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# Vandalized, Stolen, or Destroyed Advertising Material

## Supervisor of Political Financing

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During the course of the general election campaign, advertising materials – such as roadside signs – of candidates may be vandalized, stolen, or destroyed by other persons. The Official Agent of the candidate may wish to replace the damaged materials; however, such additional costs may not be possible within the election expenses limit set for the candidate. As a result of this loss, through no fault of his or her own, the candidate would be placed at a distinct competitive disadvantage.

Any purchase of advertising materials would normally constitute an election expense. As defined by the *Political Process Financing Act*:

**67(1)** In this Act “election expenses” means all expenditures incurred during an election period for the purpose of promoting or opposing directly or indirectly, the election of a candidate or that of the candidates of a party, including every person who subsequently becomes or who is likely to become a candidate, and includes all expenditures incurred before an election period for literature, objects or materials of an advertising nature used during the election period for such purposes.

In the case of the replacement of damaged materials, however, I have determined that such expenditures do not constitute election expenses. Rather, I would consider such expenditures to be non-election expenditures.

In the event that one or more campaign signs are vandalized, stolen, or destroyed and the Official Agent wishes to replace them without constituting election expenses of the candidate, the following procedure should be followed:

1. The Official Agent may, prior to the replacement, submit an affidavit to the Supervisor setting out the particulars of the vandalism, theft, destruction, etc. The particulars should include the relevant times, locations, etc. of the loss, including photographs, if possible.
2. If satisfied, the Supervisor will immediately issue an exemption from election expenses for the replacement expenditure.
3. The Official Agent will report, in the *Election Financial Return of the Candidate*, the replacement expenditures as non-election expenditures.

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