

# **Advisory Committee of Political Parties**

#### ISSUE: BY-ELECTIONS SUPERSEDED BY A GENERAL ELECTION

The call of a general election while the September 8 and 22 by-elections are underway would result in the withdrawal of the writs for the four electoral districts in question. Simply put, this would cancel the current four by-elections.

This has impacts on electors, candidates who have filed their nomination papers for the current by-elections as well as political parties that endorsed candidates. Specifically:

- Electors must be made aware that by-elections are cancelled.
- Electors need to be made aware that special ballots issued and/or returned for the by-elections have become null and void.
- Candidates and political parties need to be informed of the financial reporting and obligations for reimbursement due to the cancellation of the by-elections.

#### PROPOSED APPROACH

### Notice in the Canada Gazette

• The Chief Electoral Officer will publish a notice in the *Canada Gazette* of the withdrawal of the writ and the cancellation of the by-elections (CEA s. 551).

#### **Electors**

- General Communication Plan
  - Elections Canada will issue a national press release.
  - Notice of cancellation will be posted on Elections Canada's Website.
  - In each of the impacted electoral districts, radio and print ads will be replaced with ads informing electors that the by-elections have been cancelled due to the call of a general election.
- Electors who voted under Special Voting Rules
  - Elections Canada will send out a notice to electors who received special ballot voting kits that the G.E. has superseded the by-elections and that their kits are null and void. Those electors will have the opportunity to



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vote by special ballot again for the general election.

- o International electors will be issued a new special ballot voting kit.
- Local, national and incarcerated electors who wish to vote by special ballot in the G.E. will need to fill out a new application and provide satisfactory proof of ID and address.

### **Candidates**

- Returning officers will inform by-election candidates that they will need to file new nomination papers should they wish to present themselves for the general election.
- Confirmed candidates and their official agents have been sent a memo concerning the treatment of expenses should the current by-elections be superseded. A copy of the recently updated FAQ on this topic was sent along with the memo. The memo also directs the candidates and OAs to the FAQ on the EC web site as well as to our 1-800 political financing support network.

## **Political Parties**

- A copy of the memo mentioned above along with the attachment has been sent to all political parties that fielded candidates in the by-elections
- An e-version of the memo will be sent via e-mail to the ACPP.