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| <b>ORDER NO.</b>    | <b>CEO-ORDER-2020-013</b>  |
| <b>Date</b>         | December 11, 2020  |
| <b>Date Revised</b> | N/App  |
| <b>Subject</b>      | Increasing Election Expense Limits due to COVID-19   |
| <b>Reference</b>    | Sections 243, 243.1, 252, 252.1, 260, 264 and 265 of <i>The Election Act, 1996</i>   |
| <b>Intent</b>       | To allow registered political parties to exceed maximum spending limits on the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE) |

The Chief Electoral Officer has the authority, under section 7 of *The Election Act, 1996* (the *Act*) and section 2 of *The Election Act Regulations* (the *Regulations*) to declare that an emergency exists and that the *Act* does not provide adequate provision to respond to the emergency. These declarations are made through CEO Orders.

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic occurring during the 29th Saskatchewan General Election it is necessary that changes be made to allow registered political parties and candidates to exceed the election expense limit by the amount spent on non-branded personal protective equipment (PPE) as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. For the purposes of this CEO Order, PPE is limited to non-branded masks, gloves, hand sanitizer and translucent shields. Registered political parties or candidates that exceed the election expense limits due to spending on non-branded PPE will not be subject to any reduction to any reimbursement that they may otherwise be entitled to receive under the *Act* or to any penalties under the *Act*. PPE which contains branding specific to a registered political party or candidate would be considered an advertising expense and would not be subject to this Order.

The Chief Electoral Officer hereby declares that pursuant to section 7 of the *Act* and sections 2(2)(b) and (c) of the *Regulations* an emergency exists for which no adequate provision is made by the *Act* and in the opinion of the Chief Electoral Officer, it is necessary and advisable to do the things mentioned in section 7 of the *Act* to safely prepare for and conduct an election.

The Chief Electoral Officer further declares that, pursuant to section 7(1)(c) of the *Act* and section 2(2)(a) of the *Regulations*, the necessity of requiring registered political parties and candidates to include spending on non-branded PPE in their election expense return that may result in their exceeding the election expense limits imposed by the *Act* as a result of

the emergency is a circumstance for which no adequate provision is made by the Act because there is no adequate provision that would allow registered political parties to exceed election expense limits on necessary PPE items without financial consequences.

Therefore, the Chief Electoral Officer hereby orders that a measure to be taken to require registered political parties and candidates to include spending on non-branded PPE in their election expense return that may cause the election expense limits contained in the Act to be exceeded, and that such registered political parties or candidates that exceed the election expense limits contained in the Act due to spending on non-branded PPE will not be subject to any reduction to any reimbursement that they may otherwise be entitled to under the Act or to any penalties under the Act.

This order is in effect for the financial reporting period defined in the Act relating to Saskatchewan's 29th General Election, held pursuant to *The Legislative Assembly Act, 2007* section 8.1(1) on October 26, 2020.

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

DR. MICHAEL BODA  
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER  
PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN  
DECEMBER 11, 2020