

Fisher, Samara FIN:EX

From: Lafrance, Martyn JAG:EX
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 9:38 AM
To: Fisher, Samara FIN:EX
Subject: JAG FOI request - email 3
Attachments: JSB - IB - Election Act - 26JUNE17 Draft.docx

Please find below an email in connection with the following FOI request:

Regarding the news release of June 26, 2017 - 2017JAG0009-001257 - Comprehensive reform of political financing system in British Columbia: Records about the scheduling of the news release, and the conception, writing, editing, proofreading, production, approvals and publication of the news release. (Date Range for Record Search: From 06/01/2017 To 06/26/2017). (PLEASE SEE ATTACHED NEWS RELEASE FOR MORE INFORMATION).

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

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

M

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

Fisher, Samara FIN:EX

From: Lafrance, Martyn JAG:EX
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 9:35 AM
To: Fisher, Samara FIN:EX
Subject: JAG FOI request - email 2

Please find below an email in connection with the following FOI request:

Regarding the news release of June 26, 2017 - 2017JAG0009-001257 - Comprehensive reform of political financing system in British Columbia: Records about the scheduling of the news release, and the conception, writing, editing, proofreading, production, approvals and publication of the news release. (Date Range for Record Search: From 06/01/2017 To 06/26/2017). (PLEASE SEE ATTACHED NEWS RELEASE FOR MORE INFORMATION).

From: Wolford, Jessica PREM:EX
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 1:56 PM
To: Lafrance, Martyn JAG:EX
Cc: Southern, Evan PREM:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX; Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX; Allison, Brittany JAG:EX
Subject: Re: DRAFT: s.12,s.14 - Coms materials for review

It should be posted so public can see what is in the bill

On Jun 26, 2017, at 1:55 PM, Lafrance, Martyn JAG:EX <Martyn.Lafrance@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

As in issue to media?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Wolford, Jessica PREM:EX
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 1:54 PM
To: Lafrance, Martyn JAG:EX
Cc: Southern, Evan PREM:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX; Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX; Allison, Brittany JAG:EX
Subject: Re: DRAFT: s.12,s.14 - Coms materials for review

IB is good to go

From: Wolford, Jessica PREM:EX
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 9:42 AM
To: Lafrance, Martyn JAG:EX; Southern, Evan PREM:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX; Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX
Subject: RE: DRAFT: s.12,s.14 - Coms materials for review

Hi Martyn,

Can you please send me your kms on this?

From: Lafrance, Martyn JAG:EX
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 5:56 PM
To: Southern, Evan PREM:EX; Welford, Jessica PREM:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX; Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX
Subject: DRAFT: s.12,s.14 - Coms materials for review

Attached is an IB and QAs for introduction of s.12,s.14
s.12,s.14

s.12,s.14 s.13
s.13

M

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

Fisher, Samara FIN:EX

From: Lafrance, Martyn JAG:EX
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 9:29 AM
To: Fisher, Samara FIN:EX
Subject: JAG FOI request - email 1
Attachments: JSB - IB - Election Act - 26JUNE17 Draft.docx

Please find attached a record in connection with the following FOI request:

Regarding the news release of June 26, 2017 - 2017JAG0009-001257 - Comprehensive reform of political financing system in British Columbia: Records about the scheduling of the news release, and the conception, writing, editing, proofreading, production, approvals and publication of the news release. (Date Range for Record Search: From 06/01/2017 To 06/26/2017). (PLEASE SEE ATTACHED NEWS RELEASE FOR MORE INFORMATION).

From: Lafrance, Martyn JAG:EX
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 11:36 AM
To: Allison, Brittany JAG:EX
Cc: Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: Please print 3 copies of this IB and deliver to me in Cab room.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

Fisher, Samara FIN:EX

From: Lafrance, Martyn JAG:EX
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 10:56 AM
To: Fisher, Samara FIN:EX
Subject: JAG FOI request - email 8

Please find below an email in connection with the following FOI request:

Regarding the news release of June 26, 2017 - 2017JAG0009-001257 - Comprehensive reform of political financing system in British Columbia: Records about the scheduling of the news release, and the conception, writing, editing, proofreading, production, approvals and publication of the news release. (Date Range for Record Search: From 06/01/2017 To 06/26/2017). (PLEASE SEE ATTACHED NEWS RELEASE FOR MORE INFORMATION).

From: Wolford, Jessica PREM:EX
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 10:40 AM
To: Lafrance, Martyn JAG:EX; Southern, Evan PREM:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX; Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX
Cc: Allison, Brittany JAG:EX
Subject: RE: DRAFT: s.12,s.14
s.12,s.13,s.14

· Coms materials for review

From: Lafrance, Martyn JAG:EX
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 10:29 AM
To: Wolford, Jessica PREM:EX; Southern, Evan PREM:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX; Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX
Cc: Allison, Brittany JAG:EX
Subject: RE: DRAFT: s.12,s.14

· Coms materials for review

Let me know when messaging has been signed off, or if any changes are required. Our office is working on a NYCU but I don't want to send it to Jen for distribution post introduction until I know everyone is comfortable with the messaging. Thx.

M

Fisher, Samara FIN:EX

From: Lafrance, Martyn JAG:EX
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 10:54 AM
To: Fisher, Samara FIN:EX
Subject: JAG FOI request - email 6

Please find below an email in connection with the following FOI request:

Regarding the news release of June 26, 2017 - 2017JAG0009-001257 - Comprehensive reform of political financing system in British Columbia: Records about the scheduling of the news release, and the conception, writing, editing, proofreading, production, approvals and publication of the news release. (Date Range for Record Search: From 06/01/2017 To 06/26/2017). (PLEASE SEE ATTACHED NEWS RELEASE FOR MORE INFORMATION).

From: Chin, Ben PREM:EX
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 8:31 PM
To: Lafrance, Martyn JAG:EX; Southern, Evan PREM:EX; Wolford, Jessica PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX; Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX
Subject: Re: DRAFT:s.12,s.14 - Coms materials for review
Great. Thank you very much Marty

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Lafrance, Martyn JAG:EX
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 7:18 PM
To: Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Southern, Evan PREM:EX; Wolford, Jessica PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX; Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX
Subject: Re: DRAFT: s.12,s.14 - Coms materials for review

s.12,s.14

s.12,s.13,s.14

M

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Chin, Ben PREM:EX
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 6:28 PM
To: Lafrance, Martyn JAG:EX; Southern, Evan PREM:EX; Wolford, Jessica PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX; Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX
Subject: Re: DRAFT: s.12,s.14 - Coms materials for review

Thanks Marty this looks good to me. IB is right approach. My only question is on s.12,s.14
s.12,s.14

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Lafrance, Martyn JAG:EX
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 5:56 PM
To: Southern, Evan PREM:EX; Welford, Jessica PREM:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX; Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX
Subject: DRAFT: s.12,s.14 - Coms materials for review

Attached is an IB and QAs for introduction of s.12,s.14
s.12,s.14

s.13

M

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

Fisher, Samara FIN:EX

From: Lafrance, Martyn JAG:EX
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 10:48 AM
To: Fisher, Samara FIN:EX
Subject: FOI JAG request - email 5

Please find below an email in connection with the following FOI request:

Regarding the news release of June 26, 2017 - 2017JAG0009-001257 - Comprehensive reform of political financing system in British Columbia: Records about the scheduling of the news release, and the conception, writing, editing, proofreading, production, approvals and publication of the news release. (Date Range for Record Search: From 06/01/2017 To 06/26/2017). (PLEASE SEE ATTACHED NEWS RELEASE FOR MORE INFORMATION).

From: Reimer, Neil JAG:EX
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 7:10 PM
To: Lafrance, Martyn JAG:EX
Cc: Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX; Watson, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: DRAFT: s.12,s.14 Coms materials for review
s.12,s.14

s.12,s.13,s.14

Sent from my iPhone so who knows what autocorrect has done.

On Jun 23, 2017, at 6:52 PM, Lafrance, Martyn JAG:EX <Martyn.Lafrance@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

PO is good with the IB approach.

Neil - PO is looking for clarity on s.12,s.14

Pls advise. Thx.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 1:55 PM
To: Lafrance, Martyn JAG:EX
Cc: Watson, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: DRAFT: s.12,s.14 - Coms materials for review

I'm attaching an IB and QAs to be ready for introduction of s.12,s.14 . Neil
Reimer has reviewed the content and has ensured it aligns with the most recent instruction he received.

Let me know what the direction is on **s.12,s.14**
final version.

and of any changes being sought in the

Fisher, Samara FIN:EX

From: Lafrance, Martyn JAG:EX
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 10:53 AM
To: Fisher, Samara FIN:EX
Subject: JAG FOI request - email 6
Attachments: JSB - IB - Election Act - 26JUNE17 Draft.docx; QA - Election Act - 23JUNE17 DRAFT.docx

Please find below an email in connection with the following FOI request:

Regarding the news release of June 26, 2017 - 2017JAG0009-001257 - Comprehensive reform of political financing system in British Columbia: Records about the scheduling of the news release, and the conception, writing, editing, proofreading, production, approvals and publication of the news release. (Date Range for Record Search: From 06/01/2017 To 06/26/2017). (PLEASE SEE ATTACHED NEWS RELEASE FOR MORE INFORMATION).

From: Lafrance, Martyn JAG:EX
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 5:56 PM
To: Southern, Evan PREM:EX; Wolford, Jessica PREM:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX; Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX
Subject: DRAFT: s.12,s.14 - Coms materials for review
Attached is an IB and QAs for introduction of s.12,s.14
s.12,s.14

s.13

M

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

Fisher, Samara FIN:EX

From: Lafrance, Martyn JAG:EX
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 10:47 AM
To: Fisher, Samara FIN:EX
Subject: JAG FOI request - email 4
Attachments: JSB - IB - Election Act - 26JUNE17 Draft.docx; QA - Election Act - 23JUNE17 DRAFT.docx

Please find below an email in connection with the following FOI request:

Regarding the news release of June 26, 2017 - 2017JAG0009-001257 - Comprehensive reform of political financing system in British Columbia: Records about the scheduling of the news release, and the conception, writing, editing, proofreading, production, approvals and publication of the news release. (Date Range for Record Search: From 06/01/2017 To 06/26/2017). (PLEASE SEE ATTACHED NEWS RELEASE FOR MORE INFORMATION).

From: Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 1:55 PM
To: Lafrance, Martyn JAG:EX
Cc: Watson, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: DRAFT: s.12,s.14 · Coms materials for review

I'm attaching an IB and QAs to be ready for introduction of s.12,s.14 · Neil Reimer has reviewed the content and has ensured it aligns with the most recent instruction he received.
Let me know what the direction is on s.12,s.14

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 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 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)
- 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 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.

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

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.

Wentz, Andrea FIN: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: s.13

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^{s.12,s.14}
s.12,s.14 k.... QA responses s.12,s.14

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

Page 2 to/à Page 3

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12;s.14;s.13