

ELECTION OFFENCES

There are a number of election offences under *The Municipal Councils and School Boards Elections Act* which carry penalties – including a fine or jail time. For example, it is illegal to:

- Accept a contribution before being registered
- Accept an illegal contribution or contribution over the maximum amount
- Accept an anonymous contribution
- 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
- Lend campaign funds raised to another candidate
- Not keep proper records, deposit campaign contributions and/or pay expenses from a campaign account
- Offer a bribe to a voter, election official, or another candidate
- Accept a bribe or solicit a bribe
- Use force or intimidation against any person to vote or refrain from voting
- Interfere or disrupt the proceedings of a voting place or station
- Use the voters list for a purpose other than for campaigning
- Make a false or misleading statement or declaration
- Publish a false statement that a candidate has withdrawn
- Not file Election Finance Statement as required
- Not pay surplus funds raised to the municipality

Any person who contravenes campaign finance rules under *The Municipal Act* or the municipality's by-law may be found guilty of an offence. For example, it is illegal to:

- Spend more than the maximum expense limit
- Exceed the portion of fund-raising deemed to be a contribution/expense
- fail to report within the time period required

Any person guilty of an offence under *The Municipal Councils and School Boards Elections Act* can be fined up to \$10,000 or imprisoned for a term of not more than one year.

A person guilty of an offence under *The Municipal Act* or the municipality's by-law can be fined up to \$5,000.