

2021-0439	
DATE FILE INITIATED AND ALLEGATIONS	Complaints were received following media reports of a lunch event held for the electoral campaign of Josh Vander Vies, the Liberal Party of Canada (LPC) candidate in the electoral district of Vancouver East during the 44 th federal general election (GE) held on September 20, 2021. It was alleged that the event was paid for by a person known to be active in the Chinese community in the Greater Vancouver area.
POTENTIAL CONTRAVENTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S. 477.59 of the <i>Canada Elections Act</i> (the Act) – Electoral campaign return
STEPS TAKEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A copy of the articles published in media reports was obtained. • A review and assessment of the Candidate’s Electoral Campaign Return (Return) with Elections Canada submitted by the campaign was made. • Witnesses and the subject of interest were contacted to gather facts regarding the event. • On June 14, 2022, the investigation was completed, and the evidence gathered was referred to the Compliance Unit of the Office of the Commissioner of Canada Elections for assessment of the appropriate compliance measure. • Administrative Monetary Penalty issued.
EVIDENTIARY THRESHOLD FOR THE INITIATION OF AN INVESTIGATION REACHED?	<p>Yes</p> <p>A review of the Vander Vies campaign return on the Elections Canada website did not disclose the expense associated to the lunch by the campaign nor did it report any non-monetary contribution for this event. There was reason to suspect a violation of the Act.</p>
CURRENT STATUS	Closed – An Administrative Monetary Penalty was issued to Christopher Richardson in his capacity as official agent (OA) for the electoral campaign of Josh Vander Vies, the LPC candidate in the electoral district of Vancouver East during the 44th GE held on September 20, 2021. The OA provided the Chief Electoral Officer with a document that did not substantially set out the information required under subsection 477.59(2), in contravention of paragraph 477.72(1)(b) of the Act. Specifically, Christopher Richardson did not report a lunch event paid for by a contributor as a non-monetary contribution, nor as an election expense on the Candidate’s Return.
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT	None