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## Changes to Manitoba's *Election Financing Act*

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Bill 26 changes provisions of *The Election Financing Act* related to contribution limits and the activities of third parties before and during an election, as well as changing the definition of advertising and introducing a new time period for the purpose of setting advertising limits. The Bill received royal assent on June 2, 2017, and comes into force September 5, 2017.

Changes to *The Election Financing Act* take effect September 5, 2017.

### **Contributions**

- Contribution limits rise to \$5,000 from \$3,000 and are indexed to inflation after each general election. [s.34]
- Fees paid to attend a conference, convention or leadership convention count as a contribution. [s.32]
- The definition of volunteer services includes the services of a self-employed individual. [s.115]
- Cash contributions are limited to \$25. [s.34]
- Contribution rules do not apply to fundraising tickets or items sold for \$25 or less, or multiple tickets or items of \$75 or less.

### **Limits**

- Advertising limits apply to a 90-day pre-election period in the year of a fixed date election. [s.58; s.115]
- Advertising costs include paid advertising only; promotional costs are not included.
- Base spending limits for registered parties and candidates are set using the preliminary voters list from the current general election. [s.53; s. 54]

### **Filing**

- Constituency associations must file an annual unaudited financial statement. [s.64; s.68]

### **Third Party**

- Election communication includes communication on an issue with which a party or candidate is associated. [s.82]
- Third parties must register with Elections Manitoba when they incur \$2,500 in expenses during the pre-election period or during the election period. [s.85].

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- Advertising limits for third parties are set at \$100,000 for the 90-day pre-election period and \$25,000 for the election period in a general election. For a byelection, the limit is \$5,000. [s.83]
- If a third party incurs election communication expenses with the knowledge and consent of a registered party those expenses would be considered advertising expenses of the registered party. [s.89]

The bill can be found at <http://web2.gov.mb.ca/bills/41-2/b026e.php>.