Overview

• Overview of the changes in LECFA
  – Task Force recommendations
  – Themes
  – Roles and Responsibilities
• What does this mean for you?
  – Running for Office
  – Campaign Financing
  – Election Advertising
  – EI
  – Key dates
  – Questions

Task Force Recommendations

• Local Elections Task Force
  – Report released in May 2010
  – 31 recommendations; 5 themes
• Task Force themes:
  – Phase one:
    • Enhance accountability
    • Enhance transparency
    • Strengthen compliance and enforcement
    • Expand education and advice
  – Phase two:
    • Increase accessibility

Enhance Accountability

• A separate act for campaign finance provisions (Local Elections Campaign Financing Act)
• Expanded solemn declaration (awareness and compliance with the new rules)
• Third party advertisers to register with Elections BC

Enhance Transparency

• Clearer contribution and election expense rules
• New rules for election advertising
  – Sponsorship information required
• New disclosure rules:
  – Reduced filing deadline
  – Disclosure statements filed with/published online by Elections BC

Strengthen Compliance and Enforcement

• Elections BC responsible for enforcing election advertising and campaign finance rules
• Elections BC focuses on compliance
• New offences framework
  – New time limit for starting prosecutions
  – Elections BC must approve all prosecutions
  – Updated offence penalties

Roles and Responsibilities

• Local Governments
  – Administer local elections (e.g. the vote)
  – Key contact for elections administration questions (e.g. eligibility, nominations, endorsement etc.)
• Elections BC
  – Administer, investigate and enforce campaign finance rules
  – Key contact for elections advertising and campaign finance questions (e.g. recording contributions)
• Ministry of Community Sport and Cultural Development
  – Responsible for elections legislation framework
  – General elections advice and materials (not campaign finance)

What this means for you:
Running for office

• Nomination process:
  – Same as current process (with new requirements)
  – Pick up and drop off nomination packages with local governments
• New requirements:
  – Local governments send information from nomination documents to Elections BC
  – Expanded solemn declaration requirement
  – Written consent for financial agent appointment

Collaborative approach, coordinated through Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

• TAC representatives appointed by parties involved in elections:
  – UBCM, LGMA, Elections BC, CSCD, ME & Justice
• TAC considers matters of common interest, including
  – Education materials
  – Information sharing processes
What this means for you: Elector Organizations (EOs)

- Endorsement process
  - EO officials submit endorsement information
  - Pick up and drop off endorsement packages with local governments
- New requirements:
  - Changes to EO qualification rules
  - EO officials
    - Responsible and authorized principal officials
    - Written consent for financial agent appointment
  - New solemn declaration requirement

New filing deadlines
Elections BC role
- Local Government Act voting day rules
- Local government sign bylaws
- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure sign regulations near highways

What this means for you: Election Advertising

- Election advertising
  - Any advertising for your election campaign that is “transmitted” to the public during the election proceedings period (46 days before general voting day)
  - 2014 general local election = Sept 30th-Nov 15th
- Sponsorship information must be included on election advertising
  - Name of financial agent and BC contact information

What this means for you: Campaign Financing

- Contributions
  - Anonymous contributions of $50 or less still allowed
  - “No horizon” for contributions
- Expenses:
  - Campaign period = calendar year
  - Election proceedings period = Sept 30th-Nov 15th
  - Assent voting advertising by candidates is an expense
- Campaign accounts
  - One account for each campaign

Endorsement process
- Online regulations

Regular filing deadline:
- February 13th, 2015
Elections BC can require supplementary reports
Elections BC reviews and publishes disclosure statements
Standardized disclosure forms
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure signs
Local Government Act signs

What this means for you: Third Party Advertising

- Third party advertising
  - Is a sub-set of election advertising
  - Includes election advertising not undertaken by a candidate or EO as part of their campaign
- Third party advertisers
  - Anyone who sponsors third party advertising
  - Must be independent from candidates and EOs
- Registration with Elections BC

Sponsorship information must be included on third party advertising
- Includes elec/on advertising not undertaken by a candidate or EO

 disclose
timeframes and automatic penalties

What this means for you: Disclosure Statements

- Elections BC role
  - Standardized disclosure forms
  - File disclosure statements with Elections BC
  - Elections BC reviews and publishes disclosure statements online
  - Elections BC can require supplementary reports
- New filing deadlines:
  - Regular filing deadline: February 13th, 2015
  - Late filing deadline (with late filing fee): March 16th, 2015
- Penalties for failing to file

Disclosure Timelines and Automatic Penalties

Questions?

- Ministry and BC are currently preparing guides and advisory materials (expected to be completed Aug-Oct, 2014) for municipalities, regional districts or local area authorities (please call)
- BC Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
  - Vancouver and Interior
  - Phone: 604-660-1212
  - Toll Free: 1-888-661-8683
  - Email: cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/elec/ons_home.htm
  - www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/elec/ons_home.htm
  - www.elec/ons.bc.ca

2016

Elections BC

Campaign period: January 1 - November 15

Campaign period: September 30th-November 15th

Campaign period: September 30th-November 15th