

Instructions for downloading federal political donation data for the first quarter of 2019

What you will learn

1. Downloading data from an open-data portal
2. Light data cleaning
3. Distinguishing between record level and aggregate data
4. Using an If statement to substitute political party names with ID numbers in a new column
5. Creating a pivot table
6. Summing totals
7. Formatting numbers
8. How to go beyond the headlines

The story upon which the tutorial is based

Parties filling coffers in record numbers for fall federal election

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-political-fundraising-federal-election-1.5116430>

Tutorial

The numbers driving Eric's stories are Conservative Party's total donation tally for the first three months of 2019 (**\$8,010,861**) and the number of people who contributed those amounts (**50,026**), compared to the **\$3,857,163** and **33,321** for the Liberals and **\$1,226,869** and **13,713** for the NDP.

Now, let's figure out where these numbers came from.

1. <https://www.elections.ca/wpapps/WPF/EN/Home/Index?returntype=1>
2. Choose registered parties
3. Select 2015 to present
4. Select quarterly financial returns
5. Search
6. Data as submitted
7. Select all parties
8. Complete financial return
9. Select 2019
10. Find parties
11. Select all
12. Search selected
13. Return Part, select Part 2a
14. Go
15. Download

You will get a table with a break down of all political donations of over \$200

To obtain the aggregate totals described in Eric's article -- \$8,010,861 donations to the Conservatives for the first three months of 2019 by 50,026 donors – we will have to add two aggregate amounts.