
Instructions of the Chief Electoral Officer

DATE: 6 June 2023

TO: PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES

FROM: Chief Electoral Officer

RE: ELECTION EXPENSES AND REIMBURSEMENT

Pursuant to section 250 of the *Elections and Plebiscites Act*, the Chief Electoral Officer may issue instructions regarding: election expenses that may be paid for in the pre-election period by a person who becomes a candidate; and election expenses from the pre-election period for which an official agent may reimburse a candidate from contributions received.

Although the Chief Electoral Officer reserves the right to make decisions as needed on a case-by-case basis, generally speaking, an official agent may reimburse a candidate, from contributions received, for any election expense paid during the pre-election period to promote the candidate's election.

Reimbursement is possible regardless of the outcome of the election.

Below is a list of typical election expenses that are eligible for reimbursement. This is not intended as a comprehensive nor restrictive list, but rather is offered by way of example for greater clarity.

- Advertising on traditional or social media
- Reasonable transportation, accommodation or meal costs for a candidate
- Reasonable personal expenses, including childcare expenses
- Office space rental, including office equipment, supplies and utilities
- Website creation, hosting and maintenance
- Posters, leaflets, pamphlets, letters, cards or other promotional material
- Vehicle rental costs or operating expenses of a private vehicle
- Signs, banners, lumber and other structural supports
- Mailing or other election material distribution
- Reasonable interest paid on operational loans
- Survey polling, including design and analysis

All expenses from the pre-election period must be proven by a bill setting out the particulars of the expenses. Proof of payment is submitted by the official agent to the Chief Electoral Officer as part of the candidate's financial report.

All expenses incurred during the pre-election period before the candidate's nomination papers have been submitted are included in the \$30,000 maximum amount that may be spent to promote the election of a person.