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Elections Alberta continues to review allegations of prohibited contributions

EDMONTON - Elections Alberta is continuing to review allegations that political parties and constituency associations received contributions from prohibited corporations. Previous news releases outlined the process that is underway.

“Sufficient information has been received to allow for the detailed review and careful consideration of an additional 12 files. To date, a thorough review of 71 files has been concluded,” said O. Brian Fjeldheim, Chief Electoral Officer. In total, 81 files have been opened since Elections Alberta began its review.

During this recent review,

- 9 files have advanced to the administrative penalty stage in cases where the allegations, or voluntary disclosures, are sufficiently well founded to support the application of an administrative penalty to a prohibited corporation (resulting in a cumulative total of 37)
 - Of these, 2 files contained prohibited contributions received after April 22, 2010: in these cases, the political entities will be ordered to return the full contribution amount to the prohibited corporations (resulting in a cumulative total of 20)
- 2 files have been closed because the financial records demonstrate that no prohibited contributions were made (resulting in a cumulative total of 20)
- 1 file has been closed where the allegations were partly well founded: both the contributor and recipient will be censured and required to follow appropriate procedures to avoid recurrence (resulting in a cumulative total of 14)

To date, 26 files have been closed following payment of the administrative penalties.

news release



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Political entities in receipt of prohibited contributions on or before April 22, 2010 will be advised of the outcome of the review and advised that they may wish to return the prohibited contributions voluntarily. It is important to note that political entities are currently required to retain records for a three-year period, and were subject to a two-year retention period prior to April 22, 2010.

Elections Alberta will continue to gather the necessary documentation to determine whether allegations are substantiated and will assess all files in a fair, equitable and consistent manner. The Chief Electoral Officer will continue to provide updates on the status of this review within the confidentiality provisions of the law.

Elections Alberta is an independent office of the Legislative Assembly that provides non-partisan administration of the electoral process.

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