

Statement

Large-Volume Mailings

Ottawa – March 24, 2014 – Today, the Board of Internal Economy confirmed that it is reviewing a matter related to large-volume mailings in response to complaints regarding the appropriateness of such mailings sent by Members of the House of Commons in ridings not held by their party.

While it is within the Board's jurisdiction to consider the matter as it relates to the use of House of Commons resources, the Honourable Andrew Scheer, Speaker of the House of Commons and Chair of the Board of Internal Economy, has <u>referred an aspect of the issue</u> to the Chief Electoral Officer—namely to consider whether there are any impacts of these mailings with respect to the elections regime (specifically by-elections held in 2013).

The Board of Internal Economy is the governing body of the House of Commons. The Board is created by the *Parliament of Canada Act* and has equal representation from the governing party and the officially recognized parties (i.e. those holding at least 12 seats in the House). It is chaired by the Speaker of the House. The Board is responsible for establishing <u>by-laws</u>, <u>policies and guidelines</u> relating to expenditures and resources provided to Members in order to carry out their parliamentary functions. This authority is given to the Board by the <u>Parliament of Canada Act</u>. In keeping with the Board's commitment to public disclosure, the minutes of Board meetings are tabled in the House and posted on <u>parl.gc.ca</u>, along with other key documents.

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