

news release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THIRD PARTY RULES

For the first time during a provincial general election, third party legislation will be in effect in Manitoba. The new rules aim to promote fairness by limiting spending by individuals and interest groups who may influence public opinion during an election.

The legislation defines ‘third party’ as a person or group (other than a political party, candidate or constituency association) that promotes or opposes a registered party or candidate during an election.

New rules for third parties include spending limits during the election period, registration with Elections Manitoba, and financial disclosure following the election. The election period begins the day the writ is issued and ends the day of the election.

While third party provisions have been in effect for four by-elections, this will be the first general election during which the new rules are in place. The legislation came into effect February 21, 2013 in *The Election Financing Act*.

Key points of the legislation include:

- Spending limit of \$5,000 on communication during an election period. This includes any advertising or promotion that contains a message supporting or opposing a candidate or party.
- Requirement to register with Elections Manitoba once the third party has spent \$500 on election communication. Registration is not required until an election has been called, i.e. writ issued.
- Advertising or promotion must identify the third party.
- Appointment of financial agent to accept and record contributions. No contributions are allowed from candidates or political parties, or from anonymous donors. No tax receipts may be issued.
- All advertising or promotion must be authorized by the financial agent.
- Election communication report must be filed with the Chief Electoral Officer.

Third parties wishing to register or requiring further information are advised to contact Elections Manitoba.

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Elections Manitoba is the independent office of the Legislative Assembly responsible for the administration of provincial elections and by-elections.

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