



ELECTIONS BC
Province of British Columbia

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May 11, 2012

Dermod Travis
Executive Director
Integrity BC
C204 – 633 Courtney St
Victoria, BC V8W 1B9

Dear Dermod Travis:

This letter is further to my correspondence of May 3, 2012, in which I advised that Elections BC would review your complaint regarding political contributions made to the British Columbia Liberal Party and then notify you whether the Chief Electoral Officer had determined that an investigation is warranted.

Specifically, you asserted that TRIUMF, a charitable organization, made several political contributions to the BC Liberal Party, in contravention of section 186 (4) of the *Election Act*, which reads, "A charitable organization must not make a political contribution".

We have reviewed the financial reports filed on behalf of the BC Liberal Party and information about TRIUMF and confirmed that TRIUMF has made contributions to the Party. Although TRIUMF has publicly claimed that the payments were for fundraising function tickets, the purchase of fundraising function tickets by an organization is a political contribution by virtue of section 182 of the *Act* and such purchases by charitable organizations are therefore prohibited. We conclude that TRIUMF is a charitable organization and has made political contributions to the Party.

While such contributions are prohibited, the *Election Act* does anticipate that some prohibited contributions will be inadvertently made to, and accepted by, political parties and section 189 of the *Act* provides that such contributions must be returned to the contributor.

I have advised both TRIUMF and the BC Liberal Party that these contributions must be returned to TRIUMF and reported as refunded prohibited contributions in the Party's next financing report filed with Elections BC.

Thank you for bringing this issue to our attention.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Nola Western', written over a white background.

M. Nola Western, CA
Deputy Chief Electoral Officer, Funding & Disclosure