# Saskatoon Northwest By-Election

October 18, 2010





# OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

December 13, 2011

The Honourable Dan D'Autremont Speaker of the Legislative Assembly 129 Legislative Building Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 0B3

#### Honourable Speaker:

Pursuant to section 286 of *The Election Act, 1996,* I am honoured to submit the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer for the by-election held on October 18, 2010, in the provincial constituency of Saskatoon Northwest.

This report provides an overview of election administration and official voting results by polling division and summary data for election related expenditures of Elections Saskatchewan. It also presents by-election financial activities by the registered political parties and candidates.

David A. Wilkie

Acting Chief Electoral Officer

David a Willie



## Letter of Transmittal

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Saskatoon Northwest By-Election
Official Report



Pursuant to section 40 of The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, 2007, Mr. Serge LeClerc vacated his seat in the constituency of Saskatoon Northwest effective August 31, 2010.

On September 20, 2010, pursuant to an Order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, a Writ of Election was issued by the Acting Chief Electoral Officer to Darlene Britton, Returning Officer for the constituency of Saskatoon Northwest. The Writ ordered that the by-election be held on Monday, October 18, 2010.

Prior to the October 18, 2010 By-Election, standing in the Legislative Assembly included: 37 Saskatchewan Party, 20 New Democratic Party, and 1 vacant.

## **Key Dates**

Monday, September 20	Writ issued
Tuesday, September 20 to Thursday, September 30	Enumeration takes place
Saturday, October 2	Nominations close (2:00 p.m. CST)
Thursday, October 14	Revision Day: deadline to have names added, corrected or deleted from Voters' List (2:00 to 10:00 p.m. CST)
Tuesday, October 12	First day of advance voting (3:00 to 10:00 p.m. CST)
Wednesday, October 13	Second day of advance voting (3:00 to 10:00 p.m. CST)
Thursday, October 14	Third day of advance voting (3:00 to 10:00 p.m. CST)
Friday, October 15	Fourth day of advance voting (3:00 to 10:00 p.m. CST)
Saturday, October 16	Fifth day of advance voting (12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m. CST)
Monday, October 18	Election Day (9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. CST)
Thursday, October 28	Deadline of receipt of absentee voter certificate envelopes (post marked not later than 8:00 p.m. on Election Day) (12 noon CST)
Saturday, October 30	Final Count
Wednesday, November 10	Return to the Writ
Wednesday, January 19, 2011	Audited candidate's return of election expenses due
Tuesday, April 19, 2011	Audited registered political party's return of election expenses due



#### Saskatoon Northwest Election Calendar

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Maximum Writ Period: (34 days)

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## **Saskatoon Northwest Constituency Boundaries**

The Saskatoon Northwest constituency boundaries were enacted in 2002 under *The Representation Act, 2002*, on the recommendation of the Constituency Boundaries Commission, 2002, as established under *The Constituency Boundaries Act, 1993*. Polling divisions for purposes of the Saskatoon Northwest By-Election included 38 regular polls and two mobile polls. The Saskatoon Northwest constituency polling division map is set out in Appendix I.

#### Saskatoon Northwest Candidate Nomination

At the time of the Saskatoon Northwest By-Election, the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer recognized the existence of seven political parties in the Register of Political Parties, as maintained pursuant to section 231 of *The Election Act, 1996* (the "Act"). On October 2, 2010, nomination of candidates concluded. At close of nomination, five of the province's Registered Political Parties nominated candidates, as follows:

Candidate	Registered Political Party	Abbreviation
Larissa Shasko	Green Party of Saskatchewan	Green Party
Jan Dyky	New Democratic Party, Sask. Section	New Democratic Party (NDP)
Manny Sonnenschein	Progressive Conservative Party of Saskatchewan	P.C. Party of Sask.
Eric Steiner	Saskatchewan Liberal Association	Saskatchewan Liberal Party
Gordon Wyant	Saskatchewan Party	Saskatchewan Party

The Registered Political Parties' chief official agents and the candidates' business managers for the byelection were as follows:

Registered Political Party	Business Manager	Chief Official Agent
Green Party of Saskatchewan	Sandra Finley	Penny Swartz
New Democratic Party, Sask. Section	Doris Dick	Dale Schmeichel
Progressive Conservative Party of Saskatchewan	Jeffrey Stromberg	Luke Schmidt
Saskatchewan Liberal Association	Trent Evanisky	Gerald Hiebert
Saskatchewan Party	Ray Sladek	Saskatchewan Party Fund Inc. (Patrick Bundrock)



#### **Enumeration**

From September 20, 2010, to September 30, 2010, enumeration of eligible electors was conducted for the constituency's 38 polling divisions and two mobile polls. Pursuant to section 26 of the Act, constituency enumerators were available on October 14, 2010, to make necessary revisions to the Voters' List. Following revision, 9,395 Saskatoon Northwest residents were declared eligible to vote, as established on the Revised Voters' List. In addition, pursuant to section 68 of the Act, eligible electors not included on the Revised Voters' List were entitled to vote by declaration upon showing identification.

## **Polling**

To facilitate the electorate's participation in the Saskatoon Northwest by-election, an advance poll was conducted on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2010. Regular polling stations were open from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. CST on October 18, 2010, enabling the constituency's 9,395 eligible voters the opportunity to exercise their democratic franchise. Eligible voters unable to attend either a regular or advance poll were entitled to vote by absentee ballot.

#### **Electoral Results**

Unofficial electoral results were reported on the evening of October 18, 2010, resulting in Mr. Gordon Wyant, Saskatchewan Party, being declared Member-Elect. The candidates for the Green Party of Saskatchewan, Progressive Conservative Party of Saskatchewan, and Saskatchewan Liberal Party forfeited their deposits, pursuant to section 47 of the Act because they did not obtain at least one-half of the total number of valid votes cast for the candidate elected.

On October 30, 2010, the constituency Returning Officer tabulated the results of votes cast by way of absentee ballot. The ballots of eligible voters from the Saskatoon Northwest constituency, who were inmates in the Remand Centre were also counted at Final Count. These figures were then reflected in the constituency results concluding the Final Count. Upon completion of Final Count, the constituency Returning Officer made a Return to the Writ of Election on November 10, 2010. The Office published notice of receipt of the Return to the Writ and the name of the candidate elected in *The Saskatchewan Gazette* on December 10, 2010.

		Candidate										
Eligible Voters	Jan Dyky	Larissa Shasko	Manny Sonnenschein	Eric Steiner	Gordon Wyant	Total Counted	Rejected					
9,395	1,717	122	134	157	3,066	5,196	4					

## Registered Political Party and Candidate Financial Reporting

Pursuant to section 251 of the Act, audited Registered Political Party's Return of Election Expenses, Form E-524, were required to be filed with the Chief Electoral Officer within six months after polling day (April 18, 2011). Under section 261 of the Act, candidates were required to file an audited Candidate's Return of Election Expenses, Form E-412, with the constituency Returning Officer, subsequently to be forwarded to the Chief Electoral Officer within three months after polling day (January 18, 2011). Pursuant to the Act, the constituency Returning Officer published, in prescribed form, a summary of all returns respecting candidate election expenses on February 20, 2011.

#### i) Registered Political Parties

The maximum amount of money that could be spent by a Registered Political Party in the Saskatoon Northwest By-Election, as set out in section 243 of the Act, was (a) the sum of \$43,242.00 or (b) the sum obtained by multiplying the number of voters on the Voters' List by \$3.47, whichever sum was larger. A registered political party that endorsed a candidate who obtained fifteen per cent or more of all valid votes cast in the by-election and whose chief official agent filed a Registered Political Party's Return of Election Expenses <sup>1</sup> pursuant to section 264 of the Act, was entitled to receive a reimbursement of a portion of its election expenses from the Province's General Revenue Fund. The amount reimbursed to a qualifying political party was one-half of its election expenses.

The duly audited Registered Political Party's Return of Election Expenses for the Saskatoon Northwest By-Election were received by the deadline. Contributions made to political parties are not listed in the Registered Political Party's Return of Election Expenses but are set out in each party's fiscal period return, filed in accordance with section 250 of the Act. Appendix II sets out a summary of eligible expenses incurred by the Registered Political Parties in Saskatoon Northwest and the amounts paid in respect to each party who qualified for reimbursement.

#### ii) Candidates

Candidates seeking election in Saskatoon Northwest were limited in the amount of money they could expend. A candidate seeking election was entitled to spend, pursuant to section 252 of the Act, either (a) the sum of \$51,964.00 or (b) the sum obtained by multiplying the number of voters on the Voters' List by \$3.47, whichever sum was larger. A candidate who obtained fifteen per cent or more of all valid votes cast in Saskatoon Northwest and whose business manager filed with the constituency Returning Officer a Candidate's Return of Election Expenses <sup>2</sup>, pursuant to section 265 of the Act, was entitled to reimbursement of a portion of his or her eligible election expenses. The amount reimbursed to a qualifying candidate was an amount equal to sixty per cent of the candidate's election expenses to a maximum of \$31,178.40. The candidate election expenses returns are viewable on the Elections Saskatchewan website at <a href="https://www.elections.sk.ca">www.elections.sk.ca</a>. The returns may be viewed as filed and as reviewed.

All candidates filed their returns respecting contributions received and election expenses incurred in the course of the by-election, duly audited, on or before their respective deadlines. A summary of candidate contributions received and expenditures incurred in the Saskatoon Northwest constituency, as well as the amounts paid in respect to each candidate who qualified for reimbursement are reported in Appendix III.

<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to subsection 267(3) of the Act, auditing services rendered in respect of preparation of a report pertaining to a Registered Political Party's Return of Election Expenses is eligible for a maximum reimbursable allowance of \$2,658.00.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Pursuant to subsection 267(6) of the Act, auditing services rendered in respect of preparation of a report pertaining to a Candidate's Return of Election Expenses is eligible for a maximum reimbursable allowance of \$863.00.



## **Elections Saskatchewan Expenditures**

The total cost of conducting the October 18, 2010 By-Election in Saskatoon Northwest was \$266,988.66. This figure is inclusive of, and reported by, administrative and constituency expenditure. See Appendix IV for an itemization of particular expenditures incurred in each of these two categories.

#### **Documentation**

Pursuant to section 232 of the Act, the Chief Electoral Officer is obliged to hold, in addition to the information contained in the Register of Political Parties, all original financial particulars concerning Registered Political Parties' fiscal period and election expenses documentation for the purposes of public inspection. Also held are the Returns and the original financial documentation regarding individual candidate election expenses, pursuant to section 262 of the Act. Such information is available for public inspection during regular office hours at Elections Saskatchewan.

The Registered Political Party election expenses returns are viewable on the Elections Saskatchewan website at <a href="https://www.elections.sk.ca">www.elections.sk.ca</a>. The returns may be viewed as filed and as reviewed.

## **Special Initiatives**

The next version of the Elections Saskatchewan Permanent Register of Eligible Electors (ESPREE) software was available for use. This implementation included an initial testing of the election night results module. This module allows live reporting of voting results on election night which can be published to a web page for public viewing. In addition, there was further development and usage of an online daily Returning Officer calendar. The calendar is a straight-forward tool that mimics the use of a standard desk calendar. This tool assists staff by reminding them of the activities and tasks that need to be undertaken at each step of the election event process. It is used by the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer and the Returning Office to verify that all required activities have been undertaken as prescribed.

The calendar was well received by the Returning Officer for Saskatoon Northwest. The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer is using the calendar feature during the General Election and expects it to be very well received by all Returning Officers, especially the new Returning Officers.

Additional pilot projects included: the expansion of training and duties of the Supervisory Deputy Returning Officer (SDRO), decreasing the threshold number of polls for using SDROs in polling places, adding a roving SDRO for the six rural polls in the constituency, conducting an extensive debriefing session after the by-election, and using surveys to gain feedback from poll officials.

## **Challenges**

Throughout this by-election the Saskatoon Northwest Returning Officer had difficulty in recruiting both enumerators and poll officials for five of the six polling divisions located in rural areas outside the City of Saskatoon.

Only one out of the ten Deputy Returning Officers and Poll Clerks who worked in the five rural polls during the 2007 General Election agreed to be poll a official for this by-election.



#### Reasons cited were:

- roads were poor due to the high amount of rainfall that year;
- the rate of pay is too low and taking a day off work, the individual would lose money;
- not enough pay for a 13-14 hour workday;
- too old to sit for 13-14 hours.

Despite all efforts to recruit workers, the Acting Chief Electoral Officer received a request from the Returning Officer that poll officials from outside the constituency be used. After discussions with the Returning Officer from the neighbouring constituency of Saskatoon Meewasin, four experienced Deputy Returning Officers from that constituency were found.

As required by subsection 7(3) of *The Election Act, 1996*, notice was given on October 18, 2010 to every registered political party in the province and every candidate in the constituency of Saskatoon Northwest that election staff from a neighbouring constituency were required to be appointed.

#### **Recommendations**

Following the 2009 By-Elections, the Acting Chief Electoral Officer recommended *The Election Act, 1996* be amended to:

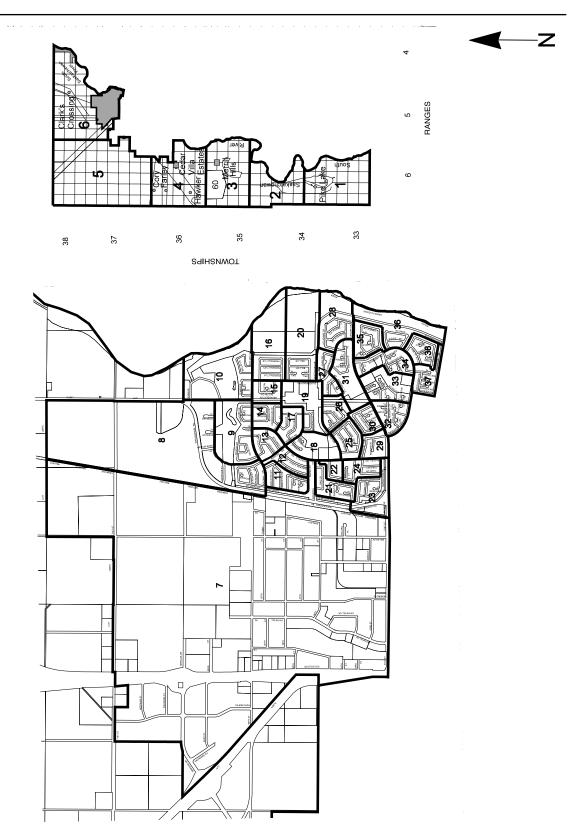
- include a provision for the Chief Electoral Officer, in writing, to authorize the appointment of
  eligible voters from outside the constituency in the case of an emergency or for specialized polls
  such as hospital polls, remand centre polls and mobile polls; and
- reduce the minimum age of Poll Clerks and Information Officers to 16.

Given the recruitment difficulties during the Saskatoon Northwest By-Election, as well as the previous difficulties experienced during the by-elections of Regina Douglas Park and Saskatoon Riverside in 2009, the OCEO has undertaken initiatives aimed at combating the aging and dwindling pool of experienced election workers. These initiatives are aimed at recruiting younger citizens who have never worked for an election before, with the goal of establishing a revitalized pool of election workers.

To this end, eight students were hired as youth and aboriginal Community Relations Officers (CROs) for May-September, 2011, and part-time in the fall leading up to the 2011 General Election. Community events were identified in every constituency across the province. These CROs attended a variety of events promoting the 2011 General Election and advancing the Elections Saskatchewan hiring campaign.



## **Constituency Map of Saskatoon Northwest**



NOTE: FIRST EDITION

CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES ARE DRAWN PURSUANT TO THE REPRESENTATION ACT, 2002 PUBLISHED BY THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER URBAN MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES AS OF APRIL 1, 2002

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#### Vote Summary by Constituency Polling Division: Saskatoon Northwest By-Election

Polling Location Votes Cast For Ballots Cas

Polling Location				Votes Cas			Ballot	s Cast
				Manny	Eric Steiner	Gordon Wyant		
Number and Name of Poll	Eligible	Jan Dyky		Sonnenschein			Total	Rejected
	Voters	NDP	GREEN PARTY	PC PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	Counted	Ballots
Poll 1 - Pike Lake Community Hall	153	46	5		3		97	0
Poll 2 - Pike Lake Community Hall	127	25	0		1	28	59	C
Poll 3 - Merrill Community Hall	201	31	3		4		122	0
Poll 4 - Merrill Community Hall	168	17	1		3		60	0
Poll 5 - Ben/Lois Machnee Acreage	243	24	3		4		99	0
Poll 6 - St. Angela School	219	12	1	4	2	64	83	0
Poll 7 - St. Angela School	202	31	0	4	0	51	86	C
Poll 8 - St. Angela School	240	17	4	1	0	75	97	C
Poll 9 - Sr. O'Brien School	299	26	0	3	8	93	130	0
Poll 10 - Sr. O'Brien School	260	13	2	2	4	109	130	0
Poll 11 - Brownell School	284	48	3	3	6	72	132	0
Poll 12 - Brownell School	250	56	4	2	6	33	101	0
Poll 13 - St. Angela School	241	26	0	0	1	87	114	0
Poll 14 - Sr. O'Brien School	266	46	3	3	4	83	139	1
Poll 15 - Sr. O'Brien School	198	34	5	0	1	58	98	0
Poll 16 - Sr. O'Brien School	299	60	4	5	3	76	148	0
Poll 17 - St. Angela School	291	46	3	4	1	83	137	0
Poll 18 - Brownell School	161	35	6	0	4	39	84	0
Poll 19 - Silverwood Heights School	182	35	3	1	4	47	90	0
Poll 20 - Silverwood Heights School	273	43	5	3	1	94	146	0
Poll 21 - Brownell School	332	39	5	2	2	85	133	1
Poll 22 - Brownell School	249	44	0		7		66	0
Poll 23 - Resurrection Lutheran Church	233	34	4	1	2		95	0
Poll 24 - Resurrection Lutheran Church	265	57	4	0	3	38	102	0
Poll 25 - Silverwood Heights School	317	46	4		5		121	C
Poll 26 - Silverwood Heights School	192	43	0		3	53	99	0
Poll 27 - Silverwood Heights School	226	39	2		4		115	0
Poll 28 - Silverwood Heights School	293	41	2		3		146	0
Poll 29 - Marion M. Graham Collegiate	267	20	1		3		75	0
Poll 30 - Marion M. Graham Collegiate	205	53	0		2		95	0
Poll 31 - Marion M. Graham Collegiate	268	67	4		5		150	0
Poll 32 - Marion M. Graham Collegiate	252	29	1	0	3		104	
Poll 33 - Marion M. Graham Collegiate	229	41	3		6		122	0
Poll 34 - St. George School	302	55	4		6		154	0
Poll 35 - St. George School	315	52	5		4		179	0
Poll 36 - St. George School	242	38	7		2		138	0
Poll 37 - St. George School	252	36	1	0	6		97	0
Poll 38 - St. George School	282	41	1		8		110	0
Mobile Poll 1	63	9	3		5		33	
Mobile Poll 2	54	15	1		4	7	30	
Advance Polls	-	240	15		14	561	857	
Absentee Ballots	_	7	0		0		23	2
Totals	9395	1717	122		157	3066	5196	4

Candidate Elected - Gordon Wyant

Plurality 1349
% Who Voted 55.35%
% By Party

% By Party 33.04% 2.35% 2.58% 3.02% 59.01%



Saskatoon Northwest By-Election Financial Section



## Financial Section: Saskatoon Northwest By-Election

Appendix II

## Summary of Expenses Incurred and Reimbursements Paid - Registered Political Parties

Registered Political Party	Maximum Expenses Allowable	Petty Expenses	Hire of Premises	Advertising	Services
Green Party of Saskatchewan	43,242.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
New Democratic Party, Sask. Section	43,242.00	0.00	0.00	41,925.25	20.89
Progressive Conservative Party of Saskatchewan	43,242.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Saskatchewan Liberal Association	43,242.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Saskatchewan Party	43,242.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	36,901.18
	\$ 216,210.00	\$ - :	\$ - \$	41,925.25	\$ 36,922.07

<sup>(</sup>a) Unpaid claims, if paid, are included in the total of expenses used for the calculation of reimbursement; disputed claims are not.

<sup>(</sup>b) Total expenses less non-reimburseable expenses.

<sup>(</sup>c) Party failed to qualify for reimbursement pursuant to subsection 264(1) of The Election Act, 1996.



# Financial Section: Saskatoon Northwest By-Election (Continued)

Goods Supplied	Travel and Hire of Vehicle	Unpaid or Disputed Claims (a)	Unpaid or Disputed Claims Paid (a)	Total of Expenses	Total of Reimburseable Expenses (b)	Amount of Reimbursement
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(c)
0.00	217.55	0.00	0.00	42,163.69	42,163.69	21,081.85
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(c)
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(c)
0.00	2,212.97	0.00	0.00	39,114.15	39,114.15	19,557.07
\$ -	\$ 2,430.52	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 81,277.84	\$ 81,277.84	\$ 40,638.92



### Financial Section: Saskatoon Northwest By-Election (Continued)

Appendix III

## Summary of Financial Contributions Received, Expenses Incurred, and Reimbursements Paid - Candidates

Candidates - Saskatoon Northwest (Eligible voters 9,395)	Contributions Received	Maximum Expenses Allowable	Candidate's Personal Expenses(a)	Candidate's Campaign Expenses	Petty Expenses	Hire of Premises
Jan Dyky (New Democratic Party (N.D.P.)) Larissa Shasko (Green Party) Manny Sonnenschein (P.C. Party of Sask.) Eric Steiner (Saskatchewan Liberal Party) Gordon Wyant (Saskatchewan Party)	50,744.23 3,290.52 8,744.00 3,602.50 51,351.46	51,964.00 51,964.00 51,964.00 51,964.00 51,964.00	0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00	0.00 241.65 896.30 0.00 725.20	0.00 167.75 127.74 770.09 0.00	2,811.38 0.00 0.00 0.00 1,000.00
	\$117,732.71	\$259,820.00	\$0.00	\$1,863.15	\$1,065.58	\$3,811.38

<sup>(</sup>a) Candidates' personal expenses are not included in the total of expenses.(b) Unpaid claims, if paid, are included in the total of expenses used for the calculation of reimbursement; disputed claims are not.

<sup>(</sup>c) Total expenses less non-reimburseable expenses.
(d) Candidate failed to qualify for reimbursement pursuant to subsection 265(1) of *The Election Act*, 1996.



# Financial Section: Saskatoon Northwest By-Election (Continued)

Amount of Reimbursement	Total of Reimburseable Expenses (c)	Total of Expenses	Unpaid or Disputed Claims Paid (b)	Unpaid or Disputed Claims (b)	Travel and Hire of Vehicle	Goods Supplied	Services	Advertising
28,663.47	47,772.45	47,822.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,123.11	33,647.53	9,240.43
(d)	0.00	3,286.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,106.24	770.69	0.00
(d)	0.00	6,160.12	0.00	0.00	160.91	1,827.10	628.07	2,520.00
(d)	0.00	2,470.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	781.00	0.00	919.60
29,956.39	49,927.33	50,818.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,552.91	30,364.05	8,176.35
\$58,619.86	\$97,699.78	\$110,558.10	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$160.91	\$17,390.36	\$65,410.34	\$20,856.38



Financial Section: Saskatoon Northwest By-Elec	ction (Continued)	Appendix
ctions Saskatchewan Expenditures		
Administration		
General Contractual Services		12,645.31
Postal/Courier/Freight		8,779.99
Equipment Lease/Rental/Purchase		3,952.45
Advertising		48,609.33
Printing/Duplicating		2,944.20
Fravel and Business		6,764.50
Supplies and Services		711.20
Registered Political Parties		
Reimbursement of Registered Political Party Election Expense	_	40,638.92
Reimbursement of Auditor Fee's		3,486.00
nterest		-
Elections Cooketahowan Evnanditures		¢ 429 524 00
Elections Saskatchewan Expenditures		\$ 128,531.90
<u>Constituency</u>		
Election Officials	_	F 02F 00
Returning Officer		5,635.00
Election Clerk		4,020.00
Enumerators		12,810.77
Polls (Officials/Rental of Space)		24,933.44
Administration	_	
General Contractual Services		20,182.25
Postal/Courier/Freight		-
Rent of Grounds/Building/Office Space		3,615.00
Rent of Office Equipment		1,203.31
Communications		1,182.28
Advertising		-
Printing/Duplicating		_
Fravel and Business		606.69
Supplies and Services		1,716.87
Late Payment Charges		2.08
Candidates		
Reimbursement of Candidate Election Expenses	_	58,619.86
Reimbursement of Auditors' Fees		3,929.21
nterest		5,929.21
		\$ 138,456.76
Constituency Expenditures		ψ 130,430.76
Total Election Expenditures		\$ 266,988.66
	Eligible Voters	9,395
	Cost Per Voter	\$28.42