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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER  
OF ONTARIO

FOR THE YEAR 2005

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November 1, 2006

The Honourable Michael A. Brown  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly  
Room 180, Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1A2

Dear Mr. Speaker:

It is my pleasure to submit the Annual Report covering the affairs of my Office under the *Election Finances Act* and the *Taxpayer Protection Act, 1999* during the year 2005, as required by subsection 2(4) of the *Election Finances Act*.

In this Report, we have addressed annual activity related to political party registration and filings by the registered political parties and constituency associations. We have also reported on financial returns specific to by-elections in the Electoral Districts of Dufferin-Peel-Wellington-Grey on March 17, 2005 and in Scarborough-Rouge River on November 24, 2005.

There was no activity under the *Taxpayer Protection Act, 1999* as of March 31, 2006.

Although not required to do so under current legislation, my Office is committed to regular and thorough reporting to provide transparency in all of our activities. Consequently, this report includes an overview of our activities under the *Election Act* for the period from July 2005 to June 2006.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John L. Hollins', written in a cursive style.

John L. Hollins  
Chief Election Officer



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# ACTIVITIES UNDER THE *ELECTION ACT*

## INTRODUCTION

In 2002, we published our *2002-2006 Strategic Plan* to guide our activities through the 2003 General Election and beyond, according to the following success factors:

**Event Delivery:** Elections Ontario will stand ready to conduct an electoral event at any time and will continually develop and adapt new processes to improve event delivery.

**Solid Infrastructure:** Elections Ontario will have the organization, facilities and information technology required to support day-to-day operations, electoral events, special projects and continuous process improvements.

**Maximizing Partnerships:** Elections Ontario will make maximum use of partnerships to share best practices, reduce electoral costs and minimize the duplication of services.

**Stakeholder Involvement:** Elections Ontario will have the credibility to foster agreement on continually evolving electoral standards and to facilitate necessary legislative change.

**Service Excellence:** Elections Ontario will incorporate service excellence in all aspects of the electoral process.

A review of our activity under the *Election Act* in late 2005 and the first half of 2006 confirms that we are on track in achieving these success factors, and that they will carry us through 2007 as we prepare for our next strategic planning cycle (2008-2012). In this report, we present some of our most important activities over the past year for the information of the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

## HIGHLIGHTS

This past year has seen Elections Ontario firmly on the path to election-readiness. New and refined administrative practices, combined with initiatives in response to changing legislation, suggest that we will be more innovative and responsive to our stakeholders than ever before.

Amidst our ongoing commitment to service excellence in all aspects of the electoral process, highlights of our activity during the period of July 2005 to June 2006 include:

- Development of a technology strategy that will position Elections Ontario to support events over the next two electoral cycles, as well as any technical changes required as a result of electoral reforms
- Further consideration of methodologies to add and maintain up-to-date and accurate information within the Permanent Register of Electors for Ontario
- Ongoing work with Elections Canada and the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) under our tripartite agreement, to further develop the business rules and processes required to update each organization's elector information and achieve the vision of a "virtual single list" of electors
- Development of new geographic products for the 2007 general election
- Mapping of 299 priority processes within our Electoral Process Re-engineering project to facilitate greater innovation, efficient process design and cost-effective delivery
- A new candidate orientation program to support understanding of and compliance with candidate obligations during an election
- Ongoing consultation with key stakeholders, including the Advisory Committee of Political Parties
- Further development of networks with stakeholder organizations to increase accessibility for all electors
- Participation with other Canadian electoral agencies in the Electoral Technology Accord (ETA), in support of a forward-thinking environment that encourages cooperation and sharing of resources among electoral jurisdictions
- Planning and implementation of a web-based communications strategy for greater efficiency and consistency for the public; a new employee intranet and a secure extranet site to assist returning officers, strategic suppliers, external stakeholders, candidates, political parties, and chief financial officers for the 2007 election
- Branded identity and standards for all corporate communications
- Refined key budgeting and planning processes, including:

- A review of the “Schedule of Fees and Expenses”, as taken from the Regulation under the *Election Act*
- A new formalized forecasting and budget planning process for internal divisions
- Continued emphasis in our administration on our quality management approach, including further development of records management protocols and practices
- Implementation of real-time reporting for political parties and leadership contestants
- Testimony and information support provided to Legislative committees examining electoral reform
- Conduct and oversight of an impartial selection process for members to the Citizens’ Assembly on Electoral Reform, and
- Administration of by-elections.

A number of these highlights are expanded on in the following sections.

## LEGISLATION

The passage of Bill 214, in December 2005, by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario resulted in amendments to both the *Election Act* and the *Election Finances Act*.

Elections Ontario is examining changes to the *Election Act* and their implication in our administration of the election calendar, most notably:

- The introduction of “fixed” dates for provincial general elections, and
- The adjustment to the deadline for candidate nominations at general elections.

Other legislative amendments brought change to our operations.

### **Real Time Disclosure of Certain Political Contributions**

We responded quickly to the new requirements that political parties and leadership contestants must meet for the disclosure of political contributions, as well as with regard to the Chief Election Officer’s (CEO) obligation to publish the filings on our web site. More detail on this “real time” reporting follows in the accompanying section on activity under the *Election Finances Act*.

### **Redistribution**

With the passing of the *Representation Act, 2005* and beginning with the next provincial general election, Ontario will be divided into 107 electoral districts that include 11 northern electoral districts, identical except for a minor boundary adjustment to the ones that existed at the 2003 general election, and 96 southern electoral districts, identical to the federal electoral boundaries now in effect. Elections Ontario continues to address the implications of this legislation on our geography and election finances-related activities.

### **Citizens’ Assembly on Electoral Reform**

Following the last general election in 2003, the Ontario government announced plans for a Citizens’ Assembly to examine the province’s electoral system.

Under a new section of the *Election Act* (17.9) passed in June 2005 in Bill 213, and *Regulation 82/06, Citizens’ Assembly on Electoral Reform*, filed in March 2006, the Office of the Chief Election Officer was called upon to conduct the selection process for the Assembly, comprising 103 randomly-selected electors – one per electoral district under current boundaries. Essentially, directions to the CEO and Elections Ontario were to:

- Use the Permanent Register of Electors for Ontario as the database source for the sampling process
- Ensure we were working with a sufficient pool of electors to be able to fulfill eligibility requirements

- Use our discretion in the methodology adopted to conduct the sampling process and the selection process, and
- Provide a final list of potential members (composed of 52 females and 51 males\*, including one, self-identified Aboriginal member), as well as two alternates per electoral district.

After delivering the list of names to the Minister Responsible for Democratic Renewal by July 14, 2006, our remaining requirement is to provide a report to the Speaker after the next general election on our conduct of the selection process.

## BY-ELECTION ACTIVITIES

Since the publication of the 2004 Annual Report, following the resignation of Members of the Assembly, Elections Ontario has administered four by-elections held in the Electoral Districts of Scarborough-Rouge-River on November 24, 2005, and on March 30, 2006, in Toronto-Danforth, Whitby-Ajax and Nepean-Carleton\*\*. Information reported under the *Election Finances Act* will be presented in the 2006 Annual Report to be published next year.

The following tables summarize our administrative activity in each by-election.

### Electoral District: Scarborough-Rouge River – November 24, 2005

Ballots from Boxes				Voter Turnout	
<i>Valid</i>	<i>Rejected</i>	<i>Unmarked</i>	<i>Declined</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>% of List</i>
16,255	58	37	3	16,353	18.8

Valid Votes Cast		Political Interest	Candidate
Total	%		
9,380	57.7	Ontario Liberal Party	Bas Balkissoon
4,030	24.8	Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario	Cynthia Lai
2,458	15.1	New Democratic Party of Ontario	Sheila White
137	0.8	The Green Party of Ontario	Steven P. Toman
100	0.6	Ontario Libertarian Party	Alan Mercer
93	0.6	Family Coalition Party of Ontario	Rina Morra
57	0.4	Freedom Party of Ontario	Wayne Simmons

Total number of names on the list of electors for Scarborough-Rouge River: 86,266

\*The chair of the Assembly, appointed under the Regulation, brings the total number of males to 52.

\*\* Financial returns for the by-election in Scarborough-Rouge River are covered in the accompanying annual report under the *Election Finances Act*. Filings for the remaining three events are not available for this Report..

## Electoral District: Toronto-Danforth – March 30, 2006

Ballots from Boxes				Voter Turnout	
<i>Valid</i>	<i>Rejected</i>	<i>Unmarked</i>	<i>Declined</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>% of List</i>
27,322	71	36	8	27,437	39.9

Valid Votes Cast		Political Interest	Candidate
Total	%		
13,054	47.6	New Democratic Party of Ontario	Peter Tabuns
10,636	38.8	Ontario Liberal Party	Ben Chin
2,740	10.0	Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario	Georgina Blanas
582	2.1	The Green Party of Ontario	Paul Charbonneau
104	0.3	Family Coalition Party of Ontario	Wiktor Pawel Borkowski
93	0.3	Freedom Party of Ontario	Franz L. Cauchi
63	0.2	Independent	Carol Wielhorski
50	0.2	Independent	Mehmet Ali Yagiz

Total number of names on the list of electors for Toronto-Danforth: 68,782

## Electoral District: Whitby-Ajax – March 30, 2006

Ballots from Boxes				Voter Turnout	
<i>Valid</i>	<i>Rejected</i>	<i>Unmarked</i>	<i>Declined</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>% of List</i>
34,269	69	26	12	34,376	32.4

Valid Votes Cast		Political Interest	Candidate
Total	%		
15,843	46.1	Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario	Christine Elliott
14,529	42.3	Ontario Liberal Party	Judi Longfield
3,204	9.3	New Democratic Party of Ontario	Julie Gladman
307	0.9	The Green Party of Ontario	Nick Boileau
197	0.6	Freedom Party of Ontario	Paul McKeever
102	0.3	Family Coalition Party of Ontario	Victor Carvalho
87	0.2	Ontario Libertarian Party	Marty Gobin

Total number of names on the list of electors for Whitby-Ajax: 106,028

## Electoral District: Nepean-Carleton – March 30, 2006

Ballots from Boxes				Voter Turnout	
<i>Valid</i>	<i>Rejected</i>	<i>Unmarked</i>	<i>Declined</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>% of List</i>
30,073	56	36	5	30,170	28.5

Valid Votes Cast		Political Interest	Candidate
Total	%		
17,312	57.4	Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario	Lisa MacLeod
9,455	31.3	Ontario Liberal Party	Brian Ford
2,487	8.2	New Democratic Party of Ontario	Laurel Gibbons
634	2.1	the Green Party of Ontario	Peter V. Tretter
112	0.4	Independent	John C. Turmel
73	0.2	Freedom Party of Ontario	Jurgen Vollrath

Total number of names on the list of electors for Nepean-Carleton: 105,802

These events provided our Electoral Event Services division the opportunity to trial a range of initiatives.

Innovations tested included:

- Automated list management at two advance polls
- New directional signage for advance poll sites
- Durable corrugated counters, tables and voting booths used in returning offices, to evaluate their potential in reducing equipment rental costs.

We also tested a new staffing model at two poll locations, where we amalgamated five polling divisions into one location. One site was automated and the other site was not. Our objective was to test the functionality of the model, observe and evaluate the process and determine the impact on combining polling divisions. We noted:

- Significant cost savings in reducing staff
- Electors processed effectively and efficiently
- Forms completed accurately
- Lists produced hourly for the candidates' scrutineers
- Results counted accurately.

Other initiatives tested included:

- A streamlined registration/confirmation activity to make it easier for electors to have their information revised at their door
- A newly designed confirmation walk list that provides pre-determined addresses for verification and/or additional documentation, making revision at the door more efficient, and
- Addition of voting locations in all available “100-plus” apartment units in each electoral district, to improve access to voting.

## ADVANCES IN THE PERMANENT REGISTER OF ELECTORS FOR ONTARIO (PREO)

With the impending general election and the redistribution of provincial electoral boundaries, our PREO Division has been working intensely to update the geography for the new 107 electoral districts and prepare new geographic products. These products will be of great assistance to political parties and candidates, as well as Elections Ontario, in administering events.

We have received a very positive response from stakeholders on our recently published *Ontario Electoral Districts Atlas*, a 260-page publication of regional and district maps and descriptions under the new provincial boundaries.

A key success factor in ensuring our PREO products are accurate and sufficiently detailed has been the conversion process for Elections Ontario’s Address Register, to link geographic information with the six million addresses in the province, and to do so under the new boundaries.

We have made significant progress in matching and verifying current addresses from our sources: MPAC, Teranet and Elections Canada. In preparing for the 2007 general election, we continue to develop policies to update the PREO and continue working with Elections Canada to enhance the quality of the information contained in the PREO.

As a result of close cooperation within our tripartite agreement with Elections Canada and MPAC, we have been able to continue the development of business rules to facilitate the sharing of electoral data. We continue to work with these partners towards the long-term goal of the “virtual single list” of electors.

We also currently are undertaking a series of meetings and educational opportunities with provincial ministries to seek new data sources and promote the benefits of shared data for Ontario’s electors.

## TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

Over the past year, we have established a technology strategy that will position Elections Ontario to support events over the next two electoral cycles, as well as any technical changes required as a result of electoral reforms.

At the conclusion of this phase in late 2005, we progressed to the development of our new Election Management System (EMS), which will deliver secure and reliable web-based access to new and improved information and geographic products and services to the voters, candidates, political parties, and returning office staff and poll workers.

## STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS

This past year saw the implementation of our Corporate Communications Strategy which provided for the application of consistent corporate and brand standards to produce effective communications materials. These include:

- Development of a corporate brand identity to establish Elections Ontario throughout the election life cycle as the authoritative resource for information and support for provincial elections
- Development of a 2007 election-readiness strategy to support our relationships with stakeholder organizations that serve electors with special needs
- Consolidated candidate orientation program that streamlines resources and information into a guidebook and series of orientation meetings with the returning officer in each electoral district during an election
- Redesigned Election Finances communications strategy and materials
- Publication of the *Ontario Electoral Districts Atlas*.
- Public Service Announcements to facilitate inclusion of electors in the Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform selection process.

## FINANCIAL FACTS

Elections Ontario's total expenditures for 2005/06 were as follows:

<b>Expense Category</b>	<b>\$</b>
Salaries	3,745,625
Benefits	705,454
Transportation and communication	460,257
Services	8,318,616
Supplies & Equipment	1,695,669
Other Transactions: Election Expense Subsidies under the <i>Election Finances Act</i>	19,722
Less: Recoveries	(275,529)
<b>Total Operating Expenses (as reported in Public Accounts 2005-2006)</b>	<b>14,669,814</b>





















































