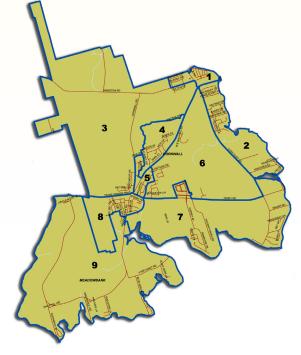


November 15, 2021

Report of the Chief Electoral Officer of PEI





Monday, March 21, 2022

The Honourable Colin LaVie

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 for District 16 – Cornwall-Meadowbank held on November 15, 2021.

This report includes an overview of the election expenses and a statistical report for each of the four candidates who ran in the by-election.

I respectfully request you submit this report to the Legislative Assembly during the next sitting of the 66th General Assembly of Prince Edward Island.

Respectfully,

CI

Tim G. Garrity

Chief Electoral Officer

Province of Prince Edward Island

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Message from the Chief Electoral Officer of PEI

I am pleased to present the report on the District 16 Cornwall-Meadowbank By-Election to the Legislative Assembly.

I would like to express my thanks to the election team, Deputy Chief Electoral Officer -Stephanie Thorpe, Manager of Election Operations and Communications - Paul Alan and our Elections Office Coordinator – Gabrielle Anderson. My appreciation and thanks extends to the office support team, Linda Allen, Laura Lodwich and Bridgett MacCormac as well as the Returning Officer: Bev Gaudet, her Election Clerk: Dianne Boulter, all of the workers who worked at the polling location, as well as the support of the ITSS Department. Their dedication and professionalism were all instrumental in the success of the District 16 Cornwall-Meadowbank By-Election.

With this by-election being the third electoral event that the Elections PEI office conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic, lessons have been learned from each event as well as from our counterparts from across the country. This event was pulled off safely and successfully and called for an amazing team effort by all involved.

There was over 55% turnout for this by-election. The mail in ballot application process was changed to a courier delivery service, with 0.5% of electors applying to vote in this manner.

I would like to thank all the voters from District 16. While PEI has been dealing with the pandemic quite well, we thank you for your trust in the electoral process as well as in our staff to keep you safe while exercising your democratic right to vote.

Tim G. Garrity

Chief Electoral Officer Province of Prince Edward Island

District 16 Cornwall-Meadowbank By-Election

November 15, 2021

BY-ELECTION SUMMARY

2021 PROVINCIAL BY-ELECTION

The Chief Electoral Officer issued a Writ of Election on October 18, 2021 to the Returning Officer in District 16 Cornwall - Meadowbank to conduct a Provincial By-Election for Monday, November 15, 2021. This by-election was the result of District 16 MLA Heath MacDonald's resignation on August 18, 2021, vacating the seat in District 16 Cornwall - Meadowbank, initiating a by-election within a six-month period.

POLITICAL PARTIES

There were four political parties registered with Elections PEI with the issue of the Writ of Election, Tuesday October 18, 2021 for a 28-day Writ period. Each of the registered political parties nominated a candidate to run in the by-election. All four candidates were officially registered before the close of Nomination Day on Friday, October 29, 2021

| New Democratic Party of PEI | Larry Hale |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Liberal Party of PEI | Jane MacIsaac |
| Green Party of PEI | Todd MacLean |
| Progressive Conservative Party of PEI | Mark McLane |



RETURNING OFFICER

The *Election Act* was amended and received Royal Ascent on May 13, 2021, allowing Returning Officers to be appointed by the Chief Electoral Officer of Elections PEI. Bev Gaudet was re-appointed as the District 16 Returning Officer. The Office of the Returning Officer was established on October 19th, 2021 in the Cornwall Town Hall.

VOTER INFORMATION CARDS

All eligible electors on the Register of Electors from District 16 Cornwall – Meadowbank were sent a Voter Information Card (VIC) in the mail as early as Tuesday, October 26, 2021. The VIC contained the elector's name, address and provided information on when and where to vote. Each VIC contained a unique bar code specific for each individual elector. They are branded and identifiable in the mail, with yellow envelopes, the Elections PEI logo and the date of the election. Social media and newspaper advertising were utilized to remind electors to bring their Voter Information Cards (VIC) and Identification (ID) with them to the polls. This communication strategy was effective, as 84% of those recorded as voted brought their VICs to the polls.

Voter Information Card



BRING THIS CARD AND ACCEPTABLE ID TO VOTE For more information, contact Elections PEI 1-888-234-8683 (VOTE)

POLLING DAYS

Elections PEI established one voting location for the District 16 Cornwall - Meadowbank By-Election.

On Ordinary Polling Day, Elections PEI recorded 1,025 cast ballots combined with 1,401 cast ballots from the Advance Polls and 22 Mail-in Ballots, for a total of 2, 448 cast ballots.

There were 4,255 eligible electors registered with Elections PEI in District 16 on October 18, 2021, the day the Writ of Election was issued. The overall voter turnout was 55% with an increase of 176 new eligible electors added to the Register of Electors at the polls resulting in a total of 4,431 registered electors as of Ordinary Polling Day.

The polling location was equipped with secure laptops and barcode scanners. Poll workers registered new electors and recorded those who had presented to vote using the digital Register of Electors. Once an elector was scanned into the digital Register of Electors, the Deputy Returning Officer prepared a ballot by folding and handing it to the elector. The elector was directed behind a secrecy voting screen to mark their candidate choice in one of the white boxes. The voter refolded the ballot as it was handed to them so no one could see how they voted. The ballot was returned to the Deputy Returning Officer, who inspected the ballot for their own initials in the DRO initial box and allowed the voter to deposit the ballot into the ballot box.



2021 District 16 Cornwall - Meadowbank By-Election Ballot sample

MAIL-IN BALLOTS

Elections PEI offered the Mail-in Ballot option to any eligible elector in District 16 to vote from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A fillable Mail-in Ballot Application PDF document was available on the Elections PEI website. The process was made as easy as possible to apply. An eligible voter was required to:

- Fill out the form online, print and place their ID (Driver's License or Voluntary ID) on the place holder in the form.
- Take a picture with their smartphone and email the picture of the completed application to <u>info@electionspei.ca</u>.
- Every eligible applicant was processed and notified by email if their application was accepted and their ballot would be delivered to their home by overnight courier.

| ! ! | | \succ | Elections Prince Edward Island | |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| please place your driver's licence or gov't issued ID here and take a picture of your application to submit by email to voting@electionspei.ca DISTRICT NO. DATE: | | | | |
| 1 | 1 | SIGNATURE: | | |
| LAST NAME | FIRST & INITI | IAL | PHONE | |
| PROPERTY ADDRESS | | | | |
| CIVIC NO. | STREET NAME | | APT# | |
| MUNICIPALITY | POSTAL CODE | | EMAIL | |
| MAILING ADDRESS Check here if Mailing address is same as Property address | | | | |
| CIVIC NO. / P.O. BOX NO. | STREET NAME | sume us roperty due | APT# | |
| MUNICIPALITY | POSTAL CODE | | EMAIL | |
| NAME, ADDRESS, E ALL INFORMATION AND SI IF YOUR MAIL-IN BA DECLARATION - I DECLARE: I WILL BE AT LEAST 18 YE I AM A CANADIAN CITIZI MY ADDRESS FOR VOTI I HAVE BEEN A RESIDENT PHYSICAL & MAILING ADDI | DATE OF BIRTH AND SIG GNATURE MUST BE LEG LLOT APPLICATION IS AC EARS OF AGE ON THE DA EN ON OR BEFORE ORDIN (S IS AS STATED ABOVE F: a) OF PEI FOR 6 MONTH: b) IN THE POLLING DIVIS RESS | NATURE 16 DRIVERS LI IBLE AND COMPLETE CEPTED YOU MAY NOT TE OF THE ELECTION; NARY POLLING DAY; IN PROPERTY ADDRE: S IMMEDIATLEY PRECEE SION ON THE DATE OF THE EMAIL | DING THE DATE OF THE ELECTION, AND HE ELECTION | |
| CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER C ELECTIONS PEI 176 GREAT GEORGE ST. SUITE CHARLOTTETOWN, PEI, CIA 4 | E 160 | voting@electionsp PHONE (902) TOLL FREE 1-888- | 368-5895 | |
| your cellphone/smartphone a You may also, make a copy of | s licence or gov't ID in the and <u>email</u> to voting@elec your driver's licence or go o drop of the application a 8683 for any assistance. | placemaker in top left tionspei.ca ov't ID and mail it with I and copy of your gov't | corner. Take a picture of the form with he application to the Mailing Address D in person at the Physical Address | |
| | OFFI | CE USE ONLY | | |
| DATE DECEMPTO | | 00.0100 | ONE OFFICIAL. | |

(mail-in ballot application)

COUNTING THE BALLOTS

At the close of the polls and once all electors have left the polling location, election officials begin preparations for counting the ballots. All equipment and paperwork from the day are stored. Counting tables are required to be set up and the counting packages and supplies are reviewed. In the presence of representatives of the candidates, the ballot boxes are opened and all ballots are removed to be counted. Only the Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) is allowed to handle the ballots for the count under legislation, determining if the vote cast is valid. Once completed, the results were relayed to the Returning Officer, who entered the unofficial results onto the Elections PEI Unofficial Results webpage. Elections PEI stresses upon its election counting officials during training "accuracy before speed". We want to ensure the results posted for the public and the media to view on our website are accurate.

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

One of the main objectives of Elections PEI, as well as administering a fair and impartial byelection, was the safety of every elector coming to cast their vote and the election officials working at the polling location. Elections PEI created a very low contact environment between the elector and election official. Many materials were added to the election supply list to keep everyone as safe as possible. These supplies included;

- Plexi-glass barriers
- Face masks
- Face Shields
- Social Distancing Floor Stickers
- COVID-19 Symptom Warning posters
- Hand Sanitizers at every worker station
- Sanitizing Wipes
- Single use pencils and pens
- Contact tracing was conducted at the entrance of the polling location

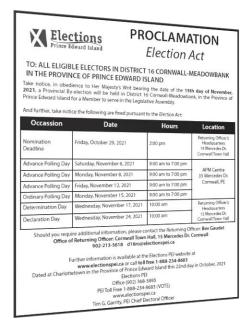
Every election official assisting the electors, were double vaccinated, wore a mask and worked from behind a plexiglass barrier.

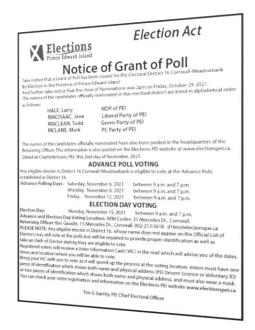
Prior to every Advance Voting day and on Election Day, the Supervising Deputy Returning Officer spoke to every election official working in the polling station to collect their verbal declaration they were not experiencing and symptoms of COVID-19 and were able to work safely in the polling location. COVID-19 has provided Elections PEI with a fresh outlook for future operations of voting locations. Many precautions taken during this by-election event will carry forward to future electoral events to ensure the safety of the electorate and our election poll workers.

COMMUNICATIONS

Newspapers

Elections PEI advertised in the local newspaper for announcements regarding the Writ of Election, and Polling Days. The Proclamation advertisement officially announced the by-election and named the Returning Officer. The Grant of Poll advertisement announced there was to be an election following the registration of the candidates on Nomination Day, Friday October 29, 2021. This advertisement listed the dates, times and location of the vote.





(Proclamation and Grant of Poll newspaper advertisements)

Local Radio and Television

The local media carried stories on the by-election, providing many opportunities for Elections PEI to talk about the event and help get the vote out. The radio and television interviews leading up to the Advance Voting days and Election Day reminded electors of voting dates and times. There was emphasis on the importance of bringing their ID, Voter Information Card (VIC) and mask when they come to vote, as well as the COVID-19 precautions and procedures at the polls. The added effort in openly discussing and promoting the by-election greatly reduced the volume of phone calls the elections office would normally receive with questions from electors.

Social Media

Our social media profiles on the Facebook, Twitter and Instagram platforms have increased the number of followers and were instrumental in reaching the electors, regarding candidates, mail in ballots, voting times and location, and most importantly, the unofficial results. Elections PEI Twitter account has 1,844 followers, Instagram has 539 and Facebook with 1,200 followers



Website

The Elections PEI website featured a special District 16 By-Election page with information about:

- Voting dates, times and location;
- Voter registration;
- Voter eligibility;
- Identification accepted at the polls;
- COVID-19 protocol; and
- District 16 Cornwall Meadowbank map

The Website featured a page dedicated to Elections PEI's processes and precautions at the polls for voting in a COVID-19 environment as well as headlines from the media releases and links to the Elections PEI Media Centre where all media releases are stored.

VOTER EXIT SURVEY

Following their visit to the polls, voters were asked to partake in a very brief, anonymous on-line survey. Many thanks to all who took the time to provide some feedback to assist Elections PEI in improving our process and procedures at electoral events.

- 85% of Voters were pre-registered for the By-Election;
- 84% brought their Voter Information Card mailed to them by Elections PEI;
- 95% felt the Voter Information contained all the information they needed regarding voting times, location, dates and acceptable forms of identification;
- 75% of voters were in the polling station to vote for 5 minutes or less;
- 25% of voters were in the polling location to vote for 10 minutes or less;
- 60% of voters chose to vote between 9am-12 noon, while 20% chose 12pm-5pm and another 20% chose 5pm-7pm
- On a scale of 1-5 (with 5 being the safest) Voters rated the COVID 19 Protocol at the polls and their level of safeness: 75% gave a rating of 5, 10% reviewed the protocol as 4, and 15% scored at 3 rating;
- Given the opportunity to potentially vote on-line at some point, 40% were very likely to take the opportunity, while 30% replied very unlikely. 30% weren't swayed one way or the other and the remaining 10% replied "likely";

COMPLAINTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Elections PEI received a few phone call complaints regarding damaged election signs. The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer has jurisdiction for the timing of when signs may be erected, not placement of signs in the community. The Town of Cornwall bylaws outlines the proper placement of elections signs within the town limits and RCMP would be contacted regarding any malicious activity to elections signage.

Upon review of the submitted election expense financial reports as required under section 20 of the *Election Expense Act*, Elections PEI found irregularities in reports from two registered parties. The office of the Chief Electoral Officer reviewed the documentation and turned the appropriate information over to the Crown Attorney's office of Prince Edward Island for possible further investigation.

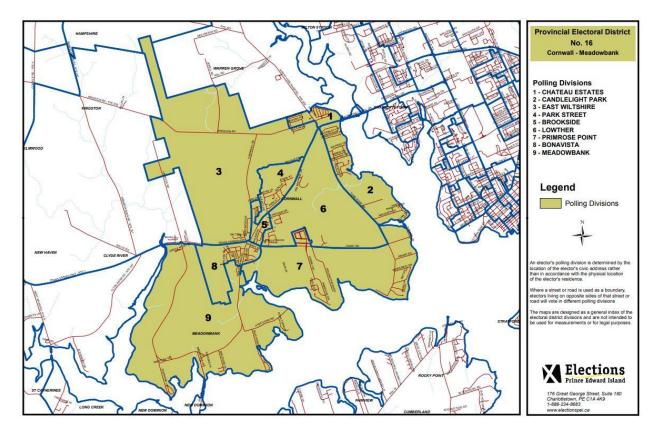
District 16 Cornwall-Meadowbank By-Election

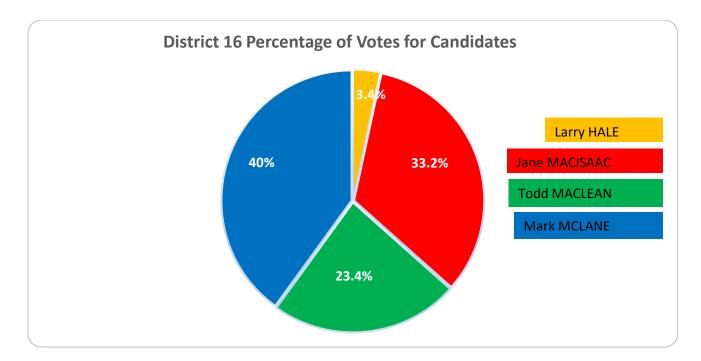
November 15, 2021

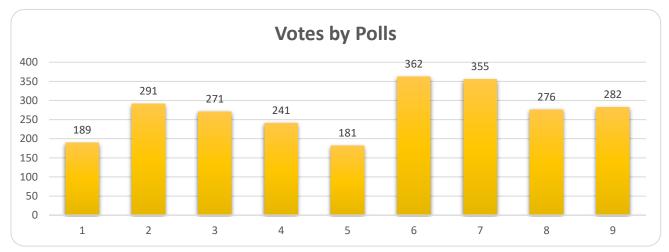
BY-ELECTION STATISTICS

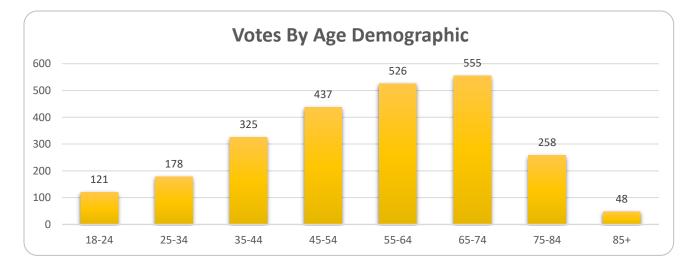
| District 16 Cornwall - Meadowbank | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|---------------|--------------------------------|-------------|--|--|
| | | | Returning Officer - Bev Gaudet | | | |
| | NDP | LIBERAL | GREEN | PC | | |
| | Larry HALE | Jane MACISAAC | Todd MACLEAN | Mark MCLANE | | |
| VOTES | 83 | 815 | 574 | 982 | | |
| PERCENT | 3.4% | 33.2% | 23.4% | 40% | | |
| POLL | | | | | | |
| (A) | 44 | 509 | 301 | 579 | | |
| 1 | 3 | 26 | 14 | 23 | | |
| 2 | 8 | 23 | 39 | 66 | | |
| 3 | 0 | 36 | 41 | 28 | | |
| 4 | 4 | 46 | 22 | 35 | | |
| 5 | 3 | 31 | 19 | 27 | | |
| 6 | 6 | 42 | 32 | 56 | | |
| 7 | 8 | 31 | 38 | 83 | | |
| 8 | 3 | 36 | 37 | 41 | | |
| 9 | 4 | 35 | 31 | 44 | | |

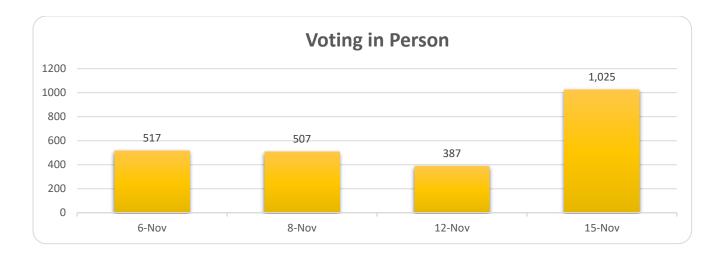
Advance Poll (A) includes Mail-in and Hospital Ballots

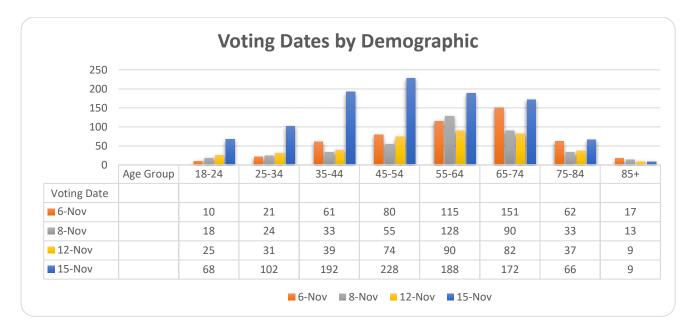


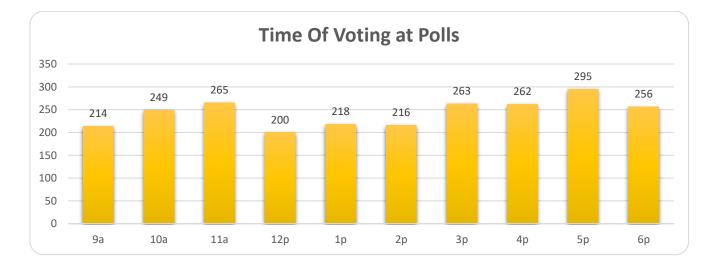












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District 16 Cornwall-Meadowbank By-Election

November 15, 2021

CANDIDATE EXPENSES

| CANDIDATE/PARTY EXPENSES AND REIMBURSEMENT | RTY EXI | JENSES / | AND RI | EIMBU | RSEMENT | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 8 | | Eligible Electors | # of Votes | % | Advertising | Office | Wages | Non-reir Exp | Non-reimbursable Expenses | Total | Max Spending Limit | Re- imbursement |
| MCLANE, Candidate Mark | 'NE, | 4255 | 982 | 40% | \$2545.55 | \$4,668.10 | \$4500.00 | \$23 | \$232.76 | \$11,946.41 | \$12,126.75 | \$4,000 |
| PC Party of PEI | | | | | \$33,061.34 | T | I | | | \$33,061.34 | \$41,784.10 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| LIBERAL PRINCE EDWARD ISLAW | | Eligible Electors | # of Votes | % | Advertising | Office | Wages | Non-reir Exp | Non-reimbursable Expenses | Total | Max Spending Limit | Re - imbursement |
| Candidate Jane | SAAC, | 4255 | 815 | 33.2% | \$10,573.13 | \$871.94 | - | \$20 | \$200.00 | \$11,645.07 | \$12,126.75 | \$4,000 |
| Liberal Party of PEI | | | | | \$432.04 | | I | | | \$432.04 | \$41,784.10 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Prince Edward Island | E E | Eligible Electors | # of Votes | % | Advertising | Office | Wages | Other | In-Kind donations | Total | Max Spending Limit | Re- imbursement |
| Candidate HALE, Larry | Larry | 4255 | 83 | 3.4% | \$1849.17 | - | - | \$24.05 | I | \$1873.2 2 | \$12,126.75 | 1 |
| NDP of PEI | | | | | | ı | ı | | I | ı | \$41,784.10 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| PART OF FRICE ENVELOPE | | Eligible Electors | # of Votes | % | Advertising | Office | Wages | Other | In-Kind donations | Total | Max Spending Limit | Re- imbursement |
| Candidate MACLEAN, Todd | EAN, | 4255 | 574 | 23.4% | \$4899.41 | \$2288.94 | \$3000 | \$590.58 | \$36.00 | \$10,814.93 | \$12,126.75 | \$4,000 |
| Green Party of PEI | | | | | \$1210.40 | | ı | ı | I | \$1210.40 | \$41,784.10 | |
| Maximum spending limit based on \$2.85 per elector for Candidates and \$9.82 per elector for Parties (Section 18(2) Election Expense Act). | it based on | \$2.85 per ε | slector for | r Candida | ites and \$9.82 | per elector fc | or Parties (Seo | ction 18(2) I | Election Exper | nse Act). | | |

Maximum spending limit based on \$2.85 per elector for Candidates and خالف والعادين المالية المالية المالية المحديث المراجع المحديث المحد المحديث ا محديث المحديث المحديث المحديث المحديث المحديث المحديث المحديث المحديث المحد المحديث المحديث

Number of Eligible Electors used to calculate expenses and reimbursements based on number of electors currently held in Register of Electors as of Determination Day, November 17 2021, was 4,255.

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District 16 Cornwall-Meadowbank By-Election

November 15, 2021

EPEI ELECTION EXPENSES



2021 Provincial By-Election Elections PEI Expenses

| Advertising | \$6,090.00 |
|---|-------------|
| Election Materials and Supplies | \$30,824.00 |
| Payroll: Election Poll Workers | \$27,905.00 |
| Postage | \$2,393.00 |
| Total | \$67,212.00 |
| Candidate Reimbursement | \$12,800.00 |
| | |
| Total Election Expense | \$80,012.00 |
| | |
| Total number of registered voters on Election Day | 4,431 |
| | |
| Cost per registered voter | \$18.05 |



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