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NOMINATION CONTESTANT GUIDE

To the Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act

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INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDE

This guide has been produced to assist nomination contestants in understanding the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act* (EFCDA), and to ensure compliance with the legislation.

The guide should be reviewed thoroughly for a general understanding of the responsibilities of a Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and the law regarding contributions, official contribution receipts, spending limits, banking, record keeping, and financial reporting.

Do not consider this guide as a replacement of the EFCDA, but as a supplementary document to assist you. Links to this guide, the EFCDA and any other relevant legislation can be obtained through the Elections Alberta website at www.elections.ab.ca. Copies of provincial legislation may also be obtained from the Alberta Queen's Printer (www.qp.alberta.ca).

It is not possible to cover each and every situation that may arise. If you are unable to find a suitable explanation in the EFCDA or the materials provided by Elections Alberta, you may write, phone or visit.

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DEFINITIONS

In accordance with section 1(1) subsections (b)(v), (i.4), (i.5), (n.2), and section 9.3 of the EFCDA:

- a nomination contest “campaign period” begins on the date a nomination contestant is required to register under section 9.3 of the EFCDA, and ends two months after the date a nomination contestant is selected for endorsement as the official candidate of a registered party for an electoral division,
- a “nomination contest” is any process used by a registered party or constituency association for the selection of a person as the official candidate of that party for an electoral division,
- a “nomination contestant” is a person who seeks endorsement in a nomination contest as the official candidate of a registered party for an electoral division, and
- a “registered nomination contestant” is a nomination contestant registered under section 9.3 of the EFCDA.

In this guide, “nomination contestant” refers to any registered nomination contestant under the EFCDA.

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

All documents, including financial statements and registration documents, required to be filed with Elections Alberta by a nomination contestant become part of the public files and are available for public review. Financial statements are also posted on the Elections Alberta website at www.elections.ab.ca.

EFCDA sections 4(g), 11

REGISTRATION

POLITICAL PARTY OR CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATION RESPONSIBILITY

Prior to holding a nomination contest in an electoral division, the CFO of a registered party or constituency association shall promptly notify the Chief Electoral Officer by filing a statement setting out:

- the date of the official call of the nomination contest,
- the date fixed for the selection of the person for endorsement as the official candidate for the registered party for an electoral division,
- the amount of the fee or deposit, if a fee or deposit is required to be paid by a person as a condition of entering the nomination contest, and
- the estimated cost for holding the nomination contest.

Within 10 days of the conclusion of the nomination contest, the registered party or constituency association must file with the Chief Electoral Officer a statement setting out:

- the full names of the nomination contestants who were considered for endorsement,
- the full name of the person selected for endorsement as the official candidate of the registered party for the electoral division, and
- the names of any persons who withdrew as nomination contestants.

The selected contestant who is endorsed by the registered party as the official candidate is automatically deemed to be a registered candidate.

Parties are encouraged to access Elections Alberta's Online Financial System (OFS) to enter all nomination contest registration details and record contest results. Parties have the option to authorize any of their constituency associations to enter contest details in OFS as well. OFS allows parties, and constituency associations if authorized, to manage their contests while providing Elections Alberta with oversight to ensure compliance with the legislation.

As an alternative to using OFS, the Nomination Contest Statement form NC-NCS-01 and Nomination Contest Result form NC-NCR-01, are available on the Elections Alberta website at www.elections.ab.ca under Parties, Candidates & Contests / Nomination Contests, and can be filed with Elections Alberta.

EFCDA sections 9.3(1), 9.3(10), 9(3.1)

Fees and Deposits

A registered party or constituency association may charge an entry fee or deposit to the nomination contestant(s), as a reasonable cost recovery of running the nomination contest. The amount of the fee or deposit must be reasonable in relation to the cost for holding the nomination contest. The Chief Electoral Officer may require the amount of the fee or deposit to be reduced, or give other direction, if he or she is of the opinion that the amount is not reasonable.

An entry fee or deposit from the nomination contestant to the registered party or constituency association is not considered a contribution under the EFCDA, but the source and amount must be recorded on the appropriate financial statement(s).

EFCDA sections 9.3(2), 13(3)

NOMINATION CONTESTANT RESPONSIBILITY

Nomination contestants have a distinct set of registration requirements set out by section 9.3 of the EFCDA. A person who intends to seek endorsement as the official candidate of a registered party in an electoral division must file an application for registration as a nomination contestant to the Chief Electoral Officer as soon as the person:

- has announced his or her intention to seek endorsement as the official candidate of a registered party in an electoral division, or
- has incurred campaign expenses in relation to the person's nomination campaign, or
- has received contributions in relation to the person's nomination campaign.

Registration is required regardless of whether a contest has been called. A person who fails to submit an application for registration when one of the above events has occurred shall not incur campaign expenses or accept contributions for that person's nomination campaign, nor can that person be selected or endorsed as the official candidate.

The registration application must set out:

- the full name and contact information of the nomination contestant,
- the addresses of the place or places where records of the nomination contestant are maintained and of the place to which communications may be addressed,
- the name and contact information of the chief financial officer of the nomination contestant,
- the name and address of the financial institution where an account will be or has been opened to be used by or on behalf of the nomination contestant for the purpose of participating in the nomination contest,
- the names of the signing authorities for the account referred to above, and
- the date the person first received a contribution or incurred an expense for the purpose of participating in the nomination contest.

The Registration of a Nomination Contestant form NC-R-01 is available on the Elections Alberta website at www.elections.ab.ca under Parties, Candidates & Contests / Nomination Contests. When filed with Elections Alberta, the application must be signed by both the contestant and the contestant's CFO indicating their understanding of eligibility requirements and responsibilities under the EFCDA.

Parties, or their constituency associations if authorized, have the option of entering nomination contestant registration information directly into OFS. Whether the information is entered by Elections Alberta, the party or constituency association, the system sends emails to the contestant and CFO prompting them to accept (confirm/verify) or to decline their registration. OFS allows parties and constituency associations to manage their contestant registrations while providing Elections Alberta with oversight to ensure compliance with the legislation.

EFCDA sections 9.3(4) to 9.3(6)

Change to Registration

Where there is any change to the registration information of the nomination contestant, the contestant's CFO, or the financial institution information, Elections Alberta is to be notified in writing within 48 hours of the change. Notification by fax or email is acceptable and should occur as soon as possible to avoid interruptions in communications. It is recommended that the Registration of a Nomination Contestant form NC-R-01 be filed with Elections Alberta indicating an "Update to Registration"; then the updated information is recorded in OFS.

EFCDA sections 9.3(8), 9.3(9)

Withdrawal

If a nomination contestant decides to withdraw the contestant's registration, that person shall immediately notify the Chief Electoral Officer in writing who shall cancel the registration of that person. The Withdrawal from a Nomination Contest form NC-R-02 is available on the Elections Alberta website under Parties, Candidates & Contests / Nomination Contests and is filed with Elections Alberta. A "Withdrawn" status is recorded in OFS. A duly completed Nomination Contestant Campaign Return will still need to be filed with Elections Alberta (see Obligation to File a Campaign Return below).

EFCDA section 10(2.2)

Similar to a withdrawal, a nomination contestant may be removed/rejected from being considered for selection, at the discretion of the party or constituency association. A status of "Not Accepted" is recorded in OFS. A duly completed Nomination Contestant Campaign Return is still required to be filed with Elections Alberta (see Obligation to File a Campaign Return below).

Cancellation

The Chief Electoral Officer may cancel the registration of a nomination contestant if the Chief Electoral Officer is, for any reason, of the opinion that a nomination contestant is no longer qualified to be registered, or obtained registration on the basis of an application that was false in any material way.

When such cancellation occurs, the Chief Electoral Officer shall send written notice of the cancellation, together with the reasons for the cancellation, by registered mail to the nomination contestant, the constituency association, and the political party concerned. Cancellation of registration becomes effective on and after the third day following the date the notice was mailed.

EFCDA sections 10(5), 10(6)(d.1)

Appeals

A nomination contestant whose registration has been cancelled may, within 30 days after the mailing of the Chief Electoral Officer's notice, request in writing that the cancellation be reviewed. The Chief Electoral Officer shall, within 48 hours after receiving a written request, review the cancellation and give the nomination contestant an opportunity to make representations.

Following the review of a cancellation, the Chief Electoral Officer may withdraw or confirm the cancellation of the registration of the nomination contestant and shall give written notification of the decision to the nomination contestant.

EFCDA sections 10(7) to 10(9)

Obligation to File a Campaign Return

Every nomination contestant that has been registered with Elections Alberta is required to file a Nomination Contestant Campaign Return within 4 months after:

- the selection date / contest conclusion, or
- the date the contestant withdrew, or
- the date the contestant was not accepted by the party or constituency association, or
- the date the contestant's registration was cancelled, as the case may be.

For further details, refer to the "Reporting" section later in this guide.

EFCDA section 43.01

NOMINATION CONTESTANT'S CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER (CFO)

The appointment of a nomination contestant's CFO is a mandatory requirement. A CFO must be in place in order for a nomination contestant to become registered and accept contributions. Many of the provisions of the EFCDA and most of the contents of this guide apply directly to the activities of the CFO. Committing to the CFO position is something that should be done by an individual who has read and accepted the duties set out in the EFCDA. Elections Alberta is available to assist CFOs with their responsibilities through guides and one-on-one assistance as requested. CFOs are encouraged to contact Elections Alberta with any questions or concerns.

Appointing a CFO

The EFCDA requires that a CFO be appointed on each registration application. The CFO for one nomination contestant may be the CFO for multiple nomination contestants and may also be the CFO for a political party, constituency association, candidate, or leadership contestant.

Should it be necessary to appoint a person as a replacement for the CFO whose name is on file with Elections Alberta, the nomination contestant must advise Elections Alberta in writing of the name, address, telephone number, and email address of the newly appointed CFO within 48 hours of the change. The Registration of a Nomination Contestant form NC-R-01 can be filed with Elections Alberta indicating an "Update to Registration"; then the updated information is recorded in OFS.

EFCDA section 9.3(8)

Duties of a CFO

CFO duties include ensuring:

- proper records are kept of all revenue, expenses, assets and liabilities,
- contributions are placed in an account on record with Elections Alberta,
- official contribution receipts are issued in accordance with the EFCDA,
- every payment of more than \$25 made by the registered nomination contestant or CFO is vouched for by:
 - a document from the supplier that states the particulars of the expense, and
 - a receipt of other proof of payment acceptable to the Chief Electoral Officer,
- campaign returns and reports required under the EFCDA are filed with the Chief Electoral Officer, and
- non-monetary contributions are properly valued and recorded.

EFCDA section 30

Retention of Records

The CFO of a nomination contestant must retain all of the financial records for a period of 3 years following the date the nomination campaign return is required to be filed with Elections Alberta. Elections Alberta may review the financial affairs and records of a nomination contestant, and the CFO is required to supply backup documentation to support the financial filing, upon request.

EFCDA section 10.1

Bookkeeping Tips

Recording financial data accurately and in a timely manner will simplify the CFO's responsibilities and eliminate potential difficulties in preparing the Nomination Contestant Campaign Return. CFOs should ensure that:

- all revenue and expenses are recorded and reported on the campaign return,
- a petty cash fund is set up to handle minor expenses that are normally paid in cash (all invoices and major purchases should be paid by cheque),
- a reconciliation of accounts is conducted periodically to maintain an accurate balance;
- copies of all bank deposit slips are retained,
- bank statements are obtained and are reconciled with the CFO's record of deposits and withdrawals,
- official contribution receipts are issued to all contributors,
- all supporting documents are filed in sequence by date or by other acceptable filing methods, and
- all books of account and supporting documents are securely stored for 3 years and can be made readily available for examination by Elections Alberta or a designated representative.

CONTRIBUTIONS

DEFINITION OF CONTRIBUTION

In accordance with the EFCDA section 1(1)(e), “contribution” means any money, real property, goods, or services, or the use of real property, goods, or services that is provided

- to a political party, constituency association, candidate, nomination contestant or leadership contestant, or
- for the benefit of a political party, constituency association, candidate, nomination contestant or leadership contestant, with the consent of the political party, constituency association, candidate, nomination contestant, or leadership contestant,

without compensation from that political party, constituency association, candidate, nomination contestant, or leadership contestant.

LIMITS ON CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions from any single contributor shall not exceed a total of \$4,000 in any calendar year to any combination of the following:

- a registered party,
- a registered constituency association,
- a registered candidate,
- a registered nomination contestant, and
- a registered leadership contestant.

The CFO of a registered nomination contestant shall not accept a contribution he or she knows or ought to know would exceed the limits established in section 17 of the EFCDA.

Nomination contestants are prohibited from colluding with third party advertisers to circumvent contribution limits (EFCDA sections 41.42 and 44.11).

Contributions from eligible contributors may only be accepted:

- after a nomination contestant has received written confirmation of registration from Elections Alberta, and
- during the nomination contestant’s campaign period; that is, from the contestant’s effective registration date until 2 months after the selection date / contest conclusion, or the date of withdrawal or cancellation, as the case may be.

EFCDA sections 17(1), 17(4), 19(1)

Eligible Contributors

Only a person who is ordinarily resident in Alberta may make contributions to nomination contestants. A prospective contributor is responsible for ensuring that, before making a contribution under the EFCDA, the contributor is not prohibited from making a contribution.

The CFO is responsible for making every reasonable effort to advise prospective contributors of the provisions of the EFCDA regarding contributions.

Registered nomination contestants are permitted to contribute to their campaign from their own funds. The contribution limit under section 17(1) of the EFCDA applies. If campaign expenses paid for by the nomination contestant's own funds exceed the contribution limit in section 17(1), the nomination contestant must be reimbursed from the campaign account on record with Elections Alberta for the amount in excess of the limit.

EFCDA sections 15.1, 16(1), 17(7), 17(8), 30(2)

Prohibited Contributions

A prohibited person or entity shall not make a contribution to a registered nomination contestant. A prohibited person or entity means a person not ordinarily resident in Alberta, a corporation and an unincorporated association or organization.

A contributor is not permitted to contribute funds that are not their own funds, nor any funds that have been given to them by someone else for the purpose of making a contribution to a nomination contestant.

No nomination contestant, or any person acting on their behalf, is permitted to directly or indirectly solicit or accept contributions if the nomination contestant, or person acting on their behalf, knows or ought to know that the prospective contributor is not eligible to contribute. The CFO must ensure that all contributions comply with the EFCDA and that contributions from a prohibited person or entity are not solicited or accepted.

No registered nomination contestant may accept funds from a federal political party, federal electoral district association, or candidate registered under the *Canada Elections Act*, in respect of an election under the *Election Act* or a nomination contest under the EFCDA.

In addition to the above provisions, the following contributions must **not** be used or expended:

- any anonymous contribution in excess of \$50,
- any contribution made in contravention of the EFCDA,
- any contribution from a prohibited person or entity,
- any contribution not belonging to a contributor, and
- any contribution from out of province.

It is the responsibility of the nomination contestant's CFO to return an unauthorized contribution to the contributor. However, if the identity (name and/or address) of the contributor cannot be established, Elections Alberta must be notified and the contribution must be paid over for deposit into the General Revenue Fund for the Government of Alberta.

EFCDA sections 1(1)(1.01), 16(2), 19, 21.1, 34(1), 34(2), 35, 36

Accepting Contributions for the Purpose of Deficit Retirement

A nomination contestant is encouraged to limit expenses to available revenue, and retire all liabilities within the campaign period. A nomination contestant has a campaign deficit if, at the end of the campaign period, expenses and/or outstanding liabilities exceed revenues.

If a deficit exists, the nomination contestant shall eliminate the deficit within 3 months after the date the Nomination Contestant Campaign Return is required to be filed. This additional 3 month period is referred to as the "deficit retirement period". At the request of the nomination contestant or the nomination contestant's CFO, the Chief Electoral Officer may extend the initial 3 month deficit retirement period for a second period not exceeding 3 months, provided that such a request is received by the Chief Electoral Officer before the initial 3 month period has expired.

For the purpose of eliminating a campaign deficit during the authorized deficit retirement period, a nomination contestant may accept contributions in accordance with the provisions of the EFCDA. All contribution limits and statutory provisions apply within the deficit retirement period.

The CFO of the nomination contestant shall, within one month after the expiration of the deficit retirement period, file an amended campaign return in the form and manner approved by the Chief Electoral Officer showing any additional contributions accepted and any transfers received to eliminate the deficit.

Failure by the nomination contestant to eliminate the deficit may result in the CFO being prohibited from acting as a CFO for a registered party, registered constituency association, registered candidate or registered third party for five years.

EFCDA section 43.1

Deposit of Contributions

All money contributions accepted by or on behalf of a nomination contestant, and any contribution other than money that is converted into money, must be deposited into the appropriate bank account on record with Elections Alberta.

EFCDA section 14(1)

Valuing Contributions Other Than Money

Real property, goods or services, or the use of real property, goods or services, contributed to a nomination contestant are deemed to be a contribution by the EFCDA. The value of a contribution other than money is the market value of the contribution at that time. Valued contributions qualify for official contribution receipts.

“Services” does not include:

- volunteer labour provided by a person, as long as that person does not receive from his or her employer, or any person, compensation or paid time off to volunteer,
- audit and professional services provided free of charge to the recipient for work relating to compliance with the EFCDA,
- services provided free of charge by a person acting as the CFO for work relating to compliance with the EFCDA, or
- services that a nomination contestant provides in support of his or her own campaign.

Services provided by a person that is self-employed are considered a contribution if the services are normally charged for by that person.

Some common examples of real property, goods or services, or the use of real property, goods or services, are:

- a computer or furniture,
- signage / pamphlets / buttons,
- the use of a car,
- the use of a venue to hold a meeting or to use as an office, and
- provision of professional services including legal services.

When real property, goods or services, or the use of real property, goods, or services are provided to a nomination contestant for a price that is less than the market value at that time, the amount by which the market value exceeds the price paid represents a contribution. It is the CFO’s responsibility to assess the appropriate market value at that time.

EFCDA section 22

Fund-Raising Functions

A fund-raising function includes any event held for the purpose of raising funds for a nomination contestant, either held by the nomination contestant or on behalf of the nomination contestant.

If a fund-raising function is held by the sale of tickets or otherwise, the contribution portion, if any, of the amount paid to the fund-raiser is to be determined under either clause (a) or under clause (b) of section 23(3) of the EFCDA, below.

- (a) if the individual charge is:
 - (i) **\$50 or less:** it is not considered to be a contribution unless the person who pays the charge specifically requests that it be so considered, in which case 1/2 of the amount is allowed for expenses and 1/2 is considered to be a contribution,
 - (ii) **more than \$50 but not more than \$100:** \$25 is allowed for expenses and the balance is considered to be a contribution, and
 - (iii) **more than \$100:** 25% of the amount is allowed for expenses and the balance is considered to be a contribution,
- (b) the amount of the contribution is the difference between the price of the ticket and the market value of what the ticket entitles the bearer to obtain.

Examples:

Fund-raising Function	Ticket / Admission Price	Contribution Portion (received)	Expense Portion (not received)	Section Reference	Explanatory Note
Luncheon	\$35	\$0	\$35	23(3)(a)(i)	CFO opts to follow clause (a)(i) for ticket price \$50 or less. No official contribution receipt is required to be issued to buyer.
Luncheon	\$35	\$17.50	\$17.50	23(3)(a)(i)	CFO opts to follow clause (a)(i) for ticket price \$50 or less. Ticket buyer asks for official contribution receipt. Expense portion is deemed to be half of ticket price (\$17.50), and official contribution receipt is issued to buyer for \$17.50.
Dinner	\$75	\$50	\$25	23(3)(a)(ii)	CFO opts to follow clause (a)(ii) for ticket price more than \$50 but less than \$100. Expense portion is deemed to be \$25, and official contribution receipt is issued to buyer for \$50.
Golf Tournament	\$200	\$150	\$50	23(3)(a)(iii)	CFO opts to follow clause (a)(iii) for ticket price more than \$100. Expense portion is deemed to be 25% of ticket price (\$50), and official contribution receipt is issued to buyer for \$150.
Golf Tournament	\$400	\$100	\$300	23(3)(b)	CFO opts to follow clause (b). Regardless of ticket price, CFO has determined expense portion to be \$300 (market value), so official contribution receipt is issued to buyer for \$100.

If the fund-raising function uses some means of raising funds other than selling tickets, the price paid in excess of the market value for goods or services received is considered to be a contribution.

The gross income of the fund-raiser, less the contribution portion as determined by the EFCDA section 23(a) or 23(b), must be recorded as fund-raising function revenue on the nomination contestant's financial statement. The CFO should keep a separate record of the event showing the date of the function, the ticket/admission price, and the number of tickets sold or admission charged.

Only individuals ordinarily resident in Alberta are allowed to purchase a ticket or pay for admission to a fund-raising event. Prohibited persons or entities shall not purchase a ticket or pay admission, nor offer a reimbursement for the full cost of the ticket/admission, as this would be a violation of the EFCDA. Only the expense portion of the ticket/admission, as determined by the nomination contestant or CFO, may be reimbursed.

The following scenarios are provided as examples of how to report the revenue and contributions from fund-raising activities, specifically silent auctions:

Scenario 1

A lawyer, Mr. Doe, agrees to provide legal services for the preparation of a personal will to a silent auction fund-raising event. Mr. Doe advises in writing that the fair market value (FMV) is **\$200** based on his current professional fee structure. The nomination contestant's CFO verifies that the fee reflects FMV.

The donor of the service, Mr. Doe, is issued a "valued" contribution receipt for \$200 by the CFO.

The purchaser of the legal services (successful bidder), pays the bid amount, and

- if the successful bid was equal to or less than the FMV, no contribution receipt is issued to the bidder, or
- if the successful bid was more than the FMV, for example the bid was \$275, then a \$75 "money" contribution receipt is issued to the purchaser by the CFO.

Scenario 2

A decorative crystal vase is donated by an individual to a silent auction fund-raising function. The vase, along with the donor's purchase receipt, is given to the nomination contestant's CFO. The CFO determines the FMV of the vase to be **\$60**, which is easily done using the submitted receipt.

The donor of the vase is issued a "valued" contribution receipt for \$60 by the CFO.

The purchaser of the vase (successful bidder), pays the bid amount, and

- if the successful bid was equal to or less than the FMV, no contribution receipt is issued to the bidder, or
- if the successful bid was more than the FMV, for example the bid was \$75, then a \$15 "money" contribution receipt is issued to the purchaser by the CFO. (EFCDA section 23(4))

Section 23(4) of the EFCDA applies only to a person acquiring a good or service through a fund-raising function. It does not apply to the person providing the service.

General Collections

When money is given at a meeting held for a nomination contestant, in response to a general collection of money solicited from the persons in attendance at the meeting, individual amounts of \$50 or less shall not be considered a contribution but shall be recorded as to the gross amount and reported as “other income” on the campaign return.

EFCDA section 24

Public Disclosure of Contributions

For public reporting and disclosure purposes, all nomination contestants are required to report the contributions they have received in two categories:

- the total amount of all contributions received during the campaign period that did not exceed \$250 in aggregate from any single contributor, and
- the total amount contributed, together with the contributor’s name and address, when the contribution(s) of that contributor during the campaign period exceeded \$250 in aggregate.

Public information regarding contributions is disclosed both in the public files and on the Elections Alberta website. For contributions over \$250 in aggregate, the public files disclose the contributor name, address and total amount contributed, whereas the website discloses only the name and total amount contributed.

EFCDA sections 11, 32(4.2)

OFFICIAL CONTRIBUTION RECEIPTS

Official contribution receipts are issued to contributors by nomination contestants to comply with the EFCDA, and are eligible for Alberta income tax credits. It is the nomination contestant CFO’s responsibility to prepare official contribution receipts in the form and manner approved by Elections Alberta.

Electronic receipting is being phased in as an approved method of issuing official receipts, using Elections Alberta’s Online Financial System (OFS). CFOs needing to issue official receipts should contact Elections Alberta for information on accessing OFS to record and confirm contributions received, and to have OFS generate official receipts for the CFO to issue to contributors. Both the nomination contestant and CFO need a user ID and password to log-in to OFS via the “Secure login” link at the top right corner of the Elections Alberta home page.

It is incumbent upon the CFO to ensure that contributors are made aware of the contribution rules imposed by the EFCDA and that contributors are provided with, or directed to, the information they need to confirm their eligibility. These requirements are addressed, in part, by the following warning on the official receipt:

Only a person ordinarily resident in Alberta may make a contribution to a political party, constituency association, candidate, leadership contestant, or nomination contestant, in accordance with section 16 of the Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act (EFCDA). Contribution limits are established by law (EFCDA, section 17). As a contributor, you are responsible for ensuring that you are eligible to make this contribution (EFCDA, section 15.1).

Your acceptance of this official receipt acknowledges that the contribution is made in compliance with the EFCDA. Violations are subject to administrative penalties and prosecution.

EFCDA section 33

Control of Official Contribution Receipts

OFS has been designed to maintain all records of official contribution receipts generated and issued to contributors by CFOs, including any cancelled and reissued receipts.

Official Contribution Receipt Preparation and Procedures

The following contributor and contribution information must be recorded in OFS before an official contribution receipt can be generated:

- date the contribution was received,
- first and last name of the contributor,*
- mailing address of the contributor,**
- amount of the contribution, and
- whether the contribution is money (e.g. cash, cheque) or valued (e.g. real property, goods or services or the use of real property, goods or services).

* Contributions are not to be recorded, nor official contribution receipts issued, in the names of two or more persons. For example, do not record a contribution or issue an official receipt to Mr. and Mrs. Smith, nor to John and Mary Smith. Instead, John Smith and Mary Smith should each have their contribution recorded and receipted separately.

** In addition to recording the mailing address for each contributor, if the CFO collects the contributor's email address, the CFO can have OFS send the official receipt by email. If no email address is available, the CFO can print the official receipt and deliver or mail it to the contributor.

Once the contribution information is confirmed, the CFO tells OFS to generate the official receipt(s). The receipts are distributed either via email, or printed and mailed. The CFO can have OFS issue one official contribution receipt per contributor for the sum total of the contributor's contributions during the nomination campaign period; the receipt lists each contribution and the date it was received.

When a contributor has misplaced his or her copy, the CFO can resend or reprint a copy of the official receipt to the contributor. If a receipt was issued incorrectly (e.g. wrong address or amount), the CFO shall cancel the original receipt and issue a replacement following the prompts in OFS.

Income Tax Credits

Official contribution receipts for contributions made to nomination contestants may be used by contributors to claim income tax credits. CFOs are not responsible for calculating the amount of any tax credit the contributor may be eligible to receive. Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Tax and Revenue Administration Division, is responsible for determining and administering applicable political income tax credits, as shown in the table below. For information purposes only, the maximum tax credit of \$1,000 is reached when contributions total \$2,300.

Amount Contributed	Available Tax Credit	Maximum Credit	Cumulative Amount
Up to \$200	75%	\$150	\$150
Next \$900 (\$201 to \$1,100)	50%	\$450	\$600
Next \$1,200 (\$1,101 to \$2,300)	33.3%	\$400	\$1,000
Over \$2,300	Nil	Nil	\$1,000

LOANS FROM FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

A nomination contestant may borrow money, but only from a financial institution other than an Alberta Treasury Branch (ATB Financial).

Only a person ordinarily resident in Alberta, may sign, co-sign, guarantee or provide collateral security for a loan on behalf of a nomination contestant. The details of the loan shall be recorded by the CFO and reported to Elections Alberta on the campaign return. The amount of the guarantee or collateral security is considered a contribution, and must not exceed the contribution limits in section 17(1) of the EFCDA. However, receipts are not issued to guarantors or those providing collateral security for the amount of the guarantee or collateral.

Only a person ordinarily resident in Alberta may make a payment on behalf of the borrower or guarantor in respect of a loan. Loan payments made on behalf of nomination contestants are considered contributions, and are subject to contribution limits under section 17(1) of the EFCDA, unless:

- they are reimbursed by the borrower, or
- the payment is made by the guarantor of the loan.

The CFO of the nomination contestant must issue an official contribution receipt for:

- loan payments made by a person on behalf of the borrower, unless the borrower repays the amount of the loan payment prior to the filing of the campaign return, and
- loan payments made by the guarantor.

EFCDA sections 40, 41

EXPENDITURES

DEFINITIONS

“Election expenses” under section 41.1(1)(b) of the EFCDA are any expenses incurred or non-monetary contributions received to directly promote or oppose a nomination contestant during a nomination contest. “Campaign expenses” under section 1.1(1)(b) of the EFCDA are any expenses incurred or non-monetary contributions received to directly promote or oppose a nomination contestant during a campaign period of the nomination contestant.

For the purposes of the nomination contestant’s campaign, expenditures categorized as “election expenses” are subject to spending limits under the EFCDA.

LIMITS ON ELECTION EXPENSES

Under section 41.4(1) of the EFCDA, no nomination contestant or CFO may incur election expenses greater than 20% of the spending limit for a registered candidate. At the time of publication of this guide, the spending limit for nomination contestants is \$10,000 (20% of the \$50,000 spending limit for registered candidates).

Nomination contestants are prohibited from colluding with third party advertisers to circumvent expense limits (EFCDA sections 41.42 and 44.11).

Election expenses subject to spending limits include:

- the production of advertising or promotional material,
- the distribution, broadcast, or publication of advertising or promotional material in any media or by any other means during the election period, including by the use of a capital asset,
- the payment of remuneration and expenses to or on behalf of a person’s services as a CFO or in any other capacity,
- securing a meeting place, or
- the conduct of election surveys or other surveys or research during an election period.

EFCDA section 41.1(3)

The following expenses are **not** election expenses:

- travel expenses reasonably related to the nomination contestant, including meals and accommodation,
- a nomination contestant’s child care expenses,
- expenses relating to the provision of care for a person with a physical or mental incapacity for whom the nomination contestant normally provides such care,
- in the case of a nomination contestant who has a disability, additional expenses that are related to the disability,
- audit and professional fees necessary for compliance with the EFCDA, and
- reasonable incidental expenses incurred by or on behalf of volunteers.

EFCDA section 41.4(2)

TRANSFERS

Surplus Funds

Any campaign funds held by a nomination contestant at the end of a campaign period for the nomination contest must,

- if the nomination contestant is selected for endorsement as the official candidate of the registered party:
 - be held by the nomination contestant to be used for his or her candidacy in the election, or
 - be transferred to the registered party or constituency association for which the nomination contestant sought endorsement.
- if the nomination contestant is not selected, at the option of the nomination contestant, at the time the campaign return is required to be filed under section 43.01 of the EFCDA,
 - be transferred to the registered party or constituency association for which the nomination contestant sought endorsement, or
 - be returned to the contributors who contributed to the nomination contestant's campaign.

Surplus funds not transferred or returned to contributors within 30 days after the campaign return is required to be filed must be paid to the Chief Electoral Officer for deposit into the General Revenue Fund of the Government of Alberta.

EFCDA section 12.1

Money Other Than a Surplus

There is no mechanism in the EFCDA, other than that described above, that allows for a transfer of money between a nomination contestant and a registered party, constituency association, nomination contestant, or leadership contestant. Any money or other form of contribution flowing from the nomination contestant to a registered party, constituency association, nomination contestant, or leadership contestant without compensation for the value of the money, will constitute a contribution by that nomination contestant and count towards that individual's annual contribution limit under section 17(1) of the EFCDA.

Non-Money Transfers

A registered party and any of its registered constituency associations, registered candidates, registered nomination contestants and registered nomination contestants may transfer to and accept from each other goods or services, or the use of goods or services. Goods, services, and the use of goods or services transferred among these entities do not constitute a contribution under the EFCDA, but must be recorded as to source and amount.

EFCDA section 38(2)

REPORTING

OBLIGATION TO FILE A NOMINATION CONTESTANT CAMPAIGN RETURN

Every nomination contestant that has been registered with Elections Alberta is required to file a Nomination Contestant Campaign Return within 4 months after the selection date / contest conclusion, or within 4 months of the withdrawal or cancellation date, as the case may be. CFOs will receive detailed instructions from Elections Alberta for the preparation of the campaign return in advance of the filing deadline.

EFCDA section 43.01

FILING OF THE CAMPAIGN RETURN

The Nomination Contestant Campaign Return form NC-FS-01, including all applicable schedules, must be received by Elections Alberta no later than 4:30 pm on the filing deadline date prescribed by the EFCDA. The campaign return must include:

- a financial statement,
- a contribution detail report,
- a campaign expense report,
- an expense limit report, and
- any supporting information and documents relating to the nomination campaign return (including copies of bank statements for the nomination campaign period).

The financial statement form must bear original signatures of both the CFO and the nomination contestant certifying that the statement and all attachments accurately and completely reflect all financial transactions of the nomination campaign, all contributions have been recorded and confirmed, and all contributors have been issued an official contribution receipt using OFS. Elections Alberta will maintain and make public, a list of contributors who contributed over \$250 in aggregate, based on the the contribution information in OFS.

EFCDA section 43.01

Late Filing Fee

Failure to file the campaign return with Elections Alberta by the filing deadline will result in a late filing fee of \$500, and may result in administrative penalties or prosecution.

EFCDA sections 43.01, 43.2(2), 44, 48(4), 48(5)

FILING OF THE SURPLUS DISTRIBUTION REPORT

As outlined in the “Expenditures” section of this guide, any surplus campaign funds held by a nomination contestant at the end of the campaign period must be dealt with no later 30 days after the campaign return filing deadline date. Should the nomination contestant’s campaign fail to comply with this requirement under the EFCDA, the campaign must immediately pay the surplus funds to the Chief Electoral Officer for deposit into the General Revenue Fund of the Government of Alberta. A surplus distribution report is required to be filed with Elections Alberta at the end of the 30 day period to confirm that the surplus funds were distributed in accordance with section 12.1 of the EFCDA. The Surplus Distribution Report form NC-SDR-01 is available from the Elections Alberta website under Parties, Candidates & Contests / Nomination Contests.

FILING OF THE DEFICIT RETIREMENT PERIOD FINANCIAL STATEMENT

As outlined in the “Contributions” section of this guide, a nomination contestant’s campaign that is in a deficit position at the end of the campaign period must eliminate the deficit within 3 months following the campaign return filing deadline date. An extension may be granted for an additional 3 months to eliminate the deficit. A deficit retirement period financial statement must be filed with Elections Alberta by 4:30 pm one month after the expiry of the deficit retirement period, to show any contributions accepted and any transfers received to eliminate the deficit. The Deficit Retirement Period Financial Statement form NC-DS-01 is available from the Elections Alberta website under Parties, Candidates & Contests / Nomination Contests.

Late Filing Fee

Failure to file the deficit retirement period financial statement (amended campaign return) with Elections Alberta by the filing deadline will result in a late filing fee of \$500, and may result in administrative penalties or prosecution.

EFCDA sections 43.1, 43.2(2), 44



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