

CAMPAIGN FINANCING OFFENCES

There are a number of campaign financing offences under *The Municipal Act* which carry penalties. For example;

It is illegal for a candidate to:

- Accept a contribution before being registered – section 93.4
- Accept an illegal contribution (eg. from a union or corporation) or a contribution over the maximum amount – section 93.8
- Accept a loan from other than a bank, credit union, trust company etc or gives a loan if not a bank, credit union, trust company – section 93.9
- Lend campaign funds raised to another candidate – section 93.10
- Not keep proper records, deposit campaign contributions and/or pay expenses from a campaign account – section 93.11
- Not file Election Finance Statement as required – section 93.12
- Not pay surplus funds raised to the municipality – section 93.15

It is an offence if a candidate contravenes the municipality's campaign expenses and contributions by-law by:

- Spending more than the maximum expense limit
- Exceeding the portion of fund-raising deemed to be a contribution/expense
- Failing to keep additional finance records, if required
- Failing to report within the time period required

The Court would determine if a person is guilty of the offence. If found guilty, the Court could impose a fine of not more than \$5,000.00.