

DIRECTIVE NO.	CEODIR-2020-008
DATE	OCTOBER 10, 2020
DATE REVISED	APRIL 18, 2023
SUBJECT	VANDALISM OR THEFT OF SIGNS
REFERENCE	N/APP
INTENT	TO PROVIDE A CONSISTENT APPROACH AND LEVEL PLAYING FIELD FOR CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE A CANDIDATE’S SIGNS ARE VANDALIZED OR STOLEN
AUDIENCE	CHIEF OFFICIAL AGENTS, FINANCIAL AGENTS, CANDIDATES

One of the intents of *The Election Act, 1996* is to create a level playing field between all candidates. There could be circumstances where a candidate's signs or other forms of advertising such as bus benches are vandalized or stolen. In order to be able to replace these signs within the existing expense limitation without penalty, the procedures established in this CEO Directive must be followed.

GUIDELINES

Where signs or other advertising placed by a candidate or registered party are stolen or damaged by acts of vandalism during an election, the cost incurred for replacement must be included in their election expenses return. At the same time, candidates and parties will be allowed to exceed the election expense spending limit by the cost of the replacement, provided the replacement is one for one and of the same cost, without penalty. Candidates and parties that are eligible for reimbursement will receive a reimbursement up to the maximum spending limit. In order for the replacement cost to be considered for exceeding the election expense limit without penalty, the candidate or party must proceed as follows:

- a) Take photos of the vandalized advertising.
- b) Report the occurrence in writing to the police including a description of the signs, their locations and costs. If the police refuse to take a report, provide the Chief Electoral Officer with a statement containing all relevant details including a description of the signs, locations, cost, and contact information for the individual providing the details of the stolen or vandalized signs.

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- c) When filing the election expenses return, include the following documentation:
- a copy of the above report along with the police case file number or statement with the applicable details;
 - invoices for original purchase and placement costs, if any; and
 - photographic or other evidence of theft or vandalism (e.g., statement of property owner).

Any old signs affected by vandalism must be removed.

Where replacement signs or other advertising are more expensive than the original signs, the cost of the original signs will be considered the amount by which the candidate or party may exceed the expense limit without penalty.

In any case where Elections Saskatchewan receives a complaint from a candidate with respect to theft or vandalism relating to signs, the Office will advise the caller of this CEO Directive and send a record of the call to the Deputy Chief Electoral Officer, Corporate Services and Electoral Finance.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Michael D. Boda'.

MICHAEL D. BODA, D. PHIL., PH.D.
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER
PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN
OCTOBER 10, 2020