

Feb. 16, 2017

New Democrat suite of democratic reform legislation

[Get Big Money out of Politics Act, 2017](#)

(John Horgan, Leader)

- Amends the Election Act to ban big money, restrict donations to individuals.
- Restricts donations to residents of B.C. only.
- Establishes a committee to review electoral finance and set cap on individual donations.
- Bans additional salaries for Premier and Cabinet Ministers.

[Banning Publicly-funded Campaign Advertisements, 2017](#)

(Gary Holman, spokesperson for democratic reform)

- Bans government advertising during the four months preceding a general election, and sets standards for publicly funded advertisements.

[Election \(Spending Limit\) Amendment Act, 2017](#)

(Gary Holman, spokesperson for democratic reform)

- Restores spending limits on political candidates and political parties in the 60-day pre-campaign period.

[Fixed Fall Election Amendment Act, 2017](#)

(Gary Holman, spokesperson for democratic reform)

- Amends the *Constitution Act* to move the general election from May to October to allow for the auditing and scrutiny of the state of the province's finances before spring election date.

[Members' Conflict of Interest Amendment Act, 2017](#)

(Gary Holman, spokesperson for democratic reform)

- Increases scope to include non-parliamentarian public office appointees, such as ministerial staff, former deputy ministers and advisors, and senior executive members of Crown Corporations and government agencies.
- Establishes cooling-off periods for former public office holders.

[Fixed Legislative Calendar Act, 2017](#)

(Gary Holman, spokesperson for democratic reform)

- Establishes a set parliamentary schedule for the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, including a spring and fall session.

[Empowering Legislative Committees Act, 2017](#)

(Gary Holman, spokesperson for democratic reform)

- Ensures legislative committees are not left inactive by government, and are allowed to review matters on their own initiative, and require debate and votes in the legislature for tabled reports from the committees.

[Modernizing Public Participation in Democracy Act, 2017](#)

(Gary Holman, spokesperson for democratic reform)

- Modernizes the practice of petitioning and improves democratic participation by allowing for the acceptance of electronic petitions in the legislature.

Backgrounder

[Increasing Youth Participation in Elections Act, 2017](#)

(Rob Fleming, spokesperson for education)

- Amends the *Election Act* in response to a recommendation by the Chief Electoral Officer of British Columbia to allow provisional voter registration of individuals when they are 16 years of age to increase youth participation in elections.

[Fairness in Financing Local Government Elections Act, 2017](#)

(Selina Robinson, spokesperson for local government)

- Amends the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* to eliminate union and corporate donations in municipal election campaigns, restricting campaign contributions solely to individuals.

[Public Records Accountability Act, 2017](#)

(Doug Routley, spokesperson for citizen's services)

- Strengthens Freedom of Information legislation and creates a duty to document government actions for greater accountability to the public.

[Lobbyist Registry Reform Act, 2017](#)

(Leonard Krog, spokesperson for the attorney general)

- Restricts publicly funded organizations from lobbying, and legislates a cooling-off period of two years for public office holders and staff.
- Ensures that all interested third parties are defined and calls for a review of the lobbying act every five years.

[Anti-SLAPP Act, 2017](#)

(Leonard Krog, spokesperson for the attorney general)

- Restricts the use of strategic lawsuits designed to limit public participation (known as SLAPPs) used to dissuade community organizations and individuals from participating in protests or speaking out on matters of public interest.
- Affirms the right to public participation including the right to petition and communicate with government, and to freedom of speech, association and demonstration on matters of public policy.

[Whistleblowers Protection Act, 2017](#)

(Shane Simpson, spokesperson on labour)

- Facilitates disclosure and investigation of matters that are potentially unlawful, injurious or dangerous to the public and protects people