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CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER OF CANADA ANNOUNCES AMOUNTS TO BE PAID TO REGISTERED POLITICAL PARTIES FOR 2004

OTTAWA, Thursday, December 11, 2003 — The Chief Electoral Officer of Canada, Jean-Pierre Kingsley announced today the amount of the allowances that will be paid to eligible registered parties as a result of amendments made to the *Canada Elections Act*, which will come into force on January 1, 2004.

According to sections 435.01 and 435.02 of the Act, a registered party that in the most recent general election obtained two percent of the valid votes cast nationally, or five percent of the valid votes cast in the electoral districts in which the registered party endorsed a candidate, will qualify for a quarterly allowance.

The Chief Electoral Officer calculates such allowances on the basis of \$0.4375 multiplied by the number of valid votes cast for the party in the election. The resulting amount is adjusted by the inflation adjustment factor in effect for the quarter.

The transitional provisions found in subsections 71(2) and (3) of *An Act to amend the Canada Elections Act and the Income Tax Act (political financing)* provide that, for 2004, the Chief Electoral Officer must estimate the allowance for all four quarters for that year and pay this amount to qualifying registered political parties in one amount.

According to these provisions and based on the results of the 37th general election, the following amounts will be paid to the parties that qualify:

Bloc Québécois	\$2,411,022.25
Conservative Party of Canada	\$8,476,872.25
Liberal Party of Canada	\$9,191,054.25
New Democratic Party	\$1,914,269.00

For additional information, please go to www.elections.ca under General Information/Backgrounders/Political Financing.

Elections Canada is an independent body set up by Parliament.

Information:
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 or at www.elections.ca