house etc.

Thank you!
Jason

Jason Watson
Communications Manager
Ministry of Justice and Attorney General Tel. 250-387-5009
Cell: 250-812-6531
Jason.Watson@gov.bc.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: Carruthers, Dana GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 12:57 PM
To: Watson, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX; Stagg, Linda R GCPE:EX; Chant, Jon GCPE:EX; Kerr, Grant GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: Should be final - approved copy - Comprehensive reform of political financing system in British Columbia

Hi Jason,

Here is your numbered and ready to go IB - we are just awaiting the final approval for distribution from Matt Gordon.

We will queue to go at your signal (or if not you please advise who will be giving green light) when introduced in the house (approx. 2 p.m. today) province wide including all ethnic media

I may be in transit so please cc all on the email when you are providing the good-to-go.
If I cannot get to this, one of the other editors will gladly "push the buttons" to make this go out.

Please call me at 250.953-4339 should you have any questions.

Have a great day!
~Dana

-----Original Message-----

From: Carruthers, Dana GCPE:EX [mailto:Dana.Carruthers@gov.bc.ca]

Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 12:50 PM
To: Carruthers, Dana GCPE:EX
Subject: Comprehensive reform of political financing system in British Columbia

Please refer to the files attached to this email. The following is the summary of the News Release

Permalink: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/14939>

News ID: NEWS-14939

NR Number: 2017JAG0009-001257

NR Type: Information Bulletin

State: Planned

Planned Release Date: June 26, 2017 at 2:00 pm Media Distribution Lists: 000.0 - Victoria, BUSIN_BUSINESS, ETHALL_ALL
ETHNIC, LEGIS_PRESS GALLERY, MEDIA, PROVI_PROVINCE WIDE Lead Organization: Ministry of Justice

Headline: Comprehensive reform of political financing system in British Columbia

This email was auto-generated.

For Immediate Release

2017JAG0009-001257

June 26, 2017

Ministry of Justice

INFORMATION BULLETIN

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- * British Columbia's current electoral financing system has largely been in place since 1996.

Contact:

Government Communications and Public Engagement Ministry of Justice
250 213-3602

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect

Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX

From: Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 12:57 PM
To: Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: Blue curtain

MO is telling me that MAW will do an avail for the Election Amendment Act, 2017 after it is introduced this afternoon.

The CoS asked me to clarify with you if someone from Karen van Marum's shop will be there to record and manage the avail.

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

Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX

From: Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX
Sent: Sunday, June 25, 2017 9:35 AM
To: Fraser, John Paul GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Cc: Watson, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: IB

MO confirmed that the last draft of the IB is approved and good to go when the legislation is introduced.

J

Sent from my iPhone

Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX

From: Lafrance, Martyn JAG:EX
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 5:33 PM
To: Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Election Amendment Act

Looks like Monday. Still looking for sign-off of products.

M

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

Original Message

From: Lafrance, Martyn JAG:EX
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 5:23 PM
To: Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Election Amendment Act

Not yet...

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

Original Message

From: Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 4:31 PM
To: Lafrance, Martyn JAG:EX
Subject: Election Amendment Act

Any word on when this will be introduced? Looking for a little lead notice so we can queue things up with the editors.

Sent from my iPhone

Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX

From: Watson, Jason GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 1:44 PM
To: Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Bianco, Catherine GCPE:EX
Subject: El ction Act - Coms materials for review
Attachments: JSB - IB - Election Act - 26JUNE17 Draft.docx; QA - Election Act - 23JUNE17 DRAFT.docx

Here are the latest materials, ready for MO review.

The QA has been updated based on Reimer's comments, the IB is the same version that you sent to HQ this afternoon.

Thanks,
JW

INFORMATION BULLETIN

[release number]
June 26, 2017

Ministry of Justice

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Contacts:

Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Justice
250 213-3602

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Election Act

Q1. Why this change from the position the Liberals had three months ago?

- During the May election, we heard a lot from voters in all 87 ridings in B.C. to suggest it was time to move ahead with this.
- So that's exactly what we're proposing to do: we're getting on with it and are proposing a ban on corporate and union donations, as well as a cap on individual donations.

Q2. But why now? Why rush the legislation?

- Any political party has to be prepared to listen and to learn.
- Based on what we heard during the election, it was apparent that voters support these changes.
- The Throne Speech reflected what we learned from British Columbians.
- We have embraced what we heard and decided to get on with the changes and decisively deal with campaign finance reform.

Q3. Have you dropped the independent review panel that was proposed back in March?

- Before the election, we said we'd refer this matter to an expert arms-length panel.
- During the election, we heard about this from a lot of voters, who strongly suggested it was simply time to move the idea forward – that using an expert panel was not going to get the job done quickly.

Q4. Previously, Christy Clark was quoted as saying politicians have too much self-interest to make these changes. What's changed for now?

- Again, we listened to the voters – we heard what they wanted – and we've moved forward to meet their expectations.
- We're reflecting the sentiment of British Columbians that it's time to change the way political parties are financed.

Q5. You've gone into new territory by regulating activities beyond paid advertising – why?

- We wanted to create a level playing field between political parties and third parties who sponsor election communications.
- With these changes, the rules will apply to third parties.

Q6. Does this legislation restrict how organizations can raise funds for their activities?

- The bill does not make any changes to general fundraising by organizations.

CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO MINISTER - June 23, 2017 (DRAFT)

- The bill only affects contributions and expenses by third parties that are specifically for the purpose of engaging in election communications activities such as advertising and paid canvassing.
- For those activities, the bill provides for greater transparency over third party activities, and prohibits foreign and corporate donations from being used to influence B.C. elections.

Q7. When will these amendments be in force?

- The amendments affecting political contributions and election communications sponsors will come into force immediately. The amendments respecting 14-day disclosure reporting will come into force via regulation to allow time for Elections BC to make system changes.

Q8. What does that mean – will they be in effect in six months or next year?

- The effective date of the regulation will be dependent on when Elections BC is in a position to receive the new contribution disclosure reports.
- I don't have an exact timeframe right now.

Q9. What if there's an election held in the near future? Do all the new rules apply?

- The changes respecting political contributions to political parties and candidates would apply to an election, no matter when it's called.
- The changes respecting third party election communications sponsors would not apply to an election that is held within six months, unless the Chief Electoral Officer decides that they do apply. He has that authority under the Act.

Q10. So everyone is required to start living under the new rules, but the new rules are suspended if an election is held within six months?

- Only for third party election communications sponsors.
- They should begin to observe the new rules respecting contributions they receive for the purpose of sponsoring election communications. It would be up to the CEO to determine if those new rules would be suspended if an election is called within six months.

Q11. How much is this going to cost?

- Elections BC estimates the costs of administering the new disclosure provisions as \$250,000 in capital, \$150,000 in annual costs and \$25,000 in one-time implementation.

Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX

From: Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 12:45 PM
To: Fraser, John Paul GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX
Cc: Watson, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: JSB - IB - Election Act - 26JUNE17 Draft
Attachments: JSB - IB - Election Act - 26JUNE17 Draft.docx

Neil Reimer has gotten back to me with his advice on content. Please swap this with the version I sent you.

The two noteworthy changes are the deletion of the bullet on federal party transfers to provincial parties (which is already in the existing Act) and the sentence at the end about these provision applying to municipal political parties. That was referenced in the Throne Speech, but those changes would have to be dealt with in another Bill.

INFORMATION BULLETIN

[release number]

June 26, 2017

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Contacts:

Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Justice
250 213-3602

Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX

From: Reimer, Neil JAG:EX
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 12:36 PM
To: Watson, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX; Bianco, Catherine GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Election Act - Coms materials for review
Attachments: JSB - IB - Election Act - 26JUNE17 Draft.docx; QA - Election Act - 23JUNE17 DRAFT.docx

See my suggestions and comments.

From: Watson, Jason GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 11:05 AM
To: Reimer, Neil JAG:EX
Cc: Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX; Bianco, Catherine GCPE:EX
Subject: Election Act - Coms materials for review
Importance: High

Hi Neil,

Please see attached for review, we have done an Info Bulletin and QA in anticipation of potential legislation to be introduced next week.... QA responses are reflective of recent comments by AG.

Do you have the time for a quick review and feedback over the next few hours? We aim to get these to MO by 2:00 today, so they have a chance to review.

Thank you!
Jason

Jason Watson
Communications Manager
Ministry of Justice and Attorney General
Tel. 250-387-5009
Cell: 250-812-6531
Jason.Watson@gov.bc.ca

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- A maximum annual contribution limit of \$2,500 for individuals to any one political party, and up to \$2,500 to a party's candidates ~~or~~ and constituency associations (for a total allowable annual limit of \$5,000 per year)
- ~~Banning funding to a provincial political party from a federal political party~~
- Loans and guarantees to political parties and candidates must be only by a Canadian chartered bank or credit union at a fair rate of interest.

Comment [NSR1]: The Act already bans this so the bill doesn't make any change here.

The proposed legislation includes a broader range of legislative measures that are aimed at creating a level playing field between political parties and third parties who sponsor election communications by applying the same rules. The amendments would enable Elections BC to regulate third party activities beyond paid advertising to, including paid canvassing, direct mail and broadcasting opinion poll results if carried out on a paid commercial basis. ~~Other~~ measures include:

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- A penalty of \$10,000 for failing to publish fundraising information as required
- Giving the Chief Electoral Officer authority to publish disclosure reports and other financing reports online.

These reforms in the proposed legislation will also apply to local government candidates and political parties.

Comment [NSR2]: No, this is wrong. The amendments only apply to provincial entities

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CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO MINISTER

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS Election Act

Q1. Why this change from the position the Liberals had three months ago?

- During the May election, we heard a lot from voters in all 87 ridings in B.C. to suggest it was time to move ahead with this.
- So that's exactly what we're proposing to do: we're getting on with it and are proposing a ban on corporate and union donations, as well as a cap on individual donations.

Q2. But why now? Why rush the legislation?

- Any political party has to be prepared to listen and to learn.
- That's what we did during the election.
- The Throne Speech reflected what we learned from British Columbians.
- We have embraced what we heard and decided to get on with the changes.

Q3. Have you dropped the independent review panel that was proposed back in March?

- Before the election, we said we'd refer this matter to an expert arms-length panel.
- During the election, we heard about this from a lot of voters, who strongly suggested it was simply time to move the idea forward – that using an expert panel was not going to get the job done quickly.

Q4. Previously, Christy Clark was quoted as saying politicians have too much self-interest to make these changes. What's changed for now?

- Again, we listened to the voters – we heard what they wanted – and we've moved forward to meet their expectations.
- We're reflecting the sentiment of British Columbians that it's time to change the way political parties are financed.

Q5. But why now, when you're likely facing a confidence motion this week?

- Based on what we heard, it was apparent that voters support these changes.
- We knew it was time to decisively deal with campaign finance reform.

Q6. You've gone into new territory by regulating activities beyond paid advertising – why?

- It's the right thing to do.

Q7. Does this legislation restrict how organizations can raise funds for their activities?

- The bill does not make any changes to general fundraising by organizations.
- The bill only affects contributions and expenses by third parties that are specifically for the purpose of engaging in election communications activities: advertising, paid canvassing, etc.

CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO MINISTER

- For those activities, the bill provides for greater transparency over third party activities, and prohibits foreign and corporate donations from being used to influence B.C. elections.

•

Q8. The legislation says these reforms will apply to local government candidates and political parties. How will that work? How will it work in Vancouver with its charter?

- TBD

Q9. When will these amendments be in force?

- The amendments affecting political contributions and election communications sponsors will come into force immediately. The amendments respecting 14-day disclosure reporting will come into force via regulation to allow time for Elections BC to make system changes.

Q10. What does that mean – will they be in effect in six months or next year?

- The effective date of the regulation will be dependent on when Elections BC is in a position to receive the new contribution disclosure reports.
- I don't have an exact timeframe right now.

Q11. What if there's an election held in the near future? Do all the new rules apply?

- The changes respecting political contributions to political parties and candidates would apply to an election, no matter when it's called.
- The changes respecting third party election communications sponsors would not apply to an election that is held within six months, unless the Chief Electoral Officer makes a decision that they do apply. He has that authority under the Act.

Q12. That sounds confusing. So everyone is required to start living under the new rules, but the new rules are suspended if an election is held within six months?

- Only for third party election communications sponsors.
- They should begin to observe the new rules respecting contributions they receive for the purpose of sponsoring election communications. It would be up to the CEO to determine if those new rules would be suspended if an election is called within six months.

Q13. How much is this going to cost?

- Elections BC estimates the costs of administering the new disclosure provisions as \$250,000 in capital, \$150,000 in annual costs and \$25,000 in one-time implementation.

Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX

From: Watson, Jason GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 11:05 AM
To: Reimer, Neil JAG:EX
Cc: Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX; Bianco, Catherine GCPE:EX
Subject: Election Act - Coms materials for review
Attachments: QA - Election Act - 23JUNE17 DRAFT.docx; JSB - IB - Election Act - 26JUNE17 Draft.docx

Importance: High

Hi Neil,

Please see attached for review, we have done an Info Bulletin and QA in anticipation of potential legislation to be introduced next week.... QA responses are reflective of recent comments by AG.

Do you have the time for a quick review and feedback over the next few hours? We aim to get these to MO by 2:00 today, so they have a chance to review.

Thank you!
Jason

Jason Watson
Communications Manager
Ministry of Justice and Attorney General
Tel. 250-387-5009
Cell: 250-812-6531
Jason.Watson@gov.bc.ca

INFORMATION BULLETIN

[release number]
June 26, 2017

Ministry of Justice

Comprehensive reform of political financing system in B.C.

VICTORIA – The Government of British Columbia introduced legislation for comprehensive reforms to the province's electoral financing system. The proposed *Election Amendment Act, 2017* would set annual contribution limits, require "real-time" disclosure of donations, and ensure greater transparency and accountability of political parties and candidates to the public.

Key changes that place limits on political contributions include:

- A ban on corporate and union donations, including donations in kind, to political parties, their candidates and constituency associations
- A ban on foreign donations, with the requirement that only individuals resident in B.C. and who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents are eligible to donate
- A maximum annual contribution limit of \$2,500 for individuals to any one political party, and up to \$2,500 to a candidate or constituency association (for a total allowable annual limit of \$5,000 per year)
- Banning funding to a provincial political party from a federal political party
- Loans and guarantees to political parties and candidates must be only by a Canadian chartered bank or credit union at a fair rate of interest.

The proposed legislation includes a broader range of legislative measures that are aimed at creating a level playing field between political parties and third parties who sponsor election communications by applying the same rules. The amendments would enable Elections BC to regulate third party activities beyond paid advertising, including paid canvassing, direct mail and broadcasting opinion poll results if carried out on a paid commercial basis – measures include:

- Contributions to third parties will be limited to eligible individuals and limited to \$2,500 per calendar year
- Third party sponsors who raise more than \$10,000 will be required to open a dedicated account at a financial institution for deposits and expenses
- Sponsors who spend more than \$10,000 on elections communications activities will require an audited disclosure report

These reforms build on a similar bill that was introduced in March 2017, which included the following amendments:

- Lowering the threshold for reporting political contributions from a single contributor to \$100 (currently it is \$250)
- Reporting contributions to major political parties, candidates and constituency associations within 14 days of their deposit, including the nature of the contribution whether it is a donation, a ticketed-event or a sponsorship
- Posting fundraising functions on the political party's web-site within 5 days of the event
- A penalty of \$10,000 for failing to publish fundraising information as required

- Giving the Chief Electoral Officer authority to publish disclosure reports and other financing reports online.

These reforms in the proposed legislation will also apply to local government candidates and political parties.

Quick Facts:

- British Columbia would become, along with Ontario, the only Canadian jurisdictions that require real time reporting of political contributions.
- B.C. has spending limits on parties during election campaign periods, regardless of how much parties raise. In the last election, it was \$4.6 million for political parties and \$73,000 for candidates.
- B.C.'s current electoral financing system has largely been in place since 1996.

Contacts:

Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Justice
250 213-3602

CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO MINISTER

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS Election Act

Q1. Why this change from the position the Liberals had three months ago?

- During the May election, we heard a lot from voters in all 87 ridings in B.C. to suggest it was time to move ahead with this.
- So that's exactly what we're proposing to do: we're getting on with it and are proposing a ban on corporate and union donations, as well as a cap on individual donations.

Q2. But why now? Why rush the legislation?

- Any political party has to be prepared to listen and to learn.
- That's what we did during the election.
- The Throne Speech reflected what we learned from British Columbians.
- We have embraced what we heard and decided to get on with the changes.

Q3. Have you dropped the independent review panel that was proposed back in March?

- Before the election, we said we'd refer this matter to an expert arms-length panel.
- During the election, we heard about this from a lot of voters, who strongly suggested it was simply time to move the idea forward – that using an expert panel was not going to get the job done quickly.

Q4. Previously, Christy Clark was quoted as saying politicians have too much self-interest to make these changes. What's changed for now?

- Again, we listened to the voters – we heard what they wanted – and we've moved forward to meet their expectations.
- We're reflecting the sentiment of British Columbians that it's time to change the way political parties are financed.

Q5. But why now, when you're likely facing a confidence motion this week?

- Based on what we heard, it was apparent that voters support these changes.
- We knew it was time to decisively deal with campaign finance reform.

Q6. You've gone into new territory by regulating activities beyond paid advertising – why?

- It's the right thing to do.

Q7. The legislation says these reforms will apply to local government candidates and political parties. How will that work? How will it work in Vancouver with its charter?

- TBD

Q8. When will these amendments be in force?

CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO MINISTER

- The amendments will come into force via regulation to allow time for Elections BC to make system changes.

Q9. What does that mean – will they be in effect in six months or next year?

- I don't have an exact timeframe right now.
- Work still has to be done on the regulations.

Q10. How much is this going to cost?

- Elections BC estimates the costs of administering the new disclosure provisions as \$250,000 in capital, \$150,000 in annual costs and \$25,000 in one-time implementation.

Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX

From: Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2017 5:29 PM
To: Watson, Jason GCPE:EX; Bianco, Catherine GCPE:EX
Subject: JSB - NR - Election Act - 22JUNE17 JKDRAFT
Attachments: JSB - NR - Election Act - 22JUNE17 JKDRAFT.docx

Here is my cut at the draft for this. Need quotes.

NEWS RELEASE

[release number]
June xx, 2017

Ministry of Justice

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Quick Facts:

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- B.C.'s current electoral financing system has largely been in place since 1996.

Contacts:

Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Justice
250 213-3602

From: [BC News On Demand GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Carruthers, Dana GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: BC Gov News - Comprehensive reform of political financing system in British Columbia
Date: Monday, June 26, 2017 2:24:30 PM

For Immediate Release
2017JAG0009-001257
June 26, 2017

Ministry of Justice

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Contact:

Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Justice
250 213-3602

[READ MORE](#)

Government Operations, Justice

From: [BC News On Demand GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Carruthers, Dana GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: BCNews - Daily Digest
Date: Monday, June 26, 2017 5:00:31 PM



Comprehensive reform of political financing system in British Columbia

The Government of British Columbia introduced legislation for comprehensive reforms to the province's election financing system.

[READ MORE](#)

Government Operations, Justice

Softwood Lumber: Preliminary anti-dumping duty rate announced

Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations John Rustad has issued the following statement in response to the U.S. Department of Commerce preliminary determination of anti-dumping duties of 6.87% to be applied to the majority of Canadian softwood lumber shipments entering the U.S.

[READ MORE](#)

Economy, Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Government Operations

Southeast Fire Centre urges caution with open burning

The BC Wildfire Service is reminding the public that a Category 3 fire prohibition is in place throughout the Southeast Fire Centre's jurisdiction. As weather conditions get drier and hotter, people are urged to use extreme caution while conducting any outdoor burning activities.

[READ MORE](#)

Economy, Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Services

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Please do not respond to this message

From: [Carruthers, Dana GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Carruthers, Dana GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: Comprehensive reform of political financing system in British Columbia
Date: Monday, June 26, 2017 1:26:20 PM
Attachments: [2017JAG0009-001257.pdf](#)

Please refer to the files attached to this email. The following is the summary of the News Release

Permalink: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/14939>

News ID: NEWS-14939

NR Number: 2017JAG0009-001257

NR Type: Information Bulletin

State: Planned

Planned Release Date: June 26, 2017 at 2:00 pm

Media Distribution Lists: 000.0 - Victoria, BUSIN_BUSINESS, ETHALL_ALL ETHNIC, LEGIS_PRESS GALLERY, MEDIA, PROVI_PROVINCE WIDE

Lead Organization: Ministry of Justice

Headline: Comprehensive reform of political financing system in British Columbia

This email was auto-generated.

For Immediate Release

2017JAG0009-001257

June 26, 2017

Ministry of Justice

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Contact:

Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Justice
250 213-3602

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect

From: [Carruthers, Dana GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Watson, Jason GCPE:EX](#)
Cc: [Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX](#); [Stagg, Linda R GCPE:EX](#); [Chant, Jon GCPE:EX](#); [Kerr, Grant GCPE:EX](#); [Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: For final review/approval - Comprehensive reform of political financing system in British Columbia
Date: Monday, June 26, 2017 9:41:00 AM
Attachments: [DRAFT.pdf](#)

Hi Jason,

Here is your IB for final review and approval - if we can get Matt Gordon to approve as well that would be great!

Once approved we will queue to go at your signal when introduced (approx. 2 p.m. today) province wide including all ethnic media

Please call me at 250 953-4339 with any edits.

Thank you,
Dana

-----Original Message-----

From: Carruthers, Dana GCPE:EX [<mailto:Dana.Carruthers@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 9:40 AM
To: Carruthers, Dana GCPE:EX
Subject: DRAFT: Comprehensive reform of political financing system in British Columbia

Please refer to the files attached to this email. The following is the summary of the News Release

NR Number: Not Approved
NR Type: Information Bulletin
State: Planned
Planned Release Date: June 26, 2017 at 2:00 pm
Media Distribution Lists: 000.0 - Victoria, ETHALL_ALL ETHNIC, LEGIS_PRESS GALLERY, MEDIA, PROVI_PROVINCE WIDE
No Lead Organization
Headline: Comprehensive reform of political financing system in British Columbia

This email was auto-generated.

Not Approved
June 26, 2017

Ministry of Justice

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Contact:

Government Communications and Public Engagement Ministry of Justice
250 213-3602

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect

From: [Stagg, Linda R GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Alaimo, Marie GCPE:EX](#); [Carruthers, Dana GCPE:EX](#); [Chawrun, Jessica GCPE:EX](#); [Cordeiro, Shantel GCPE:EX](#); [Karn, David GCPE:EX](#); [Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX](#); [Glover, Hannah GCPE:EX](#); [Howard, Chelsea GCPE:EX](#); [Fraser, John Paul GCPE:EX](#); [Chant, Jon GCPE:EX](#); [van Marum, Karen GCPE:EX](#); [Kerr, Carleen GCPE:EX](#); [Kerr, Grant GCPE:EX](#); [Koolsbergen, Nick LASS:EX](#); [Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX](#); [McCray, Lindsay GCPE:EX](#); [Bajwa, Pavan GCPE:EX](#); [Platts, Robin GCPE:EX](#); [Roberts, Michelle J GCPE:EX](#); [Stagg, Linda R GCPE:EX](#); [Walton, Clare GCPE:EX](#); [Wolford, Jessica PREM:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Info Bulletin to go Now to MEDIA, LEGIS, PROVI, All Ethnic
Date: Monday, June 26, 2017 2:13:09 PM
Attachments: [2017JAG0009-001257.pdf](#)

For Immediate Release
2017JAG0009-001257
June 30, 2017

Ministry of Justice

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Contact:

Government Communications and Public Engagement Ministry of Justice
250 213-3602

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect

From: [Watson, Jason GCPE:EX](#)
To: [GCPE Editors](#)
Subject: IB for today - Election Amendment Act : JAG-80986
Date: Monday, June 26, 2017 9:15:36 AM
Attachments: [JSB - IB - Election Act - 26JUNE17.docx](#)

Please find attached the final approved IB for Election Amendment Act : JAG-80986

For distribution provincewide and to ethnic media at around 2:00 p.m.

We expect that this legislation will be introduced this afternoon at 2:00.... I will confirm when this is ready for distribution/posting.

Thanks!

Jason

Jason Watson

Communications Manager

Ministry of Justice and Attorney General

Tel. 250-387-5009

Cell: 250-812-6531

Jason.Watson@gov.bc.ca

From: [Stagg, Linda R GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Alaimo, Marie GCPE:EX](#); [Carruthers, Dana GCPE:EX](#); [Chawrun, Jessica GCPE:EX](#); [Cordeiro, Shantel GCPE:EX](#); [Karn, David GCPE:EX](#); [Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX](#); [Glover, Hannah GCPE:EX](#); [Howard, Chelsea GCPE:EX](#); [Fraser, John Paul GCPE:EX](#); [Chant, Jon GCPE:EX](#); [van Marum, Karen GCPE:EX](#); [Kerr, Carleen GCPE:EX](#); [Kerr, Grant GCPE:EX](#); [Koolsbergen, Nick LASS:EX](#); [Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX](#); [McCray, Lindsay GCPE:EX](#); [Bajwa, Pavan GCPE:EX](#); [Platts, Robin GCPE:EX](#); [Roberts, Michelle J GCPE:EX](#); [Stagg, Linda R GCPE:EX](#); [Walton, Clare GCPE:EX](#); [Wolford, Jessica PREM:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Info Bulletin to go Now to MEDIA, LEGIS, PROVI, All Ethnic
Date: Monday, June 26, 2017 2:13:10 PM
Attachments: [2017JAG0009-001257.pdf](#)

For Immediate Release
2017JAG0009-001257
June 30, 2017

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* British Columbia's current electoral financing system has largely been in place since 1996.

Contact:

Government Communications and Public Engagement Ministry of Justice
250 213-3602

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect

From: [Carruthers, Dana GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Stagg, Linda R GCPE:EX](#)
Cc: [Chant, Jon GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: Jason calling Jon -
Date: Monday, June 26, 2017 2:11:37 PM
Importance: High

The IB is a green light but is a verbal, really glad I didn't delete it!

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: [Watson, Jason GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Carruthers, Dana GCPE:EX](#)
Cc: [Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX](#); [Stagg, Linda R GCPE:EX](#); [Chant, Jon GCPE:EX](#); [Kerr, Grant GCPE:EX](#); [Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: RE: For final review/approval - Comprehensive reform of political financing system in British Columbia
Date: Monday, June 26, 2017 10:19:00 AM
Attachments: [DRAFT.pdf](#)

Approved, thank you.

Matt: this is the final draft that Kuzminski sent on Sunday, MO confirmed that it is approved and good to go when the legislation is introduced.

Thanks,
Jason

Jason Watson
Communications Manager
Ministry of Justice and Attorney General
Tel. 250-387-5009
Cell: 250-812-6531
Jason.Watson@gov.bc.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: Carruthers, Dana GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 9:42 AM
To: Watson, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX; Stagg, Linda R GCPE:EX; Chant, Jon GCPE:EX; Kerr, Grant GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: For final review/approval - Comprehensive reform of political financing system in British Columbia

Hi Jason,

Here is your IB for final review and approval - if we can get Matt Gordon to approve as well that would be great!

Once approved we will queue to go at your signal when introduced (approx. 2 p.m. today) province wide including all ethnic media

Please call me at 250 953-4339 with any edits.

Thank you,
Dana

-----Original Message-----

From: Carruthers, Dana GCPE:EX [<mailto:Dana.Carruthers@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 9:40 AM
To: Carruthers, Dana GCPE:EX
Subject: DRAFT: Comprehensive reform of political financing system in British Columbia

Please refer to the files attached to this email. The following is the summary of the News Release

NR Number: Not Approved
NR Type: Information Bulletin
State: Planned

Planned Release Date: June 26, 2017 at 2:00 pm

Media Distribution Lists: 000.0 - Victoria, ETHALL_ALL ETHNIC, LEGIS_PRESS GALLERY, MEDIA, PROVI_PROVINCE WIDE

No Lead Organization

Headline: Comprehensive reform of political financing system in British Columbia

This email was auto-generated.

Not Approved

June 26, 2017

Ministry of Justice

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Comprehensive reform of political financing system in British Columbia

VICTORIA - The Government of British Columbia introduced legislation for comprehensive reforms to the province's election financing system.

The proposed Election Amendment Act, 2017 would set annual contribution limits, require "real-time" disclosure of donations, and ensure greater transparency and accountability of political parties and candidates to the public.

Key changes that place limits on political contributions include:

- * A ban on corporate and union donations, including donations in kind, to political parties, their candidates and constituency associations.

- * A ban on foreign donations, with the requirement that only individuals residing in British Columbia and who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents are eligible to donate.

- * A maximum annual contribution limit of \$2,500 for individuals to any one political party, and up to \$2,500 to a party's candidates and constituency associations (for a total allowable annual limit of \$5,000 per year).

- * Loans and guarantees to political parties and candidates must be only by a Canadian chartered bank or credit union at a fair rate of interest.

The proposed legislation includes a broader range of legislative measures that are aimed at creating a level playing field between political parties and third parties who sponsor election communications by applying the same rules. The amendments would regulate third party activities beyond paid advertising to include paid canvassing, direct mail and broadcasting opinion poll results if carried out on a paid commercial basis. Other measures include:

- * Contributions to third parties will be limited to eligible individuals and limited to \$2,500 per calendar year.

- * Third party sponsors who raise more than \$10,000 will be required to open a dedicated account at a financial institution for deposits and expenses.

- * Sponsors who spend more than \$10,000 on elections communications activities will require an audited disclosure report.

These reforms build on a similar bill that was introduced in March 2017, which included the following amendments:

- * Lowering the threshold for reporting political contributions from a single contributor to \$100 (currently it is \$250).

- * Reporting contributions by major political parties, candidates and constituency associations within 14 days of their deposit, including the nature of the contribution, whether it is a donation or a ticket charge or sponsorship at a fundraising function.

- * Posting fundraising functions on the political party's website within five days of the event.
- * A penalty of \$10,000 for failing to publish fundraising information as required.
- * Giving the chief electoral officer authority to publish disclosure reports and other financing reports online.

Quick Facts:

- * British Columbia would become, along with Ontario, the only two Canadian jurisdictions that require "real-time" reporting of political contributions.
- * British Columbia has spending limits on parties during election campaign periods, regardless of how much parties raise. In the last election, it was \$4.6 million for political parties and \$73,000 for candidates.
- * British Columbia's current electoral financing system has largely been in place since 1996.

Contact:

Government Communications and Public Engagement Ministry of Justice
250 213-3602

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect

From: [Stagg, Linda R GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Carruthers, Dana GCPE:EX](#)
Cc: [Chant, Jon GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Sending to NR Caucus list now
Date: Monday, June 26, 2017 2:12:19 PM

Right now

Linda Stagg

Editor, Government Communications and Public Engagement
250 387-4534 | Mobile: 250 882-8673

From: Carruthers, Dana GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 2:12 PM
To: Stagg, Linda R GCPE:EX
Cc: Chant, Jon GCPE:EX
Subject: Jason calling Jon -
Importance: High

The IB is a green light but is a verbal, really glad I didn't delete it!

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: [Watson, Jason GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Carruthers, Dana GCPE:EX](#)
Cc: [Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX](#); [Stagg, Linda R GCPE:EX](#); [Chant, Jon GCPE:EX](#); [Kerr, Grant GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Should be final - approved copy - Comprehensive reform of political financing system in British Columbia
Date: Monday, June 26, 2017 1:28:25 PM

Hi Dana,

I spoke with Kuzminski who confirmed that Matt approved this IB release via txt message.

I will send you all a "green light" message when this is ready for distribution, based on what is happening in the house etc.

Thank you!
Jason

Jason Watson
Communications Manager
Ministry of Justice and Attorney General
Tel. 250-387-5009
Cell: 250-812-6531
Jason.Watson@gov.bc.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: Carruthers, Dana GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 12:57 PM
To: Watson, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX; Stagg, Linda R GCPE:EX; Chant, Jon GCPE:EX; Kerr, Grant GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: Should be final - approved copy - Comprehensive reform of political financing system in British Columbia

Hi Jason,

Here is your numbered and ready to go IB - we are just awaiting the final approval for distribution from Matt Gordon.

We will queue to go at your signal (or if not you please advise who will be giving green light) when introduced in the house (approx. 2 p.m. today) province wide including all ethnic media

I may be in transit so please cc all on the email when you are providing the good-to-go.
If I cannot get to this, one of the other editors will gladly "push the buttons" to make this go out.

Please call me at 250 953-4339 should you have any questions.

Have a great day!
~Dana

-----Original Message-----

From: Carruthers, Dana GCPE:EX [<mailto:Dana.Carruthers@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 12:50 PM
To: Carruthers, Dana GCPE:EX
Subject: Comprehensive reform of political financing system in British Columbia

Please refer to the files attached to this email. The following is the summary of the News Release

Permalink: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/14939>

News ID: NEWS-14939

NR Number: 2017JAG0009-001257

NR Type: Information Bulletin

State: Planned

Planned Release Date: June 26, 2017 at 2:00 pm

Media Distribution Lists: 000.0 - Victoria, BUSIN_BUSINESS, ETHALL_ALL ETHNIC, LEGIS_PRESS GALLERY, MEDIA, PROVI_PROVINCE WIDE

Lead Organization: Ministry of Justice

Headline: Comprehensive reform of political financing system in British Columbia

This email was auto-generated.

For Immediate Release

2017JAG0009-001257

June 26, 2017

Ministry of Justice

INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Contact:

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250 213-3602

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