



A Few Minutes of Your Time to Read a Clarification of Elections Alberta Issues

1 message

PC Alberta <PC_Alberta@mail.vresp.com>

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Reply-To: PC Alberta <reply-c6aec83179-10af480a48-927b@u.cts.vresp.com>

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PC friends,

Earlier today I spoke with our party leader and Premier, Alison Redford about the Elections Alberta decision ordering the return of certain individual donations that had later been improperly reimbursed by prohibited organisations. I also want to clarify some misinformation that is out there.

I share our leader's commitment to open and transparent elections and fundraising, which is precisely why the Premier and our PC government introduced and passed tough new election finance legislation this past fall.

No political party should ever accept a donation from a prohibited organisation. The PCAA continues to have discussions with Elections Alberta on our desire to seek clarification around the rules on individual donors. These donors made a legal donation to us, but subsequently sought and received reimbursement from prohibited organisations. Our position is that no political party can monitor or control how a legal donation is dealt with after the fact.

Elections Alberta and the PCAA have a difference of opinion in interpretation of the repayment of contributions. But to be clear we have never said we will not repay the required amounts. We are committed to continuing our discussions with Elections Alberta and once those discussions come to a conclusion we will make the agreed upon repayments.

Other political parties are using this issue to make political points. They've said we've been ordered to pay fines, which is patently not true. Elections Alberta has been clear that they do not believe we knew how these donations were handled after we received them.

Other political parties have suggested we want the money back. This is also not true. We NEVER want to be in receipt of prohibited dollars and as we resolve matters with Elections Alberta we will be able to clarify that we did not receive prohibited dollars.

January 31st was set as a deadline for repayment by Elections Alberta. While we wanted to continue the discussions, Elections Alberta was clear they wanted to make a release on that date. We fully and willingly complied and repaid the dollars they asked us to. But we also asked to keep talking. And we are.

Our argument is not relative to the dollar amount but rather a request for clarification on the legislation.

Thank you for taking time to read this and please contact me with any questions.

Respectfully,

Jim McCormick
PCAA President

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PC Alberta
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