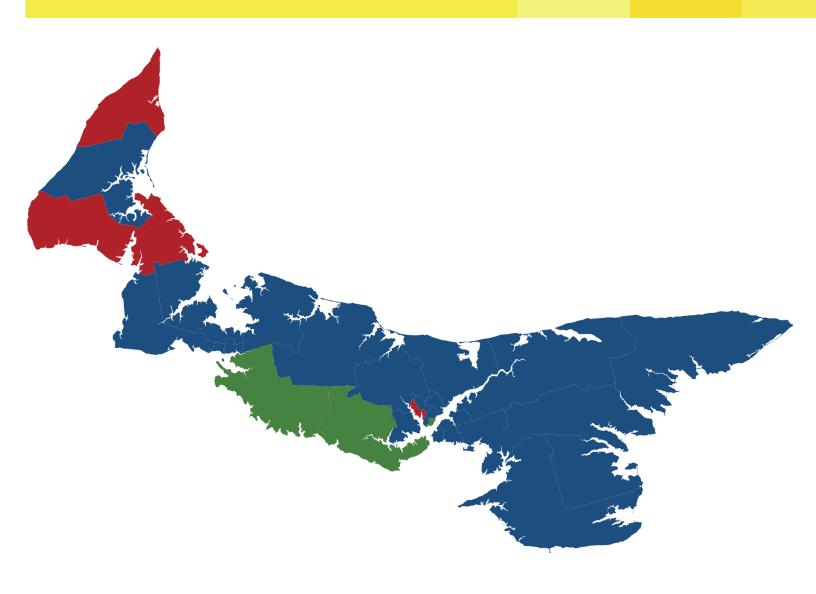


### **PROVINCIAL BY-ELECTION**District 19 Borden-Kinkora

**February 7, 2024** 

REPORT OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER
OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND



Wednesday, November 7, 2024

The Hon. Darlene Compton
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Province of Prince Edward Island

Honourable Speaker:

I am pleased to submit my report in accordance with Section 119 of the *Election Act*, R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. E 1.1, on the Provincial By-Election held on February 7, 2024.

This report includes an overview of the by-election, the elected MLA, election expenses and a statistical report for District 19 Borden-Kinkora electoral district.

I respectfully request you submit this report to the Legislative Assembly during the next sitting of the 67<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of Prince Edward Island.

Respectfully,

Tim G. Garrity

**Chief Electoral Officer** 

Province of Prince Edward Island

February 7, 2024 District 19 By-Election Report

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#### Message from the Chief Electoral Officer of PEI

I am pleased to present the report on the by-election of the member from District 19 Borden-Kinkora to the Legislative Assembly for the 67<sup>th</sup> General Assembly for Prince Edward Island.

I would first and foremost like to express my thanks to the election team, Deputy Chief Electoral Officer, Stephanie Thorpe;

Manager of Election Operations and Communications, Paul Alan;



Tim G Garrity - CEO Elections PEI

Elections Office Coordinator – Gabrielle Anderson;

Returning Officer – Marsha Pyke and her Election Clerk – Gisele Martin, and the workers who worked at the polling locations in the district. I appreciated their dedication and flexibility during this postponed by-election.

Thank you to the candidates who put their names forward and ran to represent the district. It is imperative for our democracy that we have capable people who put themselves out there to run for office.

This election had the challenge of dealing with the harsh weather of a PEI winter. This encouraged our office to be well prepared for any situation that might arise regarding cancelling or postponing voting opportunities for the safety of both our workers as well as for the electors themselves.

I would like to thank all voters from District 19 who stepped forward and exercised their free and democratic right to vote. As we see a downturn in the engagement of voters all over the world, I really encourage and challenge all eligible Island voters to get out to the polls. This is your opportunity to shape our Island's government. We will continue to work to ensure that the public has the utmost trust in the Election office, process, and vision.

## DISTRICT 19 BY-ELECTION SUMMARY

**FEBRUARY 7, 2024** 

#### 2024 Provincial by-election

The Chief Electoral Officer issued a Writ of Election on January 9, 2024 to the Returning Officer in District 19 Borden-Kinkora to conduct a Provincial By-Election for Monday, February 5, 2024. A winter snowstorm, postponed this by-election for two days to Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

#### Political parties

Four of the five political parties registered with Elections PEI, nominated a candidate with the issue of the Writ of Election. The registered political parties nominated the following

candidates: Green Party of PEI Matt MacFarlane

New Democratic Party of PEI Karen Morton
Progressive Conservative Party of PEI Carmen Reeves
Liberal Party of PEI Gordon Sobey

All four candidates registered with Elections PEI before the close of Nomination Day on Friday, January, 19 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

#### RETURNING OFFICER

A new Returning Officer was appointed to administer the by-election in District 19. Marsha Pyke is the new Returning Officer and brings the experience of having worked in the 2023 Provincial General Election as Election Clerk in District 19.

#### Voter information cards

Eligible electors from District 19; in the Register of Electors, had a Voter Information Card (VIC) mailed to their residence. The VIC contained the elector's name and address, and also provided information on when and where to vote. Advance voting was held at one location, while voting locations for Ordinary Polling Day were based on the elector's civic address within District 19. Each VIC also contained a unique bar code specific for each individual elector, to allow poll workers to process them quicker and more efficiently.



#### Polling days

Elections PEI established one voting location for District 19 for the advance polling days at Bedeque United Church, 1230 Callbeck St, Bedeque. For the advance polls, 1,048 electors cast ballots and 1,380 electors recorded as voted on Ordinary Polling Day.

There were four polling locations opened throughout District 19 for Ordinary Polling Day. The four locations were the Crapaud Community Centre (Polls 1 & 2), Oshea's Pub & Eatery (Poll 3),

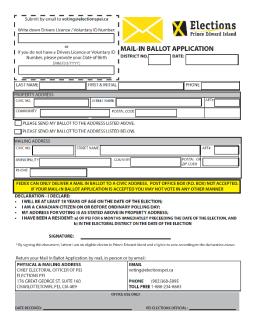
Borden Royal Canadian Legion (Polls 4,5,6) and the Bedeque United Church (Polls 7,8,9)

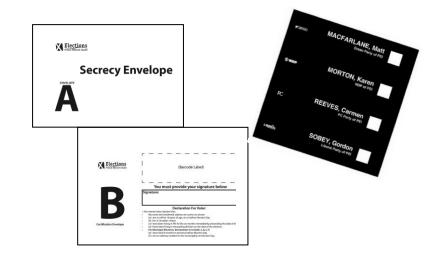
The 2024 Provincial By-Election recorded 2,509 eligible electors registered with Elections PEI, casting their vote. Elections PEI was pleased with the overall voter turnout for a by-election at 58.91%.

#### Mail in Ballot

Elections PEI offered the option of the Mail In Ballot for the by-election. Eligible electors were invited to fill out the application on the Elections PEI website, beginning Wednesday January 10, 2024. The application process closed at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, January 23, 2024. A total of 49 applications were received and processed with Elections PEI. The ballots were sent via FedEx Express throughout PEI, across Canada, the United States and along with numerous international destinations.

All Mail In Ballot kits included a paid return envelope for FedEx Express to get the ballots back to the Elections PEI office as quickly and securely as possible. The deadline to have the ballots returned to be included in the count was 12 p.m. on Ordinary Polling Day, which ended up being Wednesday, February 7, 2024. Elections PEI received 45 ballots back in the required time, an 92% return rate.







The Provincial By-Election did not arrive without its challenges. Prince Edward Island is prone to have significant snow storms in late January and throughout February. Elections PEI added the possibility of postponement or cancellations due to the weather, to the strategic plan for this by-election.

The PEI *Election Act*, Section 3 (2)<sub>1</sub> ,makes allowances for the Chief Electoral Officer to change or postpone a polling day due to any unforeseen emergency. A winter storm began on Saturday February 3rd, the day following the third advance polling day. This major snow storm intensified with snow accumulation and wind speed over Late Sunday afternoon February 4, 2024, all plows were being pulled from provincial highways because of visibility.

Elections PEI sent notices to the Official Agents of the political parties, their candidates, the media, and all polling locations regarding Ordinary Polling Day. Elections PEI CEO Tim Garrity, was officially postponing Ordinary Polling Day by one day. It was now scheduled for Tuesday, February 6, 2024. This was the correct decision to make as Monday's weather was worse than Sunday. Plows did not return to the highways until late Monday afternoon/early evening as RCMP advised all motorists to stay off the roads. The Confederation Bridge was even closed to all traffic for a period because of the extreme conditions.

Monday, February 5, 2024, Elections PEI released an announcement by 12 noon, of a 2nd postponement explaining Ordinary Polling Day was postponed again. The CEO explained "this is a very important by-election and Elections PEI wants to ensure all eligible electors in District 19 have the equal opportunity to exercise their right to vote, so it has been decided the by-election will now take place on Wednesday February 7, 2024. This decision was made keeping in mind the safety of all electors and all our election workers. Their safety is paramount and we want this by-election to conclude on a positive note."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/e-01-1-election act.pdf











## DISTRICT 19 BY-ELECTION VOTING STATISTICS

**FEBRUARY 7, 2024** 

#### **DISTRICT ANALYSIS**

The following pages examines and analyzes voting statistics for the District 19 By-Election.

The criteria studied, is as follows:

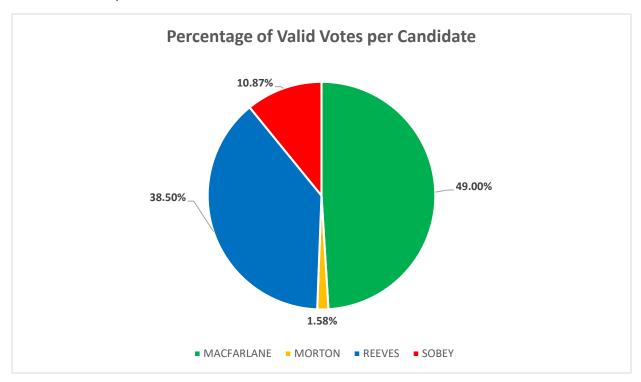
- Breakdown of Actual Votes per Candidate Poll by Poll
- Use of Voter Information Cards (VIC) for Voting at the Poll
- Prefered Hours of Voting for Electors
- Age Demographics of Voters
- Voting Dates at the Polls
- Hourly Poll by Poll Voting Stats

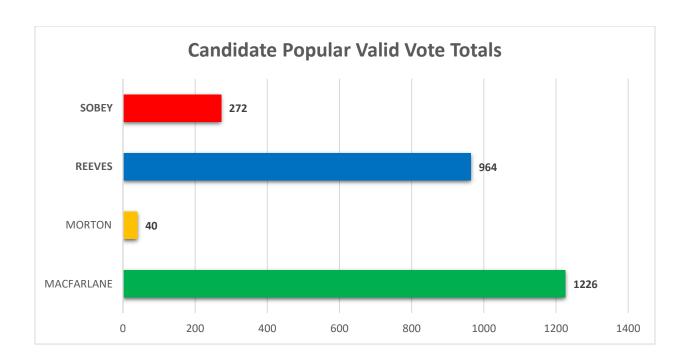
#### Official Results - District 19 Borden-Kinkora Provincial By-Election

10 out of 10 Polls reporting	GREEN MATT MACFARLANE	<b>NDP</b> KAREN MORTON	PC Carmen Reeves	<b>LIBERAL</b> GORDON SOBEY
Total Electors:				
Total Votes: 2,502	1226	40	964	272
Percent: 58.78%	49%	1.59%	38.5%	10.87%
Poll				
(A)	513	17	447	150
1	117	3	52	15
2	157	3	39	10
3	60	1	103	15
4	98	2	73	9
5	76	4	86	19
6	68	9	51	12
7	60	0	27	10
8	38	1	42	22
9	39	0	44	10

Advance Polls include: Hospital, Mobile Poll and Mail in Ballots

#### 2024 Provincial By-Election

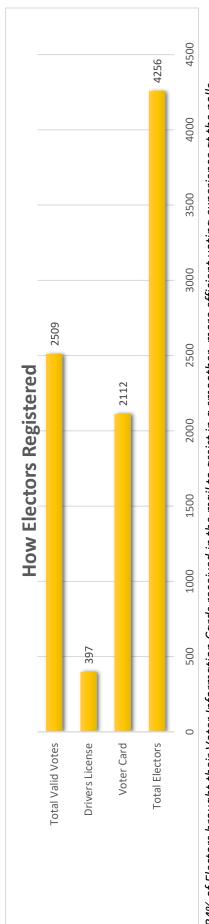




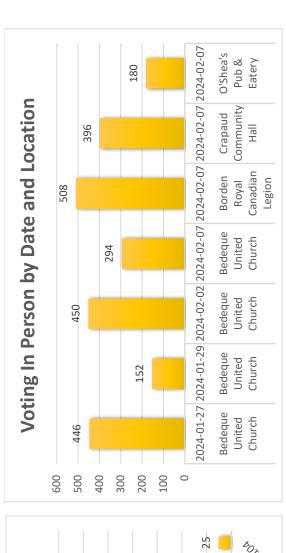
Returning Officer: Marsha Pyke

District 19 Borden – Kinkora February 7, 2024 By-Election

		Number					
No.	POLLING DIVISION	of	MACFARLANE	MORTON	REEVES	SOBEY	Rejected
		<b>Ballots Cast</b>	Matt	Karen	Carmen	Gordon	Ballots
	Advance	1131	513	17	447	150	4
1	Westmoreland	187	117	3	52	15	0
7	Victoria	500	157	3	39	10	0
3	Maple Plains	180	09	1	103	15	1
4	Cape Traverse	183	86	2	73	6	1
2	Borden	185	92	4	98	19	0
9	North Carleton	140	89	6	51	12	0
7	Lower Bedeque	26	09	0	72	10	0
8	Central Bedeque	103	38	1	42	22	0
6	North Bedeque	94	39	0	44	10	1
	TOTALS	2509	1226	40	964	272	7
	Percentages		49.00%	1.58%	38.50%	10.87%	



\*84% of Electors brought their Voter Information Cards received in the mail to assist in a smoother, more efficient voting experience at the polls



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Voting In Person by Age Demographic



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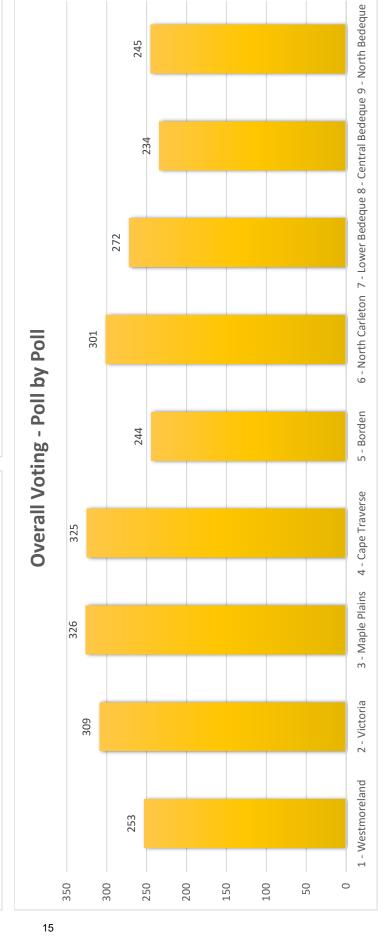
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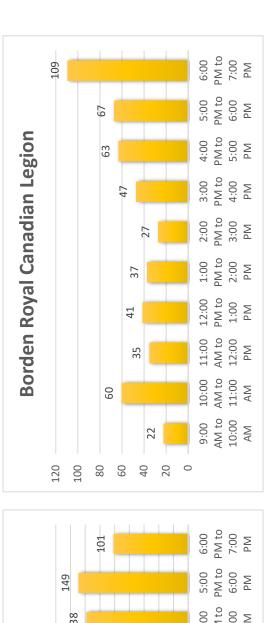
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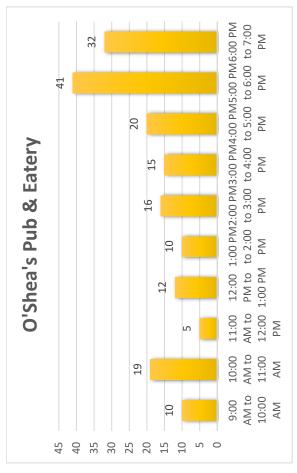
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Voting in Person by Hour and Location



## DISTRICT 19 BY-ELECTION CANDIDATE EXPENSES

**FEBRUARY 7, 2024** 

# Candidate/Party Expenses and Reimbursement

ORGANIC EDWARD ISLAM	PARTY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	Eligible Electors	# of Votes	%	Advertising	Office	Wages	Other	In-Kind donations	Total	Max Spending Limit	Re- imbursement
Candidate	MACFARLANE, Matt	4256	1226	49.0	\$8,125.66	\$1,810.74	\$3,000.00		\$100.00	\$13,036.40	\$13,269.64	\$4000.00
<b>Green Party of PEI</b>							\$2,610.00	\$250.00		\$2,860.00	\$45,429.50	
Prince Edward Island	Tand and	Eligible Electors	# of Votes	%	Advertising	Office	Wages	Other	In-Kind donations	Total	Max Spending Limit	Re - imbursement
Candidate	MORTON, Karen	4256	40	1.59	\$1,130.82	\$16.10				\$1,146.92	\$13,269.64	1
NDP of PEI											\$45,429.50	
8		Eligible Electors	# of Votes	%	Advertising	Office	Wages	Other	In-Kind donations	Total	Max Spending Limit	Re- imbursement
Candidate	REEVES, Carmen	4256	964	38.5	\$7,427.90	\$3,149.56				\$10,577.46	\$13,269.64	\$4000.00
PC Party of PEI					\$5,750.00			\$2,083.52		\$7,833.52	\$45,429.50	
LIBER PRINCE EDWARD IS	ISLAND	Eligible Electors	# of Votes	%	Advertising	Office	Wages	Other	In-Kind donations	Total	Max Spending Limit	Re- imbursement
Candidate	SOBEY, Gordon	4256	272	10.87	4601.02	1148.55				\$5,749.57	\$13,269.64	F:
Liberal Party of PEI											\$45,429.50	ebruary 7
												,

Maximum spending limit based on \$3.14 per elector for Candidates and \$10.75 per elector for Parties (Section 18(2) Election Expense Act).

Reimbursement based on candidate having 15% or more of the popular vote. Subject to a minimum of \$2,000 and maximum of \$4,000. As filed with Elections PEI June 7, 2024.

Number of Eligible Electors used to calculate expenses and reimbursements based on number of electors currently held in Register of Electors as of the day the Writ of Election was issued, January 10,2024.

## DISTRICT 19 BY-ELECTION FEBRUARY 7, 2024 ELECTIONS PEI EXPENSES

#### **District19 By-Election Election PEI Expenses**

Printing and Advertising	\$4,610.43
Materials and Supplies	\$7,132.13
Payroll	\$34,494.90
Shipping and Postage	\$4,912.69
Location Rentals	\$5,560.00
Election Software	\$6,925.00
TOTAL	\$63,635.1 <u>5</u>
Candidate Reimbursement	\$8,000.00
Total Election Expense	<b>\$71,635.15</b>
Total number of registered voters on Ordinary Polling Day:	4,256
Cost per registered voter	\$16.83



160 - 176 Great George Street, Charlottetown, PE C1A 4K9 902-368-5895 Toll Free: 1-888-234-8683 (VOTE) Fax: 902-368-6500 electionspei.ca