

Notice of Corrupt Practice – Notice of Offence

CORRUPT PRACTICES

No person shall, directly or indirectly:

- offer, give, lend, or promise or agree to give or lend any valuable consideration, in connection with the exercise or the non-exercise of an electors' vote;
- advance pay or caused to be paid money intending that it be used to commit an offence referred to in the bullet above, or knowing that it will be used to repay money used in that way;
- give, procure or promise or agree to procure an office or employment in connection with the exercise or non-exercise of an elector's vote;
- apply for, accept or agree to accept any valuable consideration or office or employment in connection with the exercise or non-exercise of elector's vote;
- give, procure or promise or agree to procure an office or employment to induce a person to become a candidate, refrain from becoming a candidate or withdraw his or her candidacy;
- offer, give, lend, or promise or agree to give or lend any valuable consideration in order to induce a person to become a candidate, refrain from becoming a candidate or withdraw his or her candidacy.

REPORTING CORRUPT PRACTICES

All valid complaints or knowledge of an offence shall be reported immediately to the Police for investigation of corrupt practices.

In addition, although many provisions of the Municipal Elections Act also deal with voting places, ballots and ballot boxes, etc. the same must be used interchangeably with the alternative forms of voting since the principles of the Act must be maintained and is therefore enforceable and subject to penalties.

As such, the Clerk has agreed to the following:

- that all complaints about actions which may contravene the provisions of the Municipal Elections Act, either verbally or written, will be reviewed by the Clerk and, if viewed by the Clerk to be valid and not frivolous, will be reported to the Police.
- the most senior officer of the Police will be advised that all such valid complaints will be turned over to his/her office for further investigation

OFFENCES (SECTION 89, 90)

A person is guilty of an offence if he or she:

- votes without being entitled to do so;
- votes more times than this Act allows;
- votes in a Voting Place in which he or she is not entitled to vote;
- induces or procures a person to vote when that person is not entitled to do so;
- before or during an election, publishes a false statement of a candidate's withdrawal;
- furnishes false or misleading information to a person whom this Act authorizes to obtain information;
- without authority, supplies a PIN/ballot to anyone;
- deals with a PIN, without having authority to do so;
- no person(s) shall solicit a Voter Information Letter containing a PIN or Ballot, from an eligible elector;
- a person who contravenes any provision of the Act or a regulation under the Act or a bylaw passed by a municipality under the Act;
- attempts to do something described above.

The following are guilty of an offence that constitutes a corrupt practice:

- A Deputy Returning Officer or other Election Official who knowingly miscounts the votes or knowingly prepares a false statement of the votes;
- A Clerk or other Election Official who willfully fails to perform a duty imposed by the Act.

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PENALTIES

Elector [Section 90 (2)]

An offence described above under Corrupt Practices [Section 90 (3)] constitutes a corrupt practice and a person who commits it is, on conviction, disqualified from voting at an election until the next regular election has taken place after the election to which the offence relates, in addition to being liable to any other penalty provided for in the Act.

Candidate [Section 91 (1)]

If a person is convicted of a corrupt practice under the Act, or of an offence under the Criminal Code (Canada) in connection with an act or omission that relates to an election to which the Act applies, then, in addition to any other penalty provided for in the Act:

- a) any office to which the person was elected is forfeited and becomes vacant; and
- b) the person is ineligible to be nominated for or elected or appointed to, any office until the next two regular elections have taken place after the election to which the offence relates.

However, if the presiding judge finds that the person committed the corrupt practice or offence under the Criminal Code (Canada) without any intent of causing or contributing to a false outcome of the election, clause b) does not apply.

Individual [Section 94 (1)]

An individual who is convicted of an offence is liable to the following penalties in addition to any other penalty provided for;

- for any offence, a fine not more than \$25,000;
- for any offence other than a corrupt practice the penalties described in Subsection 88.23 (2) – Effect of Default by Candidate and 88.27 (1) – Effect of Default by Registered Third Party.
- for an offence under Section 90 (Corrupt Practices; Certain Offences Committed Knowingly,) imprisonment for a term of not more than 6 (six) months;
- for any offence that the presiding judge finds that the individual committed knowingly, imprisonment for a term of not more than 6 (six) months.

Trade Unions [Section 94 (2)]

A corporation or trade union that is convicted of an offence is liable to a fine of not more than \$50,000 in addition to any other penalty provided for.