ELECTIONS SASKATCHEWAN

Report of the Chief Electoral Officer
on the conduct of the Constituency of
Melfort By-Election

March 1, 2018





September 24, 2019

The Honourable Mark Docherty Speaker of the Legislative Assembly 129-2405 Legislative Drive Regina, SK S4S 0B3

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Pursuant to Section 286 of The Election Act, 1996, I have the privilege of presenting the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer for the by-election held on March 1, 2018 in the Constituency of Melfort.

Email: info@elections.sk.ca

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Sincerely,

Michael D. Boda, D.Phil., Ph.D.

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Chief Electoral Officer Province of Saskatchewan

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Constituency of Melfort By-Election Report

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Introduction

On November 13, 2017, Mr. Kevin Phillips, MLA for the constituency of Melfort, passed away. Pursuant to section 43 of *The Legislative Assembly Act, 2007*, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly informed Saskatchewan's Chief Electoral Officer, Dr. Michael Boda, on November 14, 2017, of the vacancy in the constituency.

On February 2, 2018, pursuant to an Order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, a writ of election was issued by the Chief Electoral Officer to Ms. Darlene Thompson, Returning Officer for the Constituency of Melfort. The writ ordered that a by-election be held on Thursday, March 1, 2018.

At the time of the March 1 by-election, standing in the Legislative Assembly was: 46 Saskatchewan Party, 12 New Democratic Party and 3 vacant. By-elections were also held in the constituencies of Kindersley and Swift Current on March 1, 2018.

Key Dates

Friday, February 2	Writ issued
Tuesday, February 13	Nomination of candidates closed (2 p.m.)
Friday, February 23 to Tuesday, February 27	Advance Voting
Thursday, March 1	By-Election Day (9 a.m. to 8 p.m.)
Monday, March 12	Deadline for receipt of absentee voter certificate envelopes (postmarked no later than 8 p.m. on By-Election Day) (12 p.m.)
Tuesday, March 13	Final Count
Saturday, March 24	Return to the Writ
Friday, June 1	Audited candidate's return of election expenses due
Tuesday, September 4	Audited registered political party's return of election expenses due

Constituency of Melfort Boundaries

The boundaries of the constituency of Melfort were enacted under *The Representation Act,* 2012 on the recommendation of the Constituency Boundaries Commission, as established under *The Constituency Boundaries Act,* 1993.

The constituency of Melfort polling division map is included in Appendix I.

Candidate Nomination

Nomination of candidates concluded on February 13, 2018 at 2 p.m. At the close of nominations, three candidates had been officially nominated:

Candidate	Registered Political Party	Abbreviation
Lorne Schroeder	New Democratic Party, Sask. Section	New Democratic Party (N.D.P)
Shawn Setyo	Saskatchewan Green Party	Saskatchewan Green Party
Todd Goudy	Saskatchewan Party	Saskatchewan Party

The Registered Political Parties' chief official agents and candidate business managers for the by-election were as follows:

Registered Political Party	Business Manager	Chief Official Agent
New Democratic Party, Sask. Section	Garnet Davis	John Tzupa
Saskatchewan Green Party	David Abbey	David Abbey
Saskatchewan Party	Zachary Moskal	The Saskatchewan Party Fund Inc. (Patrick Bundrock)

Polling

Advance polls were held in three locations on February 23 to 27:

- Kerry Vickar Centre (206 Bemister Avenue East, Melfort)
- Naicam & District Senior Citizens Centre (305 1st Street South, Naicam)
- Watson New Horizons (126 Main Street, Watson)

Advance polls held on a weekday (February 23, 26 and 27) were open from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. The advance polls held on Saturday, February 24 and Sunday, February 25 were open from 12 noon to 7 p.m.

On by-election day, regular polling stations were open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Eligible voters unable to attend an advance or regular poll were entitled to vote by absentee ballot. 25 valid votes were cast by absentee ballot.

On by-election day, 5 mobile polls visited 6 locations in the constituency. 122 valid votes were cast at these mobile polls.

A hospital poll was established and operated at Melfort Hospital from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on byelection day. A homebound poll was also operated. In order to preserve the secrecy of the ballot, homebound vote totals were combined with votes from the hospital poll. 14 valid votes were cast at the combined hospital/homebound poll.

13 ballots were rejected during the counting of votes.

Results

Unofficial electoral results were reported on the evening of March 1, 2018 resulting in Todd Goudy of the Saskatchewan Party being declared Member-Elect.

On March 13, 2018, the Returning Officer conducted the Final Count, which included votes cast by absentee ballot and at the hospital polls. Upon completion of the Final Count, the Returning Officer made a Return to the Writ of Election on March 24, 2018. Poll by poll results can be found in Appendix I.

		Candidate			
Registered Voters	Lorne Schroeder	Shawn Setyo	Todd Goudy	Total Counted	Rejected
12,297	821	78	3,293	4,192	13

By-Election Expense Overview

The total cost of the constituency of Melfort by-election was \$289,084. The costs related to the by-election can be broken into the following broad categories:

- Central Administration (\$131,152)
- Poll Official Salaries (\$47,907)
- Returning Office Staff (\$29,519)
- Field Administration (\$43,727)
- Reimbursements to registered political parties, candidates and auditors (\$36,779)

Details on the categories listed above can be found in Appendix II through IV. It is worth noting that, when comparing the expenses shown in this report for Melfort with the constituency expenses incurred during the April 2016 general election and reported on in A Report on the Twenty-Eighth General Election, Volume III, that for by-elections, Central Administration expenses are directly allocated to the constituency. For the past general election, Central Administration expenses were not reallocated to each constituency but reported separately. Any electoral event necessarily consists of constituency expenses as well as costs related to the planning and overview of the event.

Registered Political Party and Candidate Financial Reporting

Registered Political Parties

Registered political parties are required to file an audited return of their election expenses within six months following polling day — a deadline of September 4, 2018 for the by-election held on March 1, 2018. Registered political party returns are posted on the Elections Saskatchewan website immediately upon being received with an "As Filed" status. After being reviewed, the "As Filed" status document is replaced with one marked "As Reviewed."

Election expense returns for the N.D.P. and Saskatchewan Green Party were received by the deadline date. The Saskatchewan Party did not submit its required election expenses return within the prescribed timeline. All three registered political party expense returns had been audited, as required by the Act.

Registered political parties are limited in the amount of money that they can spend in their campaigns by a legislated formula found in section 243 of *The Election Act, 1996*. This formula allows a party to spend the larger of:

- \$49,632; or
- the sum obtained by multiplying the number of voters on the voters list by \$3.99, whichever sum was larger.

For this by-election, the standard expense limit of \$49,632 was larger and was therefore the spending limit for all registered political parties.

Any registered political party that obtains 15 percent or more of the valid votes cast across the constituency, and whose chief official agent files a return of election expenses within the time prescribed, is entitled to receive a reimbursement of 50 percent of its eligible expenses. The amount reimbursed to a qualifying party is half of its eligible election expenses, to a maximum of \$24,816.

During the Melfort by-election, both the Saskatchewan Party and the N.D.P. achieved more than 15 percent of valid votes cast. However, as per subsection 264(1)(b) of the Act, the Saskatchewan Party did not submit its required election expenses return within the time prescribed in legislation. Therefore, no reimbursement was paid to the Saskatchewan Party. The N.D.P. received a reimbursement of \$7,507.79.

Candidates

Candidates are required to file an audited candidate's return of their election expenses within three months of polling day – for this by-election, that deadline was June 1, 2018. Candidate returns are posted on the Elections Saskatchewan website immediately upon being received with an "As Filed" status. After being reviewed, the "As Filed" status document is replaced with one marked "As Reviewed."

Candidates are limited in the amount of money that they can spend in their respective campaigns by the legislated formula found in section 252 of *The Election Act, 1996*. This formula allows for a candidate to spend the larger of:

- \$59,641; or
- the sum obtained by multiplying the number of voters on the voters list by \$3.99, whichever sum was larger.

For this by-election, the standard expense limit of \$59,641 was larger and was therefore the spending limit for all candidates.

Any candidate that obtains 15 percent or more of the total valid votes cast in their constituency, and whose business manager files a return of election expenses within the time prescribed, is entitled to receive a public reimbursement of an amount equal to 60 percent of their eligible election expenses, which for the Melfort by-election would be a maximum of \$35,784.60.

During the Melfort by-election, two candidates qualified for reimbursement:

- Lorne Schroeder (N.D.P.): \$12,621.37
- Todd Goudy (Saskatchewan Party): \$11,896.94

Two of the three candidates filed their returns respecting contributions received and election expenses incurred in the course of the by-election, duly audited, on or before the respective deadlines. The N.D.P. candidate asked for and received an extension from the Chief Electoral Officer to prepare and file their return. For more information, see Orders and Authorizations of the Chief Electoral Officer further down in this section.

Auditors

Every registered political party and candidate must appoint an auditor. When reviewing the spending and financial records of a candidate or party, the auditor must employ generally accepted accounting principles and generally accepted auditing standards.

An auditor's duties involve a thorough examination of the accounting records of a candidate or party, permitting him or her to reach an opinion as to whether the return properly presents the transactions contained in the accounting records on which the return is based. It is required that the candidate's business manager or the party's chief official agent provide the information and explanations that are necessary to facilitate preparation of the auditor's report. The auditor is responsible for reporting any situations where he or she is suspicious or has reason to believe that proper accounting records were not kept by a candidate or party.

The cost of an auditor's account of a candidate or political party's election expense return is reimbursable regardless of whether the candidate/party otherwise qualifies for reimbursement. The maximum reimbursement for auditing services for a candidate's or party's return was \$990 and \$3,050 respectively.

Orders and Authorizations of the Chief Electoral Officer

The Chief Electoral Officer may make exceptions to *The Election Act, 1996's* financial reporting provisions for election purposes for both registered political parties and candidates. In such instances, the legislation mandates the Chief Electoral Officer report on the situation and events surrounding the order or authorization granted.

Pursuant to subsection 262(7) of *The Election Act, 1996*, the Chief Electoral Officer granted one order for the extension of time to prepare and file the required candidate's return of election expenses, form E-412. This authorization is listed below.

Registered Political Party	Business Manager	Candidate	Number of Extensions Granted
New Democratic Party, Sask. Section	Garnet Davis	Lorne Schroeder	1

Contents of this Report

This report provides detailed information on the administration of the March 1, 2018 by-election in the constituency of Melfort.

Appendix I provides a constituency map (with polling divisions) alongside poll by poll results from the by-election. Where necessary, results have been combined to protect the secrecy of individual votes.

Appendix II shows the cost of the 2018 Melfort by-election "at a glance," including all central and field administration expenses as well as reimbursement costs.

Appendix III provides a more detailed look at Central Administration expenses, including costs paid as reimbursements to registered political parties and their auditors.

Appendix IV shows constituency expenditures in more detail, including reimbursements to candidates and their auditors.

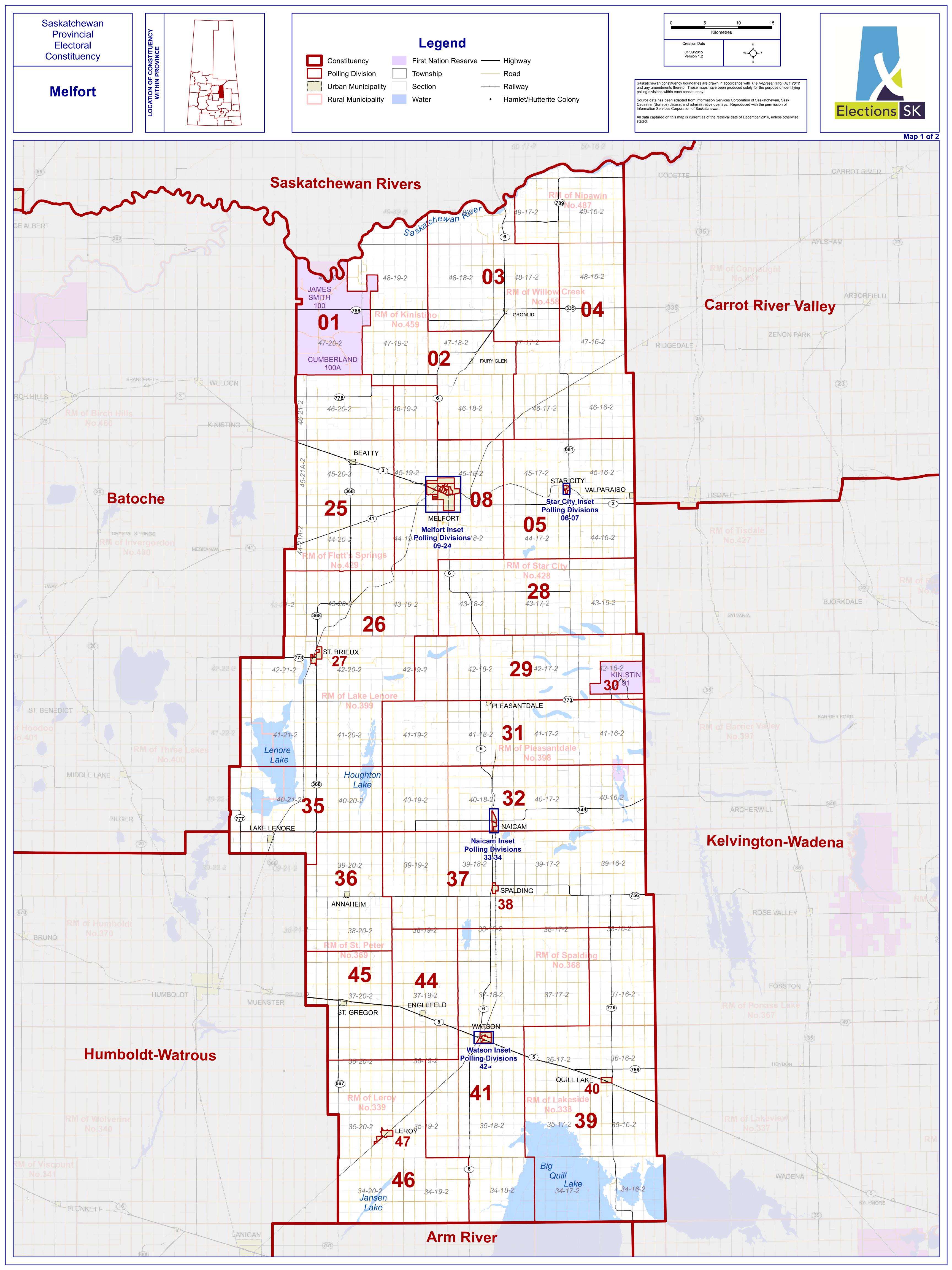
Appendix V provides a summary table of expenses incurred by, and reimbursements paid to, registered political parties.

Finally, **Appendix VI** shows a summary of contributions received, expenses incurred by, and reimbursements paid to candidates for the Melfort by-election.

Appendices

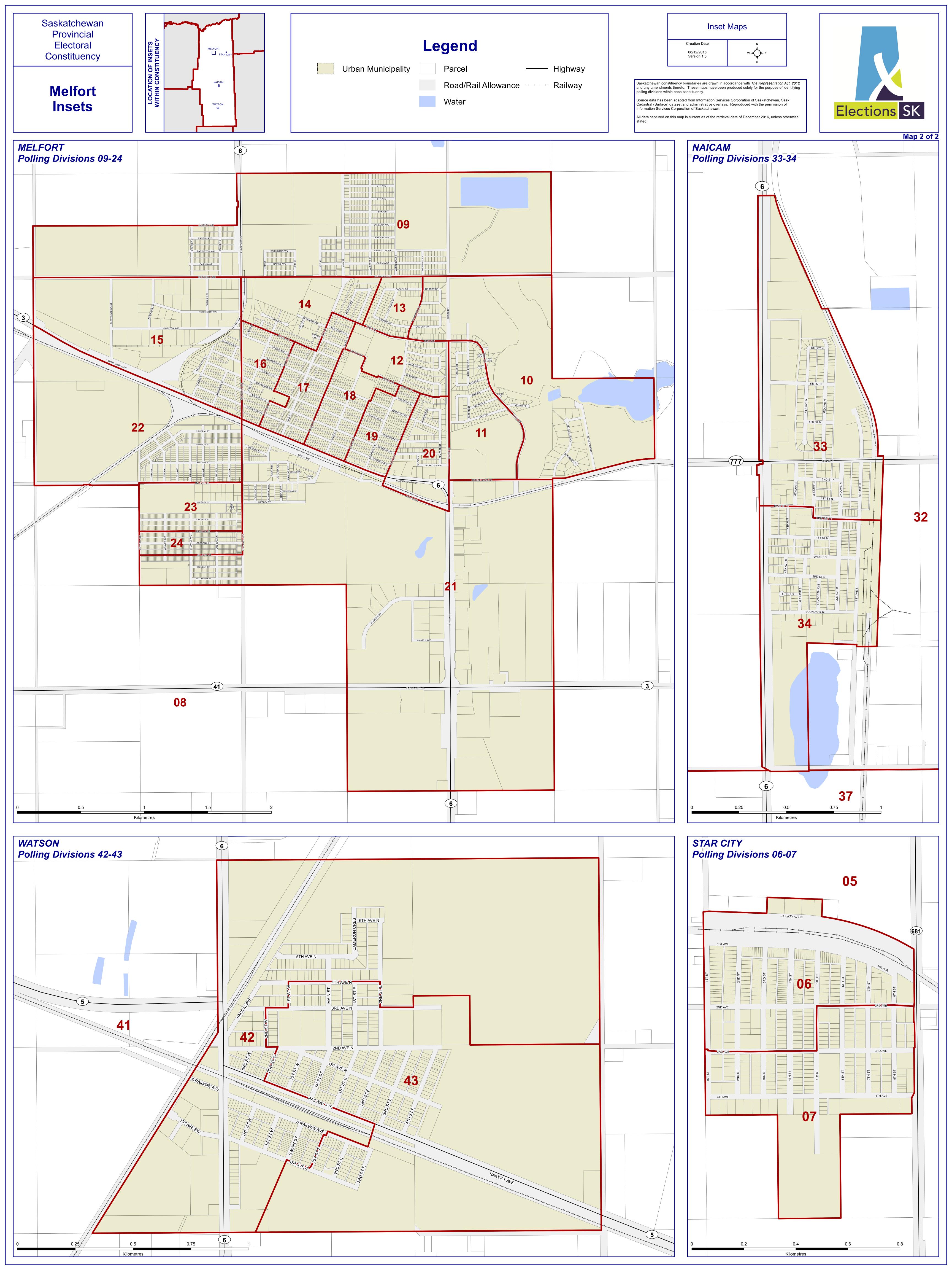
- I. Vote Summary by Constituency Polling Division
- II. Melfort By-Election Expenditures: Spending at a Glance
- III. Melfort By-Election Expenditures: Central Administration Expenditures
- IV. Melfort By-Election Expenditures: Constituency Expenditures
- V. Summary of Expenses Incurred and Reimbursements Paid Registered Political Parties
- VI. Summary of Contributions Received, Expenses Incurred and Reimbursements Paid Candidates





VOTE SUMMARY BY CONSTITUENCY POLLING DIVISION MELFORT

				Lorne			
Poll	Poll Name	Reg. Voters	Shawn Setyo SGP	Schroeder NDP	Todd Goudy SKP	Rejected Ballots	Votes fo Candidate
1A/1B	JAMES SMITH FIRST NATION BAND OFFICE	897	10	40	19	0	69
2	GRONLID COMMUNITY HALL	277	1	11	41	0	53
3	GRONLID COMMUNITY HALL	198	4	10	43	0	57
4	RATNER COMMUNITY HALL	273	1	4	53	0	58
5	STAR CITY ELKS COMMUNITY CENTRE	265	0	3	71	1	74
6	STAR CITY ELKS COMMUNITY CENTRE	146	1	6	37	0	44
7	STAR CITY ELKS COMMUNITY CENTRE	149	2	11	33	0	46
8	KERRY VICKAR CENTRE	335	1	11	63	0	75
9	ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH	138	2	8	27	0	37
10	ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH	249	3	19	52	0	74
11	KERRY VICKAR CENTRE	286	0	15	53	1	68
12	KERRY VICKAR CENTRE	252	0	19	50	0	69
13	ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH	180	0	13	20	0	33
14	ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH	402	1	13	54	0	68
15	MELFORT SENIORS' PLACE	211	0	9	17	0	26
16	MELFORT SENIORS' PLACE	287	0	6	44	0	50
17	MELFORT SENIORS' PLACE	289	1	13	35	1	49
18	KERRY VICKAR CENTRE	281	0	18	36	0	54
19	KERRY VICKAR CENTRE	266	1	8	58	0	67
20	KERRY VICKAR CENTRE	287	2	10	55	0	67
21	MAUDE BURKE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	275	0	12	63	0	75
22	MAUDE BURKE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	243	0	13	32	0	45
23	MAUDE BURKE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	149	0	6	20	0	26
24	MAUDE BURKE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	142	0	18	30	0	48
25	BEATTY COMMUNITY CENTRE	256	0	13	79	0	92
26	ST. BRIEUX COMMUNITY HALL	435	0	11	125	0	136
27	ST. BRIEUX COMMUNITY HALL	295	2	4	92	1	98
28	SILVER PARK COMMUNITY HALL	202	1	2	43	0	46
29	PLEASANTDALE COMMUNITY HALL	118	1	4	18	0	23
30	KINISTIN SAULTEAUX FIRST NATION BAND HALL	234	4	20	5	0	29
31	PLEASANTDALE COMMUNITY HALL	219	0	13	37	0	50
32	NAICAM & DISTRICT SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE	155	0	3	11	0	14
33	NAICAM & DISTRICT SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE	284	0	10	41	0	51
34	NAICAM & DISTRICT SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE	204	0	5	32	0	37
35	LAKE LENORE COMMUNITY HALL	320	1	9	83	0	93
36	ANNAHEIM NEW HORIZONS	300	1	14	67	0	82
37	SPALDING NEW HORIZONS SENIORS' CENTRE	237	1	4	68	0	73
38	SPALDING NEW HORIZONS SENIORS' CENTRE	160	1	11	41	1	53
39	QUILL LAKE SENIOR CENTRE	235	1	5	37	0	43
40	QUILL LAKE SENIOR CENTRE	287	2	16	80	0	98
41	WATSON NEW HORIZONS	235	0	19	37	0	56
42	WATSON NEW HORIZONS	171	0	9	17	0	26



VOTE SUMMARY BY CONSTITUENCY POLLING DIVISION MELFORT

APPENDIX I

Poll	Poll Name	Reg. Voters	Shawn Setyo SGP	Lorne Schroeder NDP	Todd Goudy SKP	Rejected Ballots	Votes for Candidates
43	WATSON NEW HORIZONS	295	0	11	37	0	48
44	ENGLEFELD NEW HORIZONS	271	0	16	95	0	111
45	ST. GREGOR COMMUNITY HALL	152	2	7	49	0	58
46	LEROY SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE	129	1	13	27	0	41
47	LEROY SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE	253	1	40	34	0	75
AP	AP #1 KERRY VICKAR CENTRE	-	5	82	377	0	464
AP	AP #2 KERRY VICKAR CENTRE	-	12	81	365	2	458
AP	AP #3 WATSON NEW HORIZONS	-	4	40	160	0	204
AP	AP #4 NAICAM & DISTRICT SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE	-	2	22	116	1	140
	ABSENTEE	-	0	10	15	1	25
	HOSPITAL/HOMEBOUND	-	1	1	12	1	14
MP1	TEAM 1 MOBILE	110	2	10	18	3	30
MP2	TEAM 2 MOBILE	93	0	6	6	0	12
MP3	TEAM 3 MOBILE	56	1	4	22	0	27
MP4	TEAM 4 MOBILE	Results, including registered voters, combined with MP2.			-		
MP5	TEAM 5 MOBILE	114	2	10	41	0	53
	HOMEBOUND POLL MELFORT	Results com	bined with Hosp	ital Poll.			-

TOTALS	12297	78	821	3293	13	4192
CANDIDATE ELECTED - TODD GOUDY						
PLURALITY	2472					
% REGISTERED VOTERS WHO VOTED	34.2%					

% BY PARTY 1.86% 19.58% 78.55%

Spending at a Glance

		atal Europelituuss	% of Total
	- 1	otal Expenditures	Spending
Central Administration	\$	131,152	45%
Field/Constituency		121,153	42%
Election Expenses & Audit Fee Reimbursements			
Registered Political Parties		10,494	4%
Candidates		26,285	9%
Total	\$	289,084	100%

Expenditure Details

	Total Expenditu	% of Total res Expenditures
Central Administration		
Administration		
Staffing	\$ 18,	.617 6%
Payroll Taxes/Service Fees	4,	,934 2%
Field/Constituency Supervisors	8,	.146 3%
Contractual Services	17,	.645 6%
System Development	7,	401 3%
Communications	40,	.936 14%
Furniture & Equipment Rental	2,	.433 1%
Facilities Rental		108 0%
Training	5,	,753 2%
Travel/Business	1,	,961 1%
Postage, Courier & Freight	12,	.682 4%
Office Supplies	1,	,240 0%
Printing - Forms	9,	.296 3%
Total Head Office Expenditures	\$ 131,	,152 45%

Travel/Business		4,302 7,320	39
Printing - Forms & Ballots		4,502	29
Printing - Forms & Ballots		4.502	29
Poll Rentals Printing - Forms & Ballots		7,066 4 502	29
Printing - Forms & Ballots		•	29
Printing - Forms & Ballots		4,502	29
Printing - Forms & Ballots		4,502	29
Travel/Business		7.320	30
Travel/Business		7,320	39
•		•	
Janitorial, Snow Removal, etc.		727	0
Telephone/Internet		1,885	19
		•	
Office Supplies		215	09
Postage, Courier & Freight		215	09
Total Administration	\$	43,727	159
Total Field/Constituency Expenditures	\$	121,153	429
Election Expenses & Audit Fee Reimbursements			
Registered Political Parties			
•	.	7.500	20
Election Expenses	\$	7,508	39
Auditors' Fees		2,986	19
	Ś	10,494	4'
O. A. P. Land	Þ	10,494	4
Candidates			
Election Expenses	\$	24,518	8
Auditors' Fees	7	1,767	1
Auditors rees		•	
	\$	26,285	9
Total Reimhursements	ć	36 770	13'
Total Reimbursements	\$	36,779	1

289,084

100%

Total Melfort Election Expenditures

2018 Melfort By-Election Central Administration Expenditures

Spending at a Glance

	Ex	Total penditures	% of Total Spending
Central Administration	\$	131,152	93%
Election Expenses & Audit Fee Reimbursements			
Registered Political Parties		10,494	7%
Total	\$	141,646	100%

Expenditure Details

			% of Total
	Total	Expenditures	Expenditures
Central Administration			
Administration			
Staffing	\$	18,617	13%
Payroll Taxes/Service Fees	\$	4,934	3%
Field/Constituency Supervisors	\$	8,146	6%
Contractual Services	\$	17,645	12%
System Development	\$	7,401	5%
Communications	\$	40,936	29%
Furniture & Equipment Rental	\$	2,433	2%
Facilities Rental		108	0%
Training	\$	5,753	4%
Travel/Business	\$ \$ \$ \$	1,961	1%
Postage, Courier & Freight	\$	12,682	9%
Office Supplies	\$	1,240	1%
Printing - Forms	\$	9,296	7%
Total Central Administration Expenditures	\$	131,152	93%
Election Expenses & Audit Fee Reimbursements			
Registered Political Parties		7.500	F0/
Election Expenses	\$	7,508	5%
Auditors' Fees		2,986	2%
		10,494	7%
Total Reimbursements	\$	10,494	7%
Total Melfort Central Administration Expenditures	\$	141,646	100%

2018 Melfort By-Election Constituency Expenditures

Spending at a Glance

	ı	otal By- Election penditures	% of Total By- Election Expenditures	
Election Officials - Salaries	\$	77,426	52%	
Administration		43,727	30%	
Field/Constituency Expenditures		121,153	82%	
Election Expense Reimbursements Paid		26,285	18%	
Constituency Expenditures	\$	147,438	100%	

Expenditure Details		
	Melfort	% of Total By-
	Actuals - By-	Election
	Election	Expenditures
Field/Constituency		
Election Officials - Salaries		
Returning Office Staff		
Returning Officer	12,973	9%
Election Clerk	8,513	6%
Other Office Staff	8,033	5%
	29,519	20%
Poll Officials		
Supervisory Deputy Returning Officers	3,606	3%
Deputy Returning Officers	18,398	12%
Poll Clerks	15,023	10%
Other Poll Staff	10,880	7%
	47,907	32%
Total Salaries	77,426	52%
Administration		
Office Rent & Utilities	10,951	7%
Office Furniture & Equipment	10,846	7%
Poll Rentals	7,066	5%
Printing - Forms & Ballots	4,502	3%
Travel/Business	7,320	5%
Janitorial, Snow Removal, etc.	7,320	0%
Telephone/Internet	1,885	1%
Office Supplies	215	0%
Postage, Courier & Freight	215	0%
Total Administration	43,727	30%
Table 5' 111/6	424.452	920/
Total Field/Constituency Expenditures	121,153	82%
Election Expense Reimbursements		
Candidate Election Expenses	24,518	17%
Auditors' Fees	1,767	1%
Total Election Expense Reimbursements	26,285	18%
Total Melfort Constituency Expenditures	147,438	100%

Registered Political Party	Hire of Premises (\$)	Advertising (\$)	Services (\$)	Goods Supplied (\$)	Travel and Hire of Vehicle (\$)	Total Expenses (\$)	Total Reimbursable Expenses (\$) (a)	Amount of Reimbursement (\$)
Saskatchewan Green Party	-	-	-	64.95	130.60	195.55	-	(b)
New Democratic Party	-	3,973.20	11,042.38	-	-	15,015.58	15,015.58	7,507.79
Saskatchewan Party	-	20,365.91	15,661.53	235.05	4,904.74	41,167.23	-	(c)
Totals	-	24,339.11	26,703.91	300.00	5,035.34	56,378.36	15,015.58	7,507.79

⁽a) Maximum allowable election expenses for each Party is \$49,632

⁽b) Party was not eligible for a reimbursement of their election expenses pursuant to subsection 264(1)(a) of The Election Act, 1996.

⁽c) Party was not eligible for a reimbursement of their election expenses pursuant to subsection 264(1)(b) of The Election Act, 1996.

Constituency	Contributions Received (\$)	Candidate's Campaign Expenses (\$)	Hire of Premises (\$)	Advertising (\$)	Services (\$)	Goods Supplied (\$)	Travel and Hire of Vehicle (\$)	Total Expenses (\$) (a)	Candidate's Personal Expenses (\$) (c)	Total Reimbursable Expenses (\$)	Amount of Reimbursement (\$)
Melfort											
Shawn Setyo (SGP)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(b)
Lorne Schroeder (NDP)	22,000.11	-	1,260.00	1,182.04	10,562.04	4,856.34	3,175.20	21,035.62	-	21,035.62	12,621.37
Todd Goudy (SKP)	35,443.27	1,112.68	1,422.73	15,102.90	618.27	1,443.69	368.05	20,068.32	-	19,828.23	11,896.94
Totals	57,443.38	1,112.68	2,682.73	16,284.94	11,180.31	6,300.03	3,543.25	41,103.94	-	40,863.85	24,518.31

⁽a) Maximum allowable election expenses for each Candidate are \$59,641.

⁽b) Candidate was not eligible for a reimbursement of their election expenses pursuant to subsection 265(1)(a) of The Election Act, 1996.

⁽c) Candidates' personal expenses are not included in the total expenses.

