

Introduction

If you are thinking about donating or making a contribution to a **contestant** seeking the leadership of a registered political party, or planning to attend a fundraising event held by a leadership contestant, this guide provides an overview of the rules set out by the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act* (EFCDA).

What is a contribution?

A **contribution** is a donation of money, or a donation of real property or goods, or the use of real property or goods, provided to the leadership contestant for their benefit; without returned compensation from the leadership contestant to the donor.

What is not a contribution?

Services are not considered a contribution.

Note: The EFCDA does not apply to constituency association nominations for endorsement of candidates.

Who is eligible to contribute?

Only a person who is ordinarily resident in Alberta may make a contribution to a leadership contestant.

Corporations, unincorporated associations, and organizations are prohibited from making contributions. This also includes trade unions and employee organizations, as defined within the EFCDA.

How much can be contributed?

The EFCDA does not impose limits on contributions made to a leadership contestant. You may wish to consult with the particular registered political party to confirm if internal contribution limits are being imposed.

An eligible contributor may only contribute to a leadership contestant within the leadership contest campaign period, and once the leadership contestant is registered with Elections Alberta.

A leadership contest campaign period begins on the date of the official call of the leadership contest, as set in a statement filed with Elections Alberta by the registered political party, and ends 2 months after the date of the leadership vote.

Contributions to leadership contestants are not eligible for income tax credits.

What contributions are disclosed?

Any person who has contributed over \$250 to a leadership contestant's campaign will have their contribution disclosed by the leadership contestant to Elections Alberta, posted on our website (www.elections.ab.ca), and made available for review through our public files maintained by this Office.

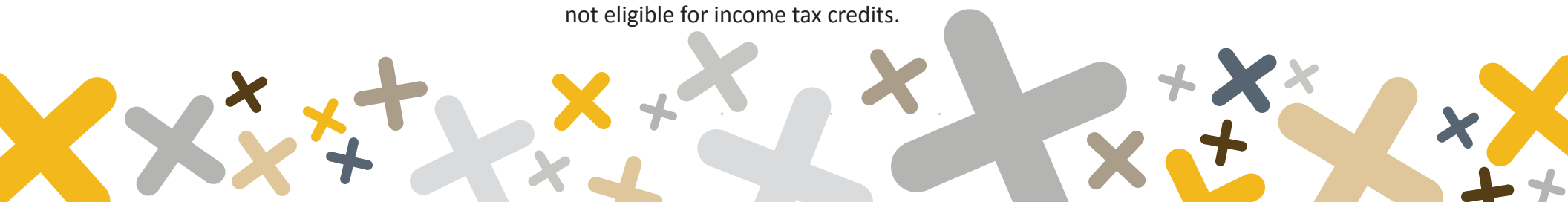
Fundraising events

A portion of the cost paid by an individual to attend a fundraising event, may be considered a contribution to the leadership contestant.

Only eligible persons ordinarily resident in Alberta are allowed to purchase or pay admission to a fundraising event.

Prohibited entities shall not offer a reimbursement for the cost of the purchase of a fundraising event ticket, as this would result in a violation of the EFCDA.

Only the expense portion of the ticket, as determined by the leadership contestant, may be reimbursed.



What if someone violates the EFCDA?

The consequence of breaching the EFCDA has several penalties that range in severity from a formal reprimand up to prosecution and fines, up to a maximum of \$10,000, depending on the breach.

Additional questions?

Contributors are encouraged to review the EFCDA, available on our website, or contact us for more detailed information or clarification of the guidelines for contributors.



A GUIDE FOR CONTRIBUTORS

LEADERSHIP CONTESTS

Are you thinking about donating to a Political Party Leadership Contestant?

2016

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