

# Bulletin for MPPs and Others about Attendance Restrictions at Fund-Raising Events

## What are the Attendance Restrictions?

The *Election Finances Act* contains attendance restrictions about who can attend certain events. It means specific people cannot be present at an event. If someone is present, who is not supposed to be at an event, this may be a contravention of the Act.

Attendance restrictions are in place for events where the revenue from ticket sales or attendance charges results in contributions.

Attendance restrictions are not in place:

- Where the funds from ticket sales or attendance charges are used entirely to recover the costs of holding the event; or,
- Where contributions at events are solicited and voluntarily offered by means other than through tickets and attendance charges; or
- where meetings for members are held by a registered political party or a registered constituency association, such as annual general meetings, policy conferences and similar meetings, where delegate fees include a contribution portion. The contribution portion of these fees will not be included in the calculation of a person's contribution total.

## Who do the Attendance Restrictions apply to?

The attendance restrictions apply to:

- MPPs;
- The Leaders of all political parties registered with Elections Ontario;
- All registered nomination contestants, candidates, and leadership contestants;
- All nominated and appointed candidates;
- All people employed in the Office of the Premier;
- All Chiefs of Staff (or the equivalent position) to provincial Cabinet Ministers; and

- All people employed in the Office of a Leader of an officially recognized party in the Legislative Assembly.

The attendance restrictions do not apply to:

- Spouses and family members of Leaders, MPPs, and others listed above;
- People who are employed in MPPs local constituency offices; and
- Party staff and officials who are paid by the party, who do not work at Queen's Park, and who do not report to the Office of the Premier or a Leader of an officially recognized party in the Legislative Assembly.

Elections Ontario recommends that people to whom the attendance restrictions apply:

- 1) Request their staff, party officials, and volunteers to be aware of these requirements before scheduling their attendance at a fund-raising event.
- 2) Before attending a fund-raising event, check with the event organizer that the event is not one where the revenue from ticket sales is going to generate contributions.

## Soliciting contributions

Although there are attendance restrictions, soliciting contributions other than at an event, by mail, telephone, electronic or other means, is not prohibited.

It is important to remember that, in dealings with others, MPP's are also required to meet the requirements of the *Members' Integrity Act, 1994*, and people lobbying MPP's may be required to comply with the *Lobbyists Registration Act, 1998*.

For further information, please contact the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario at:

<http://www.oico.on.ca>

Telephone: (416) 314-8983

Fax: (416) 314-8987

General Email: [integrity.mail@oico.on.ca](mailto:integrity.mail@oico.on.ca)

## Examples where attendance restrictions do not apply

The following examples are some events or activities where the restrictions do not apply:

- A fund-raising event where all the income generated by ticket sales is to be used to cover the cost of the event and not generate contributions from the ticket sales.
- A holiday season food drive, attended by a nomination contestant and hosted by a constituency association, where all the surplus income generated by ticket sales, or goods donated by attendees, are given to a charity.

- A meeting where the attendees pay no fee or charge to gain entry to meet a Party Leader or MPP but have the option of making contributions by bidding in a silent auction at the event.
- A meal, party, or similar social event attended by a Chief of Staff where there are not admission charges and attendance is not conditional on the attendees making a contribution.
- MPP meetings with constituents.
- A fund-raising event where the ticket entrance fee generates contributions, and a pre-recorded message from a Party Leader or MPP is played.
- An annual general meeting, policy convention, or similar gathering.
- A telephone, email, mail, or door-to-door fund-raising campaign with messages from a candidate.

## Examples where attendance restrictions apply

The following examples are some events or activities where the restrictions apply:

- Appearing in-person before, during, or after an event (or at the door of an event) to offer greetings or thanks when the participants have paid an entry fee including a contribution to attend.
- Appearing live at an event by means of a remote transmission (e.g. via the internet) to offer greetings or thanks when the participants have paid an entry fee including a contribution to attend.
- Attending a “thank you” event where participants have been invited because they have previously made contributions.
- Attending an event where the attendees are required to promise, as a condition of receiving an invitation, to make a contribution during or after the event.

## Further information

The Chief Electoral Officer’s staff is always available to provide assistance. Please contact us at:

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 Compliance Division  
 51 Rolark Drive  
 Toronto, ON M1R 3B1  
 Internet address: <http://www.elections.on.ca>

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