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2011 Annual Report of the Chief Electoral Officer

*The Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act
For the Calendar Year 2011*

October 2012

Mr. David H. Xiao, Chairman
Standing Committee on Legislative Offices
Legislature Annex
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 1E4

Dear Mr. Xiao:

It is an honour to submit to the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices through you, Mr. Chairman, Elections Alberta's 2011 Annual Report on the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act*.

This Report is submitted pursuant to Section 4(2) of the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act*, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter E-2. The Report also includes this Office's financial statements as at March 31, 2012.

Should you require clarification or additional information, I would be pleased to respond.

Sincerely,

O. Brian Fjeldheim
Chief Electoral Officer

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Message from the Chief Electoral Officer

Election readiness was a major focus of the 2011 calendar year. The appointment and training of Returning Officers and Election Clerks, preparation of maps and resources for new electoral division boundaries, and the conduct of a province-wide enumeration were major undertakings of this Office leading up to election readiness.

Legislative amendments to the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act* came into force during 2011 as a result of the passage of the *Election Statutes Amendment Act, 2010*. Legislative amendments included the establishment of third party advertising registration and reporting rules and the expansion of political party and constituency association annual financial reporting requirements, to name a few. In order to accommodate the legislative changes, forms, guides and resources were updated and made available to political entities.

Communication with political entities was frequent during 2011 to ensure their understanding of legislative amendments and the importance of compliance with the legislation. As well, public engagement and communications activities were a high priority through the enumeration and in preparation for the general election.

The challenges of 2011 were ably met by the finance staff at Elections Alberta. They were responsible for the review and reconciliation of thousands of receipts, as well as for countless hours spent working with the stakeholders we serve, to assist them in meeting the requirements of the legislation. Their efforts are recognized and appreciated.

The unique challenges of 2011 also required a cooperative effort by the staff members and volunteers associated with political parties and constituency associations. They perform an important and essential function, and one that was particularly challenging in 2011, given the legislative and boundary changes.

O. Brian Fjeldheim
Chief Electoral Officer

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Section One – The Calendar Year 2011

Overview

The following are some of the major activities and events that occurred during the calendar year:

- 378 registered constituency associations were included in the Register of Constituency Associations as at December 31, 2011.
- 356 registered constituency associations met their 2011 filing requirements by the due date of March 31, 2012. Twenty-one (21) filed their financial statements after the due date. One constituency association, which registered in the last four months of 2011, is not required to file until March 31, 2013.
- One new political party, Evergreen Party of Alberta, was registered, bringing the total to nine (9) political parties included in the Register of Political Parties as at December 31, 2011.
- Annual financial statements for the calendar year 2011 were received from six (6) registered parties by the due date of March 31, 2012. Two (2) registered parties filed their financial statements after the due date. One party, which registered in the last four months of 2011, is not required to file until March 31, 2013.
- One (1) Third Party Advertiser was registered as at December 31, 2011.

Registration Information

Political Parties

During the 2011 calendar year, the Evergreen Party of Alberta was added to the Register of Political Parties. As at December 31, 2011, there were nine political parties included in the Register of Political Parties maintained by Elections Alberta in accordance with Section 7(1) of the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act (EFCDA)*. Registration information concerning these nine registered parties at the time of filing is listed below:

Name (Abbreviation)	Date Registered	President	Chief Financial Officer
Alberta Liberal Party (LIB)	February 3, 1978	Todd Van Vliet	Charles Dechene
Alberta New Democratic Party (NDP)	January 3, 1978	Nancy Furlong	Brian Stokes
Alberta Party (AP)	October 30, 1990	Brian Thiessen	Michael McLaughlin
Alberta Social Credit Party (SC)	January 6, 1978	Gordon Barrett	Gordon Barrett
Communist Party - Alberta (CP-A)	January 31, 1979	Naomi Rankin	Blyth Nuttal
Evergreen Party of Alberta (EPA)	December 22, 2011	Charles (Nick) Burman	David Crowe
Progressive Conservative Association of Alberta (PC)	January 3, 1978	Bill Smith	Ron Renaud
Separation Party of Alberta (SPA)	November 2, 1999	Mike Bennison	Judy Hutton
Wildrose Alliance Party (WAP)	October 25, 2002	Paul Collins	Ben Rogers

Reserved Political Party Names

This Office held one reserved political party name on file as at December 31, 2011. The applicant has proposed to form a registered political party in accordance with the provisions of the *EFCDA*. The applicant has been advised that one of the primary requirements for registration is the completion of a petition under Section 6(2)(d) of the *EFCDA*. The petition must contain a minimum of 7,050 signatures of eligible electors, which represents 0.3% of the number of electors eligible to vote at the 2008 General Election.

Constituency Associations

Summary of Constituency Association Registrations

At December 31, 2011, there were 378 registered constituency associations. The chart below outlines the number per party. A chart showing the status, by electoral division, is presented on pages 15 and 16.

LIB	NDP	AP	SC	CP-A	IND	PC	SPA	WAP	TOTAL
83	83	37	8	0	0	83	1	83	378

Registrations

During the 2011 calendar year, thirty-four (34) applications for registration were approved. New registrations during 2011:

Alberta Party (AP)

Calgary-Buffalo	Edmonton-Strathcona
Calgary-Currie	Edmonton-Whitemud
Calgary-Glenmore	Airdrie-Chestermere
Calgary-Mountain View	Banff-Cochrane
Calgary-North Hill	Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock
Calgary-North West	Grande Prairie-Smoky
Calgary-Shaw	Grande Prairie-Wapiti
Calgary-West	Highwood
Edmonton-Ellerslie	Leduc-Beaumont-Devon
Edmonton-Glenora	Lethbridge-West
Edmonton-Gold Bar	Medicine Hat
Edmonton-McClung	Red Deer-North
Edmonton-Meadowlark	Red Deer-South
Edmonton-Mill Creek	Sherwood Park
Edmonton-Mill Woods	St. Albert
Edmonton-Riverview	West Yellowhead
Edmonton-Rutherford	Wetaskiwin-Camrose

Deregistrations

During the 2011 calendar year, three (3) constituency associations were deregistered.
Deregistrations during 2011:

Alberta Social Credit Party (SC)

Leduc-Beaumont-Devon

Independent (IND)

Calgary-Currie

Separation Party of Alberta (SPA)

Rocky Mountain House

Reregistrations

During the 2011 calendar year, there were no previously deregistered constituency associations that re-registered.

Financial Statement Information

In accordance with Section 42 of the *EFCDA*, political parties and constituency associations registered prior to September 1, 2011 were required to file annual financial statements with this Office on or before March 31, 2012. The following represents the number, monetary amount, and category of contributions received by registered political parties and registered constituency associations in the 2011 calendar year as represented by the contribution receipts issued. Figures in this report are rounded to the nearest dollar.

Political Parties - Annual Financial Statements

Nine political parties were registered with the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer as at December 31, 2011. All were required to submit an audited 2011 Political Party Annual Financial Statement by March 31, 2012, with the exception of the Evergreen Party of Alberta which registered within the last four (4) months of 2011.

The nine registered parties are as follows:

Alberta Liberal Party (LIB)	Evergreen Party of Alberta (EPA)
Alberta New Democratic Party (NDP)	Progressive Conservative Association of Alberta (PC)
Alberta Party (AP)	Separation Party of Alberta (SPA)
Alberta Social Credit Party (SC)	Wildrose Alliance Party (WAP)
Communist Party – Alberta (CP-A)	

Foundations

In accordance with Section 6(6) of the *EFCDA*, political parties that maintain a foundation are also required to file an annual report of the expenditures of that foundation. As at December 31, 2011, only the Progressive Conservative Association of Alberta maintained a foundation and it reported expenditures of \$17,998.

Political Parties – Contribution Highlights

Alberta Liberal Party (LIB)

	Total Contributions	Average Contribution
Amounts to \$375.00:		
2,215 contributions from individuals	\$ 207,663	\$ 94
59 contributions from corporations	\$ 7,295	\$ 124
Amounts of \$375.01 and greater:		
556 contributions from individuals	\$ 228,173	\$ 410
36 contributions from corporations	\$ 81,685	\$ 2,269
Total	\$ 524,816	

Alberta New Democratic Party (NDP)

	Total Contributions	Average Contribution
Amounts to \$375.00:		
2,588 contributions from individuals	\$ 329,003	\$ 127
9 contributions from corporations	\$ 1,248	\$ 139
9 contributions from trade unions	\$ 2,025	\$ 225
Amounts of \$375.01 and greater:		
428 contributions from individuals	\$ 322,021	\$ 752
5 contributions from corporations	\$ 13,000	\$ 2,600
14 contributions from trade unions	\$ 61,279	\$ 4,377
Total	\$ 728,576	

Alberta Party (AP)

	Total Contributions	Average Contribution
Amounts to \$375.00:		
332 contributions from individuals	\$ 41,455	\$ 125
19 contributions from corporations	\$ 3,575	\$ 188
Amounts of \$375.01 and greater:		
96 contributions from individuals	\$ 63,099	\$ 657
12 contributions from corporations	\$ 36,349	\$ 3,029
Total	\$ 144,478	

Alberta Social Credit Party (SC)

	Total Contributions	Average Contribution
Amounts to \$375.00:		
5 contributions from individuals	\$ 1,071	\$ 214
1 contribution from a corporation	\$ 150	\$ 150
Amounts of \$375.01 and greater:		
3 contributions from individuals	\$ 3,505	\$ 1,168
Total	<u>\$ 4,726</u>	

Communist Party – Alberta (CP-A)

	Total Contributions	Average Contribution
Amounts to \$375.00:		
3 contributions from individuals	\$ 800	\$ 267
Total	<u>\$ 800</u>	

Evergreen Party of Alberta (EPA)

The party is not required to file until March 31, 2013.

Progressive Conservative Association of Alberta (PC)

	Total Contributions	Average Contribution
Amounts to \$375.00:		
2,705 contributions from individuals	\$ 266,192	\$ 98
284 contributions from corporations	\$ 34,247	\$ 121
Amounts of \$375.01 and greater:		
769 contributions from individuals	\$ 608,683	\$ 792
623 contributions from corporations	\$ 1,325,707	\$ 2,128
Total	<u>\$ 2,234,829</u>	

Separation Party of Alberta (SPA)

	Total Contributions	Average Contribution
Amounts of \$375.01 and greater:		
4 contributions from individuals	\$ 5,400	\$ 1,350
Total	\$ 5,400	

Wildrose Alliance Party (WAP)

	Total Contributions	Average Contribution
Amounts to \$375.00:		
3,816 contributions from individuals	\$ 534,616	\$ 140
118 contributions from corporations	\$ 22,104	\$ 187
Amounts of \$375.01 and greater:		
878 contributions from individuals	\$ 1,047,251	\$ 1,193
240 contributions from corporations	\$ 566,560	\$ 2,361
Total	\$ 2,170,531	

Total Contributions to All Parties

	Total Contributions	Average Contribution
Amounts to \$375.00:		
11,664 contributions from individuals	\$ 1,380,800	\$ 118
490 contributions from corporations	\$ 68,619	\$ 140
9 contributions from trade unions	\$ 2,025	\$ 225
Amounts of \$375.01 and greater:		
2,734 contributions from individuals	\$ 2,278,132	\$ 833
916 contributions from corporations	\$ 2,023,301	\$ 2,209
14 contributions from trade unions	\$ 61,279	\$ 4,377
Total	\$ 5,814,156	

Revenue and Expenses Reported by Registered Political Parties

Registered Political Parties	Amounts to \$375.00	Amounts of \$375.01 and greater	Other Revenue	Total Annual Revenue	Funds Transferred	Annual Expenses	Total Annual Expenses	Annual Surplus (Deficit)
LIB	214,958	309,858	68,161	592,977	159,117	469,557	628,674	(35,697)
NDP	332,276	396,300	148,912	877,488	165,427	679,384	844,811	32,677
AP	45,030	99,448	82,927	227,405	Nil	250,883	250,883	(23,478)
SC	1,221	3,505	3,529	8,255	Nil	7,138	7,138	1,117
CP-A	800	Nil	130	930	Nil	151	151	779
EPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
PC	300,439	1,934,390	1,167,237	3,402,066	12,373	3,388,673	3,401,046	1,020
SPA	Nil	5,400	20	5,420	Nil	5,963	5,963	(543)
WAP	556,720	1,613,811	536,798	2,707,329	113,948	2,519,405	2,633,353	73,976

For detailed information, reference the Elections Alberta website at www.elections.ab.ca.

Constituency Associations – Annual Financial Statements

Of the 378 registered constituency associations:

- 356 constituency associations filed their financial statements by the due date of March 31, 2012;
- 21 constituency associations filed their financial statements after the due date; and
- 1 constituency association registered after September 1, 2011 is not required to file until March 31, 2013.

Constituency Associations – Contribution Highlights

The policy regarding the acceptance of contributions by constituency associations differs between parties. The following information reflects these policies during the 2011 calendar year.

Alberta Liberal Party (LIB)

Registered constituency associations were not authorized to accept contributions. All contributions were accepted at the party level.

Alberta New Democratic Party (NDP)

Registered constituency associations were not authorized to accept contributions. All contributions were accepted at the party level.

Alberta Party (AP)

Registered constituency associations were authorized to accept contributions.

Sixteen of the thirty-seven registered constituency associations reported receiving contributions:

	Total Contributions	Average Contribution
Amounts to \$375.00:		
212 contributions from individuals	\$ 21,926	\$ 103
4 contributions from corporations	\$ 443	\$ 111
Amounts of \$375.01 and greater:		
72 contributions from individuals	\$ 42,792	\$ 594
2 contributions from corporations	\$ 1,800	\$ 900
Total	\$ 66,961	

Alberta Social Credit Party (SC)

Registered constituency associations were authorized to accept contributions.
No contributions were received.

Communist Party – Alberta (CP-A)

The Communist Party had no constituency associations registered in the 2011 calendar year.

Evergreen Party of Alberta (EPA)

The Evergreen Party of Alberta had no constituency associations registered in the 2011 calendar year.

Progressive Conservative Association of Alberta (PC)

Registered constituency associations were authorized to accept contributions.

Eighty of the eighty-three registered constituency associations reported receiving contributions:

	Total Contributions	Average Contribution
Amounts to \$375.00:		
2,828 contributions from individuals	\$ 363,592	\$ 129
1,045 contributions from corporations	\$ 169,272	\$ 162
2 contributions from trade unions	\$ 350	\$ 175
Amounts of \$375.01 and greater:		
563 contributions from individuals	\$ 338,847	\$ 602
741 contributions from corporations	\$ 490,697	\$ 662
1 contribution from a trade union	\$ 500	\$ 500
Total	\$ 1,363,258	

Separation Party of Alberta (SPA)

Registered constituency associations were authorized to accept contributions.
No contributions were received.

Wildrose Alliance Party (WAP)

Registered constituency associations were authorized to accept contributions.

Seventy-six of the eighty-three registered constituency associations reported receiving contributions:

	Total Contributions	Average Contribution
Amounts to \$375.00:		
1,811 contributions from individuals	\$ 233,541	\$ 129
203 contributions from corporations	\$ 39,179	\$ 193
Amounts of \$375.01 and greater		
587 contributions from individuals	\$ 375,723	\$ 640
213 contributions from corporations	\$ 147,041	\$ 690
Total	\$ 795,484	

Total Contributions to All Constituency Associations

	Total Contributions	Average Contribution
Amounts to \$375.00:		
4,851 contributions from individuals	\$ 619,059	\$ 128
1,252 contributions from corporations	\$ 208,894	\$ 167
2 contributions from trade unions	\$ 350	\$ 175
Amounts of \$375.01 and greater:		
1,222 contributions from individuals	\$ 757,362	\$ 620
956 contributions from corporations	\$ 639,538	\$ 669
1 contribution from a trade union	\$ 500	\$ 500
Total	\$ 2,225,703	

Total Combined Contributions to Political Parties and Constituency Associations

Total contributions received by registered parties and constituency associations during 2011 were:

	Party	Constituency Associations	Total
Alberta Liberal Party (LIB)	\$ 524,816	\$ 0	\$ 524,816
Alberta New Democratic Party (NDP)	\$ 728,576	\$ 0	\$ 728,576
Alberta Party (AP)	\$ 144,478	\$ 66,961	\$ 211,439
Alberta Social Credit Party (SC)	\$ 4,726	\$ 0	\$ 4,726
Communist Party – Alberta (CP-A)	\$ 800	\$ 0	\$ 800
Evergreen Party of Alberta (EPA)	\$ N/A	\$ N/A	\$ N/A
Progressive Conservative Association of Alberta (PC)	\$ 2,234,829	\$ 1,363,258	\$ 3,598,087
Separation Party of Alberta (SPA)	\$ 5,400	\$ 0	\$ 5,400
Wildrose Alliance Party (WAP)	\$ 2,170,531	\$ 795,484	\$ 2,966,015
Total	\$ 5,814,156	\$ 2,225,703	\$ 8,039,859

Status of Registered Constituency Associations as at December 31, 2011

("R" = registered, "-" = not registered, "X" = deregistered in reporting year)

Constituency Association	LIB	NDP	AP	SC	IND	PC	SPA	WAP
1 Dunvegan-Central Peace	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
2 Calgary-Bow	R	R	-	R	-	R	-	R
3 Calgary-Buffalo	R	R	R	-	-	R	-	R
4 Calgary-Cross	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
5 Calgary-Currie	R	R	R	-	X	R	-	R
6 Calgary-East	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
7 Calgary-Egmont	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
8 Calgary-Elbow	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
9 Calgary-Fish Creek	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
10 Calgary-Foothills	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
11 Calgary-Fort	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
12 Calgary-Glenmore	R	R	R	-	-	R	-	R
13 Calgary-Hays	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
14 Calgary-Lougheed	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
15 Calgary-Mackay	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
16 Calgary-McCall	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
17 Calgary-Montrose	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
18 Calgary-Mountain View	R	R	R	-	-	R	-	R
19 Calgary-North Hill	R	R	R	-	-	R	-	R
20 Calgary-North West	R	R	R	-	-	R	-	R
21 Calgary-Nose Hill	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
22 Calgary-Shaw	R	R	R	-	-	R	-	R
23 Calgary-Varsity	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
24 Calgary-West	R	R	R	-	-	R	-	R
25 Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
26 Edmonton-Calder	R	R	-	R	-	R	-	R
27 Edmonton-Castle Downs	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
28 Edmonton-Centre	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	R
29 Edmonton-Decore	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
30 Edmonton-Ellerslie	R	R	R	-	-	R	-	R
31 Edmonton-Glenora	R	R	R	-	-	R	-	R
32 Edmonton-Gold Bar	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	R
33 Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood	R	R	R	-	-	R	-	R
34 Edmonton-Manning	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
35 Edmonton-McClung	R	R	R	-	-	R	-	R
36 Edmonton-Meadowlark	R	R	R	-	-	R	-	R
37 Edmonton-Mill Creek	R	R	R	-	-	R	-	R
38 Edmonton-Mill Woods	R	R	R	-	-	R	-	R
39 Edmonton-Riverview	R	R	R	-	-	R	-	R
40 Edmonton-Rutherford	R	R	R	-	-	R	-	R
41 Edmonton-Strathcona	R	R	R	-	-	R	-	R
42 Edmonton-Whitemud	R	R	R	-	-	R	-	R
43 Airdrie-Chestermere	R	R	R	-	-	R	-	R

**Status of Registered Constituency Associations
as at December 31, 2011**

("R" = registered, "-" = not registered, "X" = deregistered in reporting year)

Constituency Association	LIB	NDP	AP	SC	IND	PC	SPA	WAP
44 Athabasca-Redwater	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
45 Banff-Cochrane	R	R	R	-	-	R	-	R
46 Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	R
47 Battle River-Wainwright	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
48 Bonnyville-Cold Lake	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
49 Cardston-Taber-Warner	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
50 Cypress-Medicine Hat	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
51 Drayton Valley-Calmar	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
52 Drumheller-Stettler	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
53 Foothills-Rocky View	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
54 Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
55 Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
56 Grande Prairie-Smoky	R	R	R	-	-	R	-	R
57 Grande Prairie-Wapiti	R	R	R	-	-	R	-	R
58 Highwood	R	R	R	-	-	R	-	R
59 Innisfail-Sylvan Lake	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	R
60 Lac La Biche-St. Paul	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
61 Lacombe-Ponoka	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
62 Leduc-Beaumont-Devon	R	R	R	X	-	R	-	R
63 Lesser Slave Lake	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
64 Lethbridge-East	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
65 Lethbridge-West	R	R	R	-	-	R	-	R
66 Little Bow	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
67 Livingstone-Macleod	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
68 Medicine Hat	R	R	R	-	-	R	-	R
69 Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
70 Peace River	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
71 Red Deer-North	R	R	R	-	-	R	-	R
72 Red Deer-South	R	R	R	-	-	R	-	R
73 Rocky Mountain House	R	R	-	-	-	R	X	R
74 Sherwood Park	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	R
75 Spruce Grove-Sturgeon-St. Albert	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
76 St. Albert	R	R	R	-	-	R	-	R
77 Stony Plain	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
78 Strathcona	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
79 Strathmore-Brooks	R	R	-	R	-	R	R	R
80 Vermilion-Lloydminster	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
81 West Yellowhead	R	R	R	-	-	R	-	R
82 Wetaskiwin-Camrose	R	R	R	-	-	R	-	R
83 Whitecourt-Ste. Anne	R	R	-	-	-	R	-	R
	83	83	37	8	0	83	1	83

Senatorial Selection

The *EFCDA* permits registered political parties to continue financial activities related to Senatorial Selection between campaigns. Registered parties may accept annual contributions, within prescribed limits, and expend funds for Senatorial Selection purposes. Two registered parties, the Progressive Conservative Association of Alberta and the Wildrose Alliance Party, formerly the Alberta Alliance Party, nominated candidates for the 2004 Senate Nominee Election. The Progressive Conservative Association of Alberta reported no financial activity. The Wildrose Alliance Party reported revenue of \$790 for the 2011 calendar year.

Political Parties – Senatorial Selection Annual Financial Statements

Wildrose Alliance Party (WAP)

	Total Contributions	Average Contribution
Amounts to \$375.00:		
6 contributions from individuals	\$ 290	\$ 48
Amounts of \$375.01 and greater:		
1 contribution from an individual	\$ 500	\$ 500
Total	\$ 790	

Senatorial Selection Revenue and Expenses Reported by Registered Political Parties

Registered Political Parties	Amounts to \$375.00	Amounts of \$375.01 and greater	Other Revenue	Total Annual Revenue	Funds Transferred	Annual Expenses	Total Annual Expenses	Annual Surplus (Deficit)
PC	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
WAP	290	500	Nil	790	Nil	Nil	Nil	790

For detailed information, reference the Elections Alberta website at www.elections.ab.ca.

Third Party Advertising

Registration

On September 15, 2011, Section 9.1 and Part 6.1 of the *EFDA* dealing with third party election advertising were proclaimed into force. The *EFDA* allows registered third parties to continue annual financial activities related to future elections. See additional comments on page 21 of this Report.

Between September 15 and December 31, 2011, one (1) Third Party Advertiser was registered:

Name	Date Registered	Primary Contact	Chief Financial Officer
Merit Contractors Association	December 20, 2011	Stephen Kushner	Lyle Bhargava

Third Party Election Advertising Report - Annual

Total contributions received:

Merit Contractors Association (MCA)

	Total Contributions	Average Contribution
Amounts of \$375.01 and greater:		
1 contribution from a corporation	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
Total	\$ 15,000	

Revenue and Expenses Reported by Registered Third Party Advertisers

Registered Third Party Advertiser	Amounts to \$375.00	Amounts of \$375.01 and greater	Other Revenue	Total Annual Revenue	Funds Transferred	Annual Expenses	Total Annual Expenses	Annual Surplus (Deficit)
MCA	Nil	15,000	Nil	15,000	Nil	Nil	Nil	15,000

For detailed information, reference the Elections Alberta website at www.elections.ab.ca.

Section Two – General Information

Funds Held in Trust by the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer

On December 31, 2011, the Chief Electoral Officer held no funds in trust.

In accordance with Section 10(12) of the *EFCDA*, any funds held in trust must be transferred to the General Revenue Fund for the Province of Alberta one year after deregistration.

Public Files and Reports

Public Files are maintained at the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer and contain information concerning political financing of registered political organizations in Alberta. The Public Files now contain data for thirty-five consecutive calendar years including nine general elections starting March 14, 1979, the nineteen by-elections held starting November 21, 1979 and three Senate Nominee elections held in 1989, 1998, and 2004.

Copies of financial statements are contained in the Public Files and are available for examination from 8:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. Photocopies of data maintained in the Public Files are available at a rate prescribed under authority of Section 11 of the *EFCDA*.

For ease of access throughout the province, copies of financial statements from 2004 onward, along with redacted lists of contributors, are available on the Elections Alberta website: www.elections.ab.ca under the Financial Disclosure tab.

Reports published by the Chief Electoral Officer are available to the public at no cost and are also available on the Elections Alberta website.

Events of Interest since January 1, 2012

The following changes have occurred between the end of the calendar year and the date this report was published. Additional details will be provided in the 2012 Annual Report of the Chief Electoral Officer.

Amendments to the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act (EFCDA)*

Pursuant to sections of the *Election Statutes Amendment Act, 2010* (the *ESA Act*), a number of amendments to the *EFCDA* came into force during 2010 and 2011, with the last of the amendments coming into effect on March 26, 2012 with the issuance of the writs for the 2012 Provincial General Election. An overview of these amendments follows.

Elections Alberta has updated forms, guides and other resources that have been provided to political parties, candidates and constituency associations. These resources are available through our Office and on our website (www.elections.ab.ca). Elections Alberta has appreciated this opportunity to enhance service to Albertans within the context of the statutory direction we received.

Highlights of the significant amendments and their effective dates particularly affecting political entities appear in the following chart. Please note that the chart provides a brief overview only, therefore it is important to review the laws governing elections and election finances in their entirety. The amendments that are in force have been consolidated into the legislation and are accessible on the Queen's Printer website (<http://www.qp.alberta.ca/Laws Online.cfm>) and through the Queen's Printer Bookstore.

EFCDA AMENDMENTS				POLITICAL ENTITY IMPACTED		
ITEM NO.	PROVISION	IN FORCE	EFCDA SECTION	PARTY	CA	CANDIDATE
1.	Chief financial officers who fail to comply with the requirements for filing financial statements may be prohibited from acting in that capacity for a period of up to 8 years.	Mar 26, 2012	29(4)	✓	✓	✓
2.	Loan payments made by any person or organization are treated as contributions of that person or organization, unless they are repaid before the filing deadline.	Mar 26, 2012	40(2)	✓	✓	✓

EFCDA AMENDMENTS				POLITICAL ENTITY IMPACTED		
ITEM NO.	PROVISION	IN FORCE	EFCDA SECTION	PARTY	CA	CANDIDATE
3.	Campaign financial statement reporting requirements have expanded to include revenue, expenses, assets, and liabilities.	Mar 26, 2012	43(2)			✓
4.	Candidates who run a campaign deficit must retire that deficit and report on the manner by which it is retired. A candidate who does not retire a campaign deficit within three months after the due date of the financial statement (with a possibility of a 3 month extension) may be prohibited from running as a candidate for up to eight years.	Mar 26, 2012	43.1			✓

Third Party Election Advertising

As of the date this report was published, there were five (5) third parties registered with Elections Alberta. Legislation came into effect September 15, 2011, establishing rules for third parties involved in political advertising during provincial election periods. Eligible individuals, corporations and groups must register with Elections Alberta if they place election advertisements (broadcast, print or electronic) and if contributions or expenses exceed \$1,000. The new rules also require disclosure of contributors' information, which is made available to the public.

The legislation establishes restrictions for contributions, as well. Only eligible contributors may make contributions to third parties, and must observe prescribed contribution limits. As well, third party advertising rules ensure that Albertans are aware of who is paying for, and posting, political advertising.

A "Guide to the Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act for Third Party Advertisers" is posted on the Elections Alberta website at www.elections.ab.ca. Section 1 of this Guide provides information to prospective contributors. Section 2 of this Guide provides information to prospective third parties, and provides specific direction to their Chief Financial Officers, who have legal obligations to fulfil.

Prohibited Contributions

In the last quarter of 2011, Elections Alberta launched an investigation into allegations that political parties and related constituency associations had received contributions from prohibited corporations dating back to 2005. The investigations have continued

into 2012. To date, a total of 84 files have been opened and reviewed. The review process has been concluded for 76 files, and the subjects of the complaints have been notified of the outcome.

Section 5(4) of the *EFDA* prohibits the disclosure of details, but the status of the review process has been released to the public.

Campaign Schools

Elections Alberta participated in information sessions organized by three political parties during 2011 to assist with improved understanding and application of the provisions of the *EFDA*. As well, Elections Alberta organized campaign schools in Edmonton, Calgary, and Red Deer in early 2012. These open information sessions were attended by approximately 400 candidates, chief financial officers, official agents and other political party representatives. The information sessions were designed to provide participants with a better understanding of the provisions relating to registration requirements, contribution limits, issuance of official contribution receipts, restrictions on spending activities, advertising, filing of nomination papers, and filing of financial statements.

Electoral Division Boundary Changes

Boundaries of 87 new electoral divisions came into effect on March 26, 2012 with the issue of the writs for the 2012 Provincial General Election. At the same time, boundaries of the 83 former electoral divisions were dissolved. Constituency associations registered on the old boundaries were no longer constituted and political parties were required to register constituency associations on the new boundaries.

2012 Provincial General Election and Senate Nominee Election

Writs of election were issued on March 26th for the 2012 Provincial General Election and the 2012 Senate Nominee Election.

Detailed financial information on the conduct of the elections will appear in the Chief Electoral Officer's Report on the 2012 Provincial General Election and the 2012 Senate Nominee Election. Information on contributions and expenses of political parties and candidates will appear in the 2012 Annual Report of the Chief Electoral Officer.

Section Three – Office of the Chief Electoral Officer Financial Statements

On the following pages is a copy of the Audited Annual Financial Statements for the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer for the year ended March 31, 2012.

Office of the Chief Electoral Officer

Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2012

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AS AT MARCH 31, 2012

Independent Auditor's Report

Statement of Financial Position

Statement of Operations

Statement of Cash Flow

Notes to the Financial Statements

Schedule 1 – Expense Detailed by Object

Schedule 2 - Salary and Benefits Disclosure

Schedule 3 – Schedule of Allocated Costs

Schedule 4 – Budget



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly

Report on the Financial Statements

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2012, and the statements of operations and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer as at March 31, 2012, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

[Original signed by Merwan N. Saher, FCA]

Auditor General

July 9, 2012

Edmonton, Alberta

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT MARCH 31, 2012

ASSETS	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Assets		
Cash	\$ 150	\$ 150
Prepaid Expenses	291,658	-
Capital assets (Note 4)	<u>841,809</u>	<u>1,193,379</u>
	<u>\$ 1,133,617</u>	<u>\$ 1,193,529</u>
 LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS 		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 294,148	\$ 450,689
Accrued vacation pay	<u>284,762</u>	<u>186,648</u>
	<u>578,910</u>	<u>637,337</u>
Net Assets		
Net assets at beginning of year	556,192	1,147,394
Net operating results	(12,646,270)	(4,898,884)
Net Transfer from general revenues	<u>12,644,785</u>	<u>4,307,682</u>
Net assets at end of year	<u>554,707</u>	<u>556,192</u>
	<u>\$ 1,133,617</u>	<u>\$ 1,193,529</u>

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012

	<u>2012</u>		<u>2011</u>
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Revenues:			
Other Revenue	\$ -	\$ 11,460	\$ 3,988
Expenses (Schedule 1&3):			
Voted:			
Corporate Services	\$ 3,596,000	3,276,028	3,471,205
Elections	25,724,000	8,557,175	875,596
	<u>29,320,000</u>	<u>11,833,203</u>	<u>4,346,801</u>
Amounts Not Voted:			
Amortization of Capital Assets	590,000	726,413	532,435
Provision for vacation pay	-	98,114	23,636
	<u>590,000</u>	<u>824,527</u>	<u>556,071</u>
	<u>\$ 29,910,000</u>	<u>12,657,730</u>	<u>4,902,872</u>
Net operating results		<u>\$ (12,646,270)</u>	<u>\$ (4,898,884)</u>

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Operating transactions:		
Net operating results	\$ (12,646,270)	\$ (4,898,884)
Add non-cash charges		
Amortization of capital assets	<u>726,413</u>	<u>532,435</u>
	(11,919,857)	(4,366,449)
Decrease in accounts receivable	-	13,491
Increase in prepaid expenses	(291,658)	
Decrease in inventory	-	389,832
Increase (Decrease) in Accounts Payable and accrued liabilities	(156,541)	126,151
Increase in accrued vacation pay	<u>98,114</u>	<u>23,636</u>
Cash Applied to Operating Transactions	(12,269,942)	(3,813,339)
Capital transactions:		
Purchase of capital assets	<u>(374,843)</u>	<u>(494,343)</u>
Cash Applied to Capital Transactions	(374,843)	(494,343)
Financing transactions:		
Net transfer from general revenues	<u>12,644,785</u>	<u>4,307,682</u>
Net cash used	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash, beginning of year	<u>150</u>	<u>150</u>
Cash, end of year	<u>\$ 150</u>	<u>\$ 150</u>

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 1 Authority

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer (the “Office”) is operated under the authority of the *Election Act*, the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act* and the *Senatorial Selection Act*. The net cost of the operations of the Office is borne by the General Revenue Fund of the Province of Alberta. Annual operating budgets are reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices.

Note 2 Purpose

The Chief Electoral Officer provides administrative, logistic and financial support for general and special enumerations, general elections and by-elections, and plebiscites in support of the *Election Act* and elections in support of the *Senatorial Selection Act*. The Chief Electoral Officer monitors and records the financial activities of registered parties, constituency associations and candidates to ensure compliance with the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act*.

Note 3 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Reporting Practices

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

a) Reporting Entity

The reporting entity is the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, for which the Chief Electoral Officer is responsible.

The Office operates within the General Revenue Fund (the “Fund”). The Fund is administered by the Minister of Finance. All receipts of the Office are deposited into the Fund and all disbursements made by the Office are paid from the Fund.

**Note 3 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Reporting Practices
(Continued)**

b) Basis of Financial Reporting

Revenue

All revenues are reported on the accrual basis of accounting.

Expenses

Expenses represent the costs of resources consumed during the year of the Office's operations.

Pension costs included in these statements comprise the cost of employer contributions for current service of employees during the year.

Assets

Financial assets of the Office are limited to financial claims such as advances to and accounts receivables from other organizations, employees and other individuals.

Inventories of small items have been held for use in provincial elections. These items have been carried as assets in prior years however the dollar value of individual items is low and the cost of maintaining an accurate count exceeds the benefit gained from the activity.

Capital assets of the Office are recorded at historical cost. The threshold for capitalizing capital assets is \$5,000. Amortization is calculated on a straight-line basis, over the estimated useful lives of the assets as follows:

Computer hardware and software	3 years
Warehouse equipment	10 years
Furniture and office equipment	10 years
Election assets	20% each general election

In the year of addition and disposal, amortization is one-half of the prescribed amount.

Note 3 b) Basis of Financial Reporting (continued)

Prepaid Expenses

Returning Officer Offices were paid for the month of April 2012 to secure locations for the General Election, held on April 23, 2012.

Liabilities

Liabilities represent all financial claims payable by the Office at fiscal year end.

Net Assets

Net assets represent the difference between the carrying value of assets held by the Office and its liabilities.

Canadian public sector accounting standards require a "net debt" presentation for the statement of financial position in the summary financial statements of the governments. Net debt presentation reports the difference between financial assets and liabilities as "net debt" or "net financial assets" as an indicator of the future revenues required to pay for past transactions and events. The office operates within the government reporting entity, and does not finance its expenditures by independently raising revenues. Accordingly, these financial statements do not report a net debt indicator.

Valuation of Financial Assets and Liabilities

Fair value is the amount of consideration agreed upon in an arm's length transaction between knowledgeable, willing parties who are under no compulsion to act.

The fair value of cash, accounts receivable and advances, accounts payable and accrued liabilities and accrued vacation pay are estimated to approximate their carrying values.

Note 4 Capital Assets

	2012		2011	
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value	Net Book Value
Computer hardware and software	\$ 3,773,428	\$ 3,005,956	\$ 767,472	\$ 1,107,286
Warehouse equipment	13,400	13,400	-	-
Furniture and office equipment	164,206	103,583	60,623	72,379
Elections assets	142,434	128,720	13,714	13,714
	<u>\$ 4,093,468</u>	<u>\$ 3,251,659</u>	<u>\$ 841,809</u>	<u>\$ 1,193,379</u>

Note 5 Defined Benefit Plans

The Office participates in the multi-employer pension plans: Management Employees Pension Plan and Public Service Pension Plan. The Office also participates in the multi-employer Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers. The expense for the plan is equivalent to the annual contribution of \$ 180,550 for the year ended March 31, 2012 (2011- \$169,251).

At December 31, 2011, the Management Employees Pension Plan reported a deficiency of \$517,726,000 (2010 deficiency - \$397,087,000) and the Public Service Pension Plan reported a deficiency of \$1,790,383,000 (2010 deficiency – \$2,067,151,000). At December 31, 2011, the Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers had a deficiency of \$53,489,000 (2010 deficiency - \$39,559,000).

The Office also participates in two multi-employer Long Term Disability Income Continuance Plans. At March 31, 2012, the Bargaining Unit Plan reported an actuarial surplus of \$9,136,000,000 (2011 deficiency – \$ 4,141,000) and the Management, Opted Out and Excluded Plan an actuarial surplus of \$10,454,000 (2011 surplus - \$7,020,000). The expense for these two plans is limited to the employer's annual contributions for the year.

Note 6 Budget

The budget shown on the statement of operations is based on the budgeted expenses presented to the Legislative Assembly on February 24, 2011 and supplemental funding on November 22, 2011 and February 9, 2012. (Schedule 4) The following table compares the Office's actual expenditures to the voted budget.

	2011 -12 Voted Budget	2011-12 Actual	Unexpended (Over Expended)
PROGRAM EXPENSE			
1 Corporate Services	\$ 3,596,000	\$ 3,276,028	\$ 319,972
2 Elections	25,724,000	\$ 8,557,175	\$ 17,166,825
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
sub-total	\$ 29,320,000	\$ 11,833,203	\$ 17,486,797
CAPITAL INVESTMENT			
	300,000	374,843	(74,843)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total	<u>\$ 29,620,000</u>	<u>\$ 12,208,046</u>	<u>\$ 17,411,954</u>

The 2011-12 Voted Budget for Elections includes funding for a General Election, a Senate Nominee Election and an Enumeration. As the elections were not held in the 2011-12 fiscal year, actual costs incurred primarily related to the Enumeration along with minor costs incurred for election preparation purposes resulting in a large unexpended amount.

Note 7 Contractual Obligations

	2012	2011
Obligations under contracts	<u>\$ 2,634,645</u>	<u>\$ 3,392,313</u>

Estimated payment requirements for each of the next 5 years and thereafter are as follows:

2012-13	\$ 2,608,245
2013-14	9,600
2014-15	9,600
2015-16	7,200
thereafter	-
	<u>\$2,634,645</u>

Note 8 Comparative Figures

Certain 2011 figures have been reclassified to conform to the 2012 presentation.

Note 9 Approval of Financial Statements

These financial statements were approved by the Chief Electoral Officer.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICERSCHEDULE OF EXPENSE DETAILED BY OBJECTYEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012

	2012		2011
	Budget	Actual	Actual
Voted:			
Salaries, Wages and Employee Benefits	\$ 2,749,907	\$ 2,396,014	\$ 2,188,303
Supplies and Services	26,570,093	9,437,189	2,158,498
Total	29,320,000	11,833,203	4,346,801
Amounts not voted:			
Amortization of Capital Assets	590,000	726,413	532,435
Provision for Vacation Pay	-	98,114	23,636
	590,000	824,527	556,071
Total Expense	\$ 29,910,000	\$ 12,657,730	\$ 4,902,872

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICERSALARY AND BENEFITS DISCLOSUREYEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012

	2012			2011	
	Base Salary (1)	Other Cash Benefits (2)	Other Non-cash Benefits (3)	Total	Total
CURRENT EXECUTIVES					
Senior official					
Chief Electoral Officer	\$178,399	\$2,235	\$6,228	\$186,862	\$188,771
Executive					
Deputy Chief Electoral Officer	136,035	1,250	35,286	172,571	166,943

(1) Base salary includes regular base pay.

(2) Other cash benefits include vacation payments, car allowance, lump sum payments, and monthly payments in lieu of employee participating in the Management Employees Pension Plan. There were no bonuses paid in 2012.

(3) Other non-cash benefits include Office's share of all employee benefits and contributions or payments made on behalf of employees including pensions, health care, dental coverage, group life insurance, short and long term disability plans.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICERSCHEDULE OF ALLOCATED COSTSYEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012

Program	2012					2011
	Expenses ⁽¹⁾	<u>Expenses - Incurred by Others</u>			Total Expenses	Total Expenses
		Accommodation Costs ⁽²⁾	Legal Costs	Amounts not voted ⁽³⁾		
Operations	\$ 11,833,203	\$ 560,990	\$ -	\$ 824,527	\$ 13,218,720	\$ 5,425,423

(1) Expenses - Directly incurred as per Statement of Operations, excluding amounts not voted.

(2) Costs shown for Accomodation (includes grants in lieu of taxes) is allocated by square footage.

(3) Amounts not voted include a provision for vacation pay and amortization cost as per the Statement of Operations.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICERBUDGETYEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012

	<u>2011-12 Budget</u>	<u>Authorized Supplementary 1 ^(a)</u>	<u>Authorized Supplementary 2 ^(b)</u>	<u>Total</u>
Expenses - Directly Incurred Programs				
Corporate Services	\$ 3,596,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,596,000
Elections	21,224,000	1,400,000	3,100,000	25,724,000
	<u>24,820,000</u>	<u>1,400,000</u>	<u>3,100,000</u>	<u>29,320,000</u>
Net Operating Results	<u>\$ (24,820,000)</u>	<u>\$ (1,400,000)</u>	<u>\$ (3,100,000)</u>	<u>\$ (29,320,000)</u>
Capital Investments	<u>\$ 300,000</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 300,000</u>
Non-Budgetary Disbursements	<u>\$ 590,000</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 590,000</u>

(a) This supplementary amount of \$ 1,400,000 was approved November 22, 2011 to cover additional costs related to anticipated fee increases for election officers, and implementation of new statutory requirements for third party advertisers.

(b) This supplementary amount of \$3,100,000 was approved February 9, 2012 to provide funding for costs related to the Senate Nominee Election.