

2015 Bill 203

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First Session, 29th Legislature, 64 Elizabeth II

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THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

# **BILL 203**

## **ELECTION (RESTRICTIONS ON GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING) AMENDMENT ACT, 2015**

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MR. STRANKMAN

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First Reading . . . . .

Second Reading . . . . .

Committee of the Whole . . . . .

Third Reading . . . . .

Royal Assent . . . . .

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## BILL 203

2015

### ELECTION (RESTRICTIONS ON GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING) AMENDMENT ACT, 2015

(Assented to \_\_\_\_\_, 2015)

HER MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the  
Legislative Assembly of Alberta, enacts as follows:

#### Amends RSA 2000 cE-1

**1 The *Election Act* is amended by this Act.**

**2 The following is added after section 134:**

#### **Restrictions on government advertising**

**134.1(1)** In this section,

- (a) “election period” means the period commencing with the issue of the writ for a general election or a by-election and ending at the end of polling day;
- (b) “Provincial corporation” means a Provincial corporation as defined in the *Financial Administration Act*.

**(2)** A department of the Government of Alberta or a Provincial corporation shall not advertise or publish any information about its programs or activities during an election period unless the advertisement or publication

- (a) is required by law,
- (b) is required at that time
  - (i) to solicit proposals or tenders for contracts or applications for employment, or

## **Explanatory Notes**

- 1** Amends chapter E-1 of the Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000.
- 2** New sections added concerning restrictions on government advertising and complaints to Chief Electoral Officer.

- (ii) because it concerns matters of public health or safety,
- (c) in the case of a Provincial corporation, is required at that time for ongoing programs of the corporation, or
- (d) during the election period for a by-election
  - (i) is a continuation of earlier publications or advertisements and is required for ongoing programs of a government department, or
  - (ii) deals with a matter before the Assembly such as the Speech from the Throne, the budget, the introduction or passage of a Bill or an order or resolution of the Assembly.

### **Complaints to Chief Electoral Officer**

**134.2(1)** A person who believes that a government department or Provincial corporation has violated section 134.1 may file a complaint with the Chief Electoral Officer.

**(2)** If the Chief Electoral Officer finds a complaint under this section to be justified, the Chief Electoral Officer may cause the advertisement or publication to be removed or discontinued, and in the case of an advertisement or publication displayed on a sign, poster or other similar format, neither the Chief Electoral Officer nor any person acting under the Chief Electoral Officer's instructions is liable for trespass or damage resulting from or occasioned by the removal.

**(3)** If the Chief Electoral Officer finds a complaint under this section to be justified, the particulars of the violation must be included in the Chief Electoral Officer's report under section 4(5).

### **3 This Act comes into force on January 1, 2016.**

**3** Coming into force.





