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## CITY OF KELOWNA

# MEMORANDUM

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**Date:** March 9, 2005  
**File No.:** 4200-01

**To:** City Manager

**From:** Acting City Clerk

**Subject:** Election Signs for Federal, Provincial and Local Government Elections

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT this Report be received for information.

### **BACKGROUND:**

During the last federal election, the issue of the applicability of the City's Sign Bylaw with respect to federal election signs came up, and staff was asked to examine whether the City's Sign Bylaw could be enforced during federal or provincial elections.

Staff has contacted both Elections Canada and Elections BC and confirmed that local federal or provincial candidates and their respective agents are bound by the provisions of the City's Sign Bylaw during an election campaign. In the past, federal and provincial legislation had overridden local government bylaw restrictions on the placement of election signs.

The City's Sign Bylaw places restrictions on the number, placement and size of election signs that a candidate may erect without having to apply for a sign permit. These provisions are as follows:

#### **2.3 Exemptions from Permits**

2.3.1 The following **signs** are exempt from obtaining a permit provided they comply with all the regulations of this Bylaw:

- (h) temporary election or referendum campaign **signs** on public or private property to a maximum of 2 **signs** per frontage for federal, provincial, municipal or school district elections, each with a maximum **sign area** of 1.0 m<sup>2</sup> and a maximum **height** of 1.8 m, subject to their removal within 4 days following the election;

#### **3.3 Signs on Public Property**

3.3.1 Except for **temporary signs** as authorized in this section, no person, **owner** or tenant shall place a **sign** on or over any curb, sidewalk, post, pole, hydrant, boulevard median, bridge, tree or other surface located on public property or across any street or public thoroughfare. Temporary **signs** advertising special events for community causes and charitable fund raising campaigns may be placed on the

public right of way only if specifically permitted, in writing, by the **City Engineer**. Such **signs** shall be placed so as not to obstruct, hinder or in any way interfere with the use by drivers of motor vehicles and pedestrians on abutting streets or walkways.

These provisions will be circulated to all candidates running in the upcoming Provincial election and will be included as part of the candidate packages for the upcoming local government elections.

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Stephen Fleming  
Acting City Clerk