Function of the Election Audit Committee

The function of the Elections Compliance Committee, at this stage, is not to decide on issues if they are violations or not, nor make decisions on the law or application of the law.

The function of the Election Compliance Committee is to review the application and decide if the application has brought forward any (even one) reasonable instance of a potential violation.

This is outlined in the City of Toronto presentation prepared by Cory Lynch Deputy Director, Legal Services City of Toronto May 10, 2023.

Deputy Director Lynch states in his presentation:

Procedural Fairness comments

- Courts have held that the compliance audit process falls on the lowest end of the procedural fairness requirements – ordering an audit is akin to a "search warrant" process (Lipreti v. ECAC of Toronto)
- Jackson v Vaughan also leading case
- Key to remember that this is more like a gate keeper function if a prosecution is commenced, the candidate, third party advertiser and/or contributor will be given a full procedural hearing at that stage

And

- Decision is to grant or reject application for an audit of the campaign finances
- Should be looking for "reasonable grounds to order a compliance audit"

It is also outlined in the decision of Justice Favret in Mastroguiseppe v Jackson *Citation: Vaughan (City)* v. *Mastroguiseppe, 2008 ONCJ 763*

(iv) Are there reasonable grounds to require a compliance audit?

[61] I accept, as did Mr. Justice Culver in Chapman, supra at paragraph 41, that the definition of reasonable grounds was stated at page 10 of R. v. Sanchez 1994 CanLII 5271 (ON SC), 93 C.C.C. (3d) 357 by Mr. Justice Hill as follows:

"Section 487(1) of the Criminal Code requires reasonable grounds as the standard of persuasion to support issuance of a search warrant. Judicially interpreted, the standard is one of credibly based probability...

Mere suspicion, conjecture, hypotheses or "fishing expeditions" fall short of the minimally acceptable standard from both a common law and

constitutional perspective. On the other hand, in addressing the requisite degree of certitude it must be recognised that reasonable grounds is not to be equated with proof beyond a reasonable doubt on a prima facie case... The appropriate standard of reasonable or credibly based probability envisions a practical, non-technical and common sense probability as to the existence of the facts and influences asserted "

The above standard was applied by Justice Culver in Chapman, supra and is the standard to apply here.

[62] If a review of the Application leads to a conclusion that the Appellants have reasonable grounds to believe the Candidate has contravened a provision of the Act, I agree with Justice Culver in Chapman, supra, the only remedy is a compliance audit.

It is clear that PROOF is not the standard to be applied. The compliance committee does not have a standard of legal application.

The standard for the decision to order an audit is "<u>in addressing the requisite degree</u> of certitude it must be recognised that reasonable grounds is not to be equated with proof beyond a reasonable doubt on a prima facie case…". (ibid 61)

The standard is common sense and reasonable probability. <u>"The appropriate standard of reasonable or credibly based probability envisions a practical, non-technical and common sense probability as to the existence of the facts and influences asserted ((ibid 61)</u>

There are 25 reasonable issues raised. The "legal" arguments presented by Progress Toronto are not correct and in any event, the Compliance Committee is not the proper authority to decide on the legal interpretations of the MEA.

The response from Progress Toronto does provide the facts that 26 \$100 donors were not reported as the City of Toronto mandatory reporting requires. Progress Toronto reduced the donations with fees however the disclosure of \$100 donors is not a NET donation, it is simply a \$100 donation. There are 26 violations of he MEA, with failure to provide the names and addresses of \$100 donors.

This alone justifies an audit and in addition to the 25 issues that require an audit.

Further responses are below however, the compliance audit application is reasonable and meets the standard applicable under the MEA and as detailed through both the City of Toronto's Deputy Director presentation and the courts.

Not all responses are addressed. All issues not addressed remain as filed.

There are substantive reasons to decide to proceed with an audit. Any one of the issues stands alone in justifying an audit. There are more than 20 issues where the probability of reasonableness is met.

I want to thank the Committee for the diligence in addressing the Compliance Application and look forward to the meeting.	
	: -

Some responses are addressed below.

Issues as responded to addressed below.

1. Expenses and Campaigning occurred before Registration

Third party campaigns are much broader than "advertising".

Progress Toronto admits they canvassed before registering and this is obvious from the pictures and events posted on their website.

They claimed because they didn't "advertise", their campaign actions in canvassing, promoting their goals, requesting and registering volunteers, training, surveying are not "advertising" and therefore they don't count. This is not correct. An audit is justified for this issue alone.

Progress Toronto is a not-for-profit corporation that advocates and organizes for a more democratic, socially just, and progressive City.

A third-party campaign is not an advertising campaign. The campaign was launched (in their own words) "to advocate and organize for a more democratic, socially just and progressive city."

How Progress Toronto achieves their goals is also outlined in their response.

Progress Toronto is involved in training of advocates, advocating on particular issues, canvassing citizens for their views on issues and participating in City of Toronto municipal politics.

Progress Toronto's response describes the various tools and actions they use to achieve their goals when they intervene in municipal politics. They admit they canvassed, conducted surveys, and using their views on issues sought to promote their social justice goals by advocating for a candidate and opposing another candidate.

All of Progress Toronto activities in training, surveying, canvassing, and promoting their views through door to door canvassing, promoting their views online, through flyers and all other activities are expenses and must be included in their expense declarations and reported as such.

Progress Toronto staff are paid. Their salaries are paid in order that Progress Toronto's goals of social justice are achieved. As they are paid and the campaign is a Progress Toronto campaign, unless they took a leave of absence and refused pay during the campaign, they are not volunteers. Clearly they are paid to promote the goals of Progress Toronto and Progress Toronto is the entity is the third party registered to achieve their social justice goals and clearly they participated in this campaign.

They trained, surveyed, canvassed, prepared canvassing packages, advertised, printed flyers, researched and publicly declared many messages against Anthony Furey, who Progress Toronto opposed and for Rachel Chernos-Lin a candidate they promoted.

They publicly congratulated themselves for defeating Anthony Furey and getting Rachel Chemos-Lin elected.

In their own message, Saman Tabasinejad attributed their success in Rachel Chemos Lin elected was by:

Far-right candidate Anthony Furey is defeated in Don Valley West by-election

ogether we defeated far-right candidate Anthony Furey in the Don Valley West bylection held on November 4 2024! Conservatives thought they could elect Furey on his ame recognition alone and keep his harmful record secret, but we didn't let that happen.

We crunched the numbers: before we launched our campaign to stop Furey, polls inowed he was ahead by over 10%. On election night, Furey lost by over 23% to former ocal TDSB Trustee Rachel Chernos Lin. Our collective work helped shape this election.

Here are some highlights from our campaign made possible by our supporters and volunteers:

- · 22,000+ households reached by flyers
- · 483 hours volunteered
- · 109,000+ people reached in Don Valley West through digital ads
- · 38 outreach events in every corner of the ward
- \cdot \$8,700 fundraising goal met thanks to generous donors

Saman Tabasinejad made the claim Progress Toronto's efforts and campaign Anthony Furey lost to Rachel Chemos-Lin. "Our collective work helped shape this election".

2. Contribution in Kind before registering

Progress Toronto's campaign included (amongst other actions) training, canvassing, printing and distributing flyers, digital ads, 38 outreach events, and fund raising. Advertising was just one tool they used and the ACT is states that all services and goods are included in a campaign.

Progress Toronto did conduct their campaign before they were registered. They incurred expenses before they registered and they had services and goods in kind that they did not declare.

Progress Toronto seems to be under the impression only advertising expenses are reported and claimed. Progress Toronto in its response has outlined what their role, actions, goals and platforms are for their corporation. Quoted from their submission in response to the Compliance Application.

Expenses for third parties include all expenses including goods in kind:

What constitutes an expense

For an election campaign

88.19 (1) For the purposes of this Act, costs incurred for goods or services by or under the direction of a person wholly or partly for use in his or her election campaign are expenses. 2016, c. 15, s. 57 (1).

For third party advertisements

(2) For the purposes of this Act, costs incurred by or under the direction of an individual, corporation or trade union for goods or services for use wholly or partly in relation to third party advertisements that appear during an election in a municipality are expenses. 2016, c. 15, s. 57 (2).

Expenses

- (3) Without restricting the generality of subsections (1) and (2), the following amounts are expenses:
 - 1. The replacement value of goods retained by the person, individual, corporation or trade union from any previous election in the municipality and used in the current election.
 - 2. The value of contributions of goods and services.
 - 3. Audit and accounting fees.
 - 4. Interest on loans under section 88.17.
 - 5. The cost of holding fund-raising functions.
 - 6. The cost of holding parties and making other expressions of appreciation after the close of voting.
 - 7. For a candidate, expenses relating to a recount or a proceeding under section 83 (controverted elections).
 - 8. Expenses relating to a compliance audit.
 - 9. Expenses that are incurred by a candidate with a disability or a registered third party who is an individual with a disability, are directly related to the disability, and would not have been incurred but for the election to which the expenses relate.
 - 10. The cost of election campaign advertisements (within the meaning of section 88.3) or third party advertisements, as the case may be. 2016, c. 15, s. 57 (3).

3. Bank Account exclusive for donations and expenses

By their own admission, the Union donation of \$1000 was not deposited into the bank account. This is a clear violation of the Act and it is admitted. This in itself justifies an audit as it's a clear violation.

All donations reported in Table 5 were not deposited into the bank account, as evidenced when comparing the actual deposits in the bank account and the donations reported in Table 5. For example, a donation of \$300 was made on 10/10 according to the disclosed donors. The bank account shows zero deposits on 10/10. Same is true for the each of the donations listed on Table 5

The deposits do not match the overall donations Progress Toronto reported were received. The bank account reports \$7790.07 and when adding the \$1,000 Union donation, and the \$1150 donations also not deposited into the account and as reported on Table 3, the amount does not add up to the claimed donations of \$9228.71. The total is \$9940.07.

An audit is required to audit the donations and bank account as they do not reconcile on the reported and publicly disclosed financial summary.

Public and proper reporting is required of all expenses and when they [aid and to who. There is NO evidence that the bank account was used to pay expenses.

Progress Toronto reported a lump sum on the financial disclosure. The further detail provided in their response to the application, provides proof the disclosures were improper to begin with.

The reasonable standard has again been met by the Compliance Application as it is not reasonable for the public to know there were many donations when a lump sum is reported on the public disclosure.

Table 3: Monetary contributions from Individuals other than registrant or spouse

Name	Full Address	Date Received (yyyy/mm/dd)	Amount Received(\$)	Amount Returned to Contributor or Paid to Clerk (\$)
Chris Wu	41 <u>Dovercourt</u> Road, Toronto, ON, M6J 3C2	2024/10/21	350.00	
Todd Irvine	307 Craven Road, Toronto, ON, M4L 2Z5	2024/10/10	300.00	
Douglas Murray	17 Deering Crescent, Toronto, ON, M2M 2A2	2024/10/11	200.00	
Karen Kaplan	172 Howland Avenue, Toronto, ON, M5R 3B6	2024/10/23	150.00	
Patricia Lakin-Thomas	98 Roberta Drive, Toronto, ON, M6A 2J7	2024/10/12	150.00	
		Total	1,150.00	

Additional information is listed on congrete supplementary attachment, if completed manually

PROGRESS TORONTO 401 Richmond St W Suite 436 Toronto ON M5V 3A8

Summary of your accounts

	AMOUNT (\$)
Share accounts	15.00
Daily banking accounts	7,790.07

Member Service Center and Telephone Banking 613.560.0100 / 416.252.5621 1.877.560.0100 Fax 613.560.0177 / 416.679.0339 1.866.560.0177 Lost and stolen cards 613.560.0160 / 1.888.807.4101 Internet and Online Banking www.alterna.ca

Your daily banking accounts

Community Plus Chequing 1

DATE	TRANSACTION	WITHDRAWAL (\$)	DEPOSIT (\$)	BALANCE (\$)
01 Oct.	Balance forward			\$0.02
04 Oct.	Service Charge	0.02		0.00
16 Oct.	Misc Payments - STRIPE		552.91	552.91
17 Oct.	Misc Payments - STRIPE		3,544.11	4,097.02
18 Oct.	Misc Payments - STRIPE		2,524.02	6,621.04
21 Oct.	Misc Payments - STRIPE		184.72	6,805.76
22 Oct.	Misc Payments - STRIPE		142.42	6,948.18
23 Oct.	Misc Payments - STRIPE		80.44	7,028.62
24 Oct.	Misc Payments - STRIPE		292.36	7,320.98
25 Oct.	Misc Payments - STRIPE		188.86	7,509.84
28 Oct.	Misc Payments - STRIPE		137.35	7,647.19
29 Oct.	Misc Payments - STRIPE		142.73	7,789.92
31 Oct.	Credit Interest		0.15	7,790.07
31 Oct.	Closing totals	0.02	7,790.07	\$7,790.07

7. Donations of \$100 were not reported.

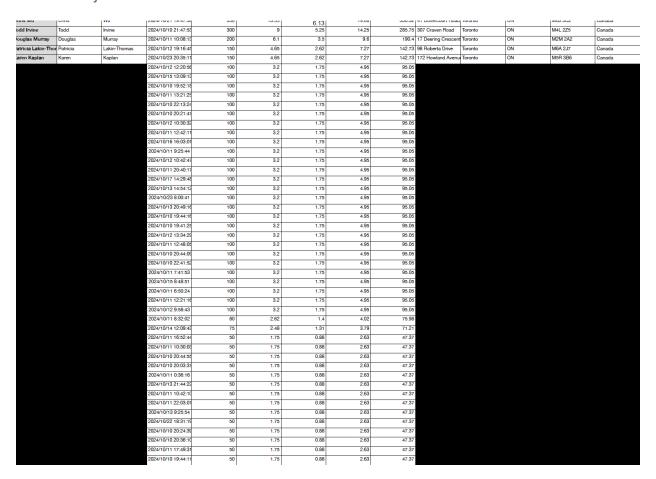
ALL donations of \$100 or above MUST be reported and listed for name and address and date the donation was made on Table 5 and the City of Toronto disclosure form. On the face, this is a clear violation .

The City of Toronto form clearly states all donation of \$100 or more must be reported and they were not. This is NOT a NET donation after expenses are taken off, it is a \$100 donation.

If expenses were deducted before donations reported, there were literally be no donations reported as all donations are used for expenses.

There are approximately 26 unreported donations and each is a violation as Progress Toronto failed to report the names and addresses on the Coty of Toronto form and Table 5.

This alone justifies an audit.



8. Fund raising expenses improperly reported.

Progress Toronto has not properly reported fund raising amounts and even after submitting their response, it is very unclear how much money was raised, when and donated by who.

An audit is required to properly account for donations, expenses and all goods in kind.

9. Union Donation

The response quotes section 88.12(3) of the MEA and has been misinterpreted in the Progress Toronto response. The MEA must be read in full and not applied as a singled-out section. Section 88.12(1) must be read and applied first.

A Trade Union, per 88.12(1) MUST be a <u>registered third party before they can donate</u>, Section 88.12(1) is the rule that is applied. The Union was NOT a registered party and cannot donate to a different third party.

The Compliance Committee is not in a position to decide on legal issues as legal arguments is not standard that Compliance Applications are to decide on.

This matter MUST go first to an auditor and second to a Justice of the Superior Court who can make the final ruling on the application of Act.

10. The donations listed as being received and date received doesn't meet the date the expenses were incurred.

Progress Toronto claims to deposited donations to their account. They have disclosed their account and these donations are not in the account.

It appears there were two different accounts used. One account for donations under a \$100 and a separate account for more donations and expenses.

There need to be an audit done to properly account for all donations, all expenses and to ensure that Progress Toronto's GENERAL account was not used for this campaign.

As claimed by Progress Toronto. By Progress Toronto's own admission, there were at least two accounts used for the campaign. Only ONE account is permitted. All donations must be received into ONE account and all expenses MUST be paid from that same account.

"Other than the donations received that were greater than \$100 and the trade union donation, other donations were raised through Progress Toronto's website and deposited to the Progress Toronto separate bank account when received."

An audit is required to audit both bank accounts and this alone justifies an audit.

11. Salaries not included

The financial summary submitted stated their campaign period was from 2024 10 08 to 2024 12 19

This is the period they claimed and certified as being correct, and they now contradict their own sworn and certified statement. If they swore and certified a false statement, this has consequences. However, it appears their response is trying to reduce the value of the goods and services that includes salaries.

As above, staff are paid by Progress Toronto. Progress Toronto is the registered third party, and all expenses incurred whether paid directly or provided by the third party MUST be valued and reported.

Staff were not volunteers as they were paid by the third party, worked on the campaign and used their resources available as provided by the third party.

Rent for a downtown unit must be claimed at fair market value.

An audit is justified for this reason alone given an audit will properly value the resources provided by Progress Toronto and will value the goods and services in kind provided by the third party.

12. The issue stands as filed

13. Endorsing a candidate

As part of the obligations of a third party, all advertising must be kept for four years. This includes all digital ads, promotions, videos, etc. Progress Toronto has deleted ads, photos, videos, promotional ads, etc from their website and social media. The records will prove the case.

On Oct 28, a staff member from Progress Toronto advertised and promoted voters to vote for Rachel Chemos-Lin as Ms Chemos-Lin was 4% behind Anthony Furey. Whatever the reason, Progress Toronto endorsed Ms Chemos-Lin and promoted and pushed voters to vote for her.

The picture of this video is contained in the exhibits of the application.



An audit is justified in order to review all advertisements and promotions and the endorsements with regards to a candidate being endorsed.

Of note, there are photos available and witnesses have come forward since the application was filed that witnessed Progress Toronto campaigning for a candidate. The individuals campaigning identified themselves as Progress Toronto and handed out flyers for the candidate, they endorsed at that time.

These expenses must be included in the candidate expenses.

Mandatory information in third party advertisements

Records

- (4) The broadcaster or publisher of a third party advertisement shall maintain records containing the following information for a period of four years after the date the advertisement appears and shall permit the public to inspect the records during normal business hours:
 - 1. The information provided under subsection (2).
 - 2. A copy of the advertisement, or the means of reproducing it for inspection.
 - 3. A statement of the charge made for its appearance. 2016, c. 15, s. 48.

14. Qualified for registration

Corporate Registration (included in exhibits)

In Progress Toronto's submission, they included an old corporate annual return which has a different address, different Directors etc.

The most recent corporate registration was filed years later in 2022. It is provided here for your use. According to the Canada Corporations registry database, there does not appear to be any annual Board of Director's meetings reported since this time. The 2023 and 2024 filings (both filed the same day) refers to the 2022 meeting as the last meeting.

Although the address is different, this is the latest corporate registration and we recognise it for the third-party filing with updated address.

We attached the 2022 corporate return and the Directors as of 2022.



Innovation, Sciences et Développement économique Canada Constitut Grands

Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act (NFP Act) Change of Registered Office

Address Form 4003

Loi canadienne sur les organisations à but non lucratif (Loi BNL)

Changement d'adresse du siège

Formulaire 4003

Received Date (YYYY-MM-DD): 2022-05-10 Date de réception (AAAA-MM-JJ):

1 Corporate name Dénomination de l'organisation PROGRESS TORONTO
Corporation number Numéro d'organisation 1066652-1
Complete address of the registered office Adresse complète du siège 401 Richmond Street West Suite 436 Toronto ON M5V 3A8
Additional address Autre adresse

Declaration: I certify that I have relevant knowledge of the corporation and that I am authorized to sign this form.

Déclaration: J'atteste que je possède une connaissance suffisante de l'organisation et que je suis autorisé à signer ce formulaire.

Original signed by / Original signé par Michal Hay Michal Hay 6478024131

A person who makes, or assists in making, a false or misleading statement is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine of not more than \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term of not more than six months or to both (subsection 262(2) of the NFF Act).

La personne qui fait une déclaration flusse ou trompeuse, ou qui aide une personne à faire une telle déclaration, commet une infraction et encourt, sur déclaration de oulpabilité par procédure sommaire, une amende maximale de 5 000 5 et un emprisonnement maximal de six mois ou l'une de ces paines (paragraphe 262(2) de la Loi BNL).

5 Declaration: I certify that I have relevant knowledge of the corporation and that I am authorized to sign this form.

Déclaration: J'atteste que je possède une connaissance suffisante de l'organisation et que je suis autorisé à signer ce formulaire.

Original signed by / Original signé par Michal Hay

Michal Hay 6478024131

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You are providing information required by the NFP Act. Note that both the NFP Act and the Privacy Act allow this information to be disclosed to the public. It will be stored in personal information bank number IC/PPU-049

Vous fournissez des renseignements exigés par la Loi BNL. Il est à noter que la Loi BNL et la Loi sur les renseignements personnels permettent que de tels renseignements soient divulgués au public. Ils seront stockés dans la banque de renseignements personnels numéro IC/PPU-049.



IC 3103 (2008/04)

Schedule

Board of Directors (new directors in bold)

Name	Start Date YYYY-MM-DD	Address
Esther Lexchin	2018-03-12	735 Markham Street, Toronto ON M6G 2M2, Canada
ESTHER LEXCHIN	2018-03-12	735 MARKHAM STREET, Toronto ON M6G 2M2, Canada
Alejandra Bravo	2018-03-12	17 Appleton Avenue, Toronto ON M6E 3A2, Canada
Michal Hay	2018-03-12	42 Barton Avenue, Unit 14, Toronto ON M6G 1P3, Canada
Donald Eady	2020-12-22	155 Wellington Street West, 35th Floor, Toronto ON M5V 3H1, Canada
Amina Jabbar	2018-03-12	141 Dewhurst Blvd, Toronto ON M4J 3K1, Canada

In 2024 the 2023 corporate return was filed by Progress Toronto. The filing states the last board of directors meeting was 2022, which is above. (see below for 2023 corporate return filed 2024)

The Board of Director who signed to appoint Saman Tabasi Nejad was Amina Jabbar. Amina Jabbar was on the Board in 2022 when the last Board of Director's meeting was held. She states Saman Tabasi Nejad is the Executive Director, when this is somewhat in doubt, given the bylaws of Progress Toronto state Officers and Directors can only be appointed or withdrawn at a Board of Directors meeting.

The last meeting being (as reported 2022 and again in 2024 for the 2023 and 2024 returns) any changes after that are not in effect until a Board of Directors meeting is held, at least with the understanding of the bylaws.

The Clerk has the last word and the registration was completed as filed. We agree with the Clerk in this regard.

The Board Member who authorized the Progress Toronto as a third-party was in good standing (since 2018) and could authorize Saman Tabasi Nejad even if her title was not approved by a meeting of the Board.

Re: third party registration

Progress Toronto would like to register as a third party in Toronto's 2024 Don-Valley West By-Election. Saman Tabasi Nejad, our Executive Director, will be acting on behalf of the not-for-profit as the official representative of our corporation. The Board of Directors has authorized Saman Tabasi Nejad to act on behalf of the corporation.

Sincerely,

Amina Jabbar Board Chair

Progress Toronto

Innovation, Sciences et Développement économique Canada.

Form 4022 **Annual Return**

Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act Loi canadienne sur les organisations à (NFP Act)

Formulaire 4022 Rapport annuel

but non lucratif (Loi BNL)

Received Date (YYYY-MM-DD): Date de réception (AAAA-MM-JJ): 2024-11-01

1	Corporate name
	Dénomination de l'organisation
	PROGRESS TORONTO
2	Corporation number
	Numéro de l'organisation
	1066652-1
3	Year of filing
	Année de dépôt
	2023
4	Date of last annual meeting of members (YYYY-MM-DD)
	Date de la dernière assemblée annuelle des membres (AAAA-MM-JJ)
	2020-12-20
5	Is the corporation a soliciting corporation?
	Est-ce qu'il s'agit d'une organisation ayant recours à la sollicitation ?
	Yes
	Oui

6 Declaration: I certify that I have relevant knowledge of the corporation and that I am authorized to sign this form. Déclaration : J'atteste que je possède une connaissance suffisante de l'organisation et que je suis autorisé(e) à signer le présent formulaire.

Original signed by / Original signé par

SAMAN TABASI NEJAD SAMAN TABASI NEJAD (416 885-6548)

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