



County of Lethbridge Policy Handbook

EFFECTIVE: October 23, 2008 **SECTION:** 100 NO. 149 Pge 1 of 2
APPROVED BY: County Council **POSITION DESCRIPTION:**
REVISED DATE: November 4, 2010 **Political Fundraisers**

Purpose:

The County of Lethbridge recognizes that attendance at Federal and Provincial political events and fundraisers benefit the profile of the municipality.

The County of Lethbridge also recognizes that there is binding legislation that restricts the organization from funding these events.

This policy is intended to provide guidance in determining what expenses will be covered by the municipality and what expenses are to be personal expenses. Council/Councillors include Reeve, Councillors and County Manager.

Definitions:

1. Federal Political Events

The Federal Elections Act, as amended, provides that no person or entity other than an individual who is a citizen or permanent resident shall make a contribution to a registered party, a registered association, a candidate, a leadership contestant or a nomination contestant. A municipality, being a corporation, is an ineligible contributor and cannot make contributions. Accordingly, any tickets, registration fees or donations to any federal registered party, registered association, a candidate, a leadership contestant or a nomination contestant are personal expenses of a member of Council.

2. Provincial Political Events

The Provincial Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act, RSA 2004, c. E-2 ("the Act") provides that a municipality is a prohibited corporation and may not make any contributions to a registered party, registered constituency association or registered candidate. A "contribution" is defined as any money or real or personal property that is provided (i) to a political party, constituency association or candidate with its or the candidate's consent, without compensation from that political party, constituency association or candidate.



County of Lethbridge Policy Handbook

EFFECTIVE: October 23, 2008

SECTION: 100 NO. 149 Pge 2 of 2

APPROVED BY: County Council

POSITION DESCRIPTION:
Political Fundraisers

REVISED DATE: November 4, 2010

Procedures:

A. Fundraisers

Under the Act, a “fund-raising function” includes any social function held for the purpose of raising funds for a registered party, registered constituency association or registered candidate by whom or on whose behalf the function is held. Any contribution to a registered party, registered constituency association or registered candidate as determined below is a personal expense of a Councillor. Any amount deemed to be allowed for expenses as determined below may be paid out of a Councillors’ Expense Account.

If an individual charge by the sale of tickets or otherwise is made for fund-raising function held by or on behalf of a registered party, registered constituency association or registered candidate, then, for the purposes of the Act,

- (i) if the individual charge is \$50 or less, it shall not be considered as a contribution unless the person who pays the charge specifically requests that it be so considered, in which case one-half shall be allowed for expenses and one-half shall be considered as a contribution to the registered party, registered constituency association or registered candidate, as the case may be, and,
- (ii) if the individual charge is more than \$50, \$25 shall be allowed for expenses and the balance shall be considered as a contribution to the registered party, registered constituency association or registered candidate, as the case may be.

Examples: The Premier’s Dinner, MLA Breakfasts or Luncheon meetings, constituency fundraisers (including golf tournaments).