

May 13, 2026

Mr. Craig Johnston  
BY EMAIL

Ms. Lurn Stone  
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Dear Mr. Johnston and Ms. Stone:

In the lead up to the last general election, Elections Manitoba received an inquiry from Mr. Johnston about whether Ms. Stone, who was then a candidate for the PC Party of Manitoba, was in breach of the Elections Financing Act when she spoke at the La Salle Festival in September of 2023. Elections Manitoba referred the inquiry to me.

Our investigator spoke with Ms. Stone and determined:

- The event in question was part of the La Salle Fall Festival, an annual community event organized by the Caisse Community Centre Board. For the 2023 version of the event, the organizers incorporated a celebration that recognized the new La Salle arena and related community improvements.
- Ms Stone, a resident of La Salle, was invited to attend the event by the President of the Caisse Community Centre Board. At the time, she was running as a candidate for the Progressive Conservatives, but she was not an MLA. She did not attend on behalf of the Government. She did not distribute materials, make announcements or otherwise engage in government advertising.
- Ms Stone delivered informal remarks to the gathering that were approximately one to two minutes in length. She did not have prepared speaking notes. She recalls her remarks being informal and ceremonial in nature. Though she does not recall the specifics of her remarks, she believes she likely referred to a large grant that had been awarded to the Community Centre through the Arts, Culture and Sport in Community Fund before the election period. She did not announce any new information about Government spending or programming.

Section 92(1) of the EFA restricts most public communications from a government department or Crown agency during an election period. I am satisfied on the basis of our investigation that Ms Stone was not acting in any governmental capacity at the time she spoke and that no government resources were used for her speech. She was not a member of the government and was not representing a Crown agency or government department. She was invited to speak in her capacity as a La Salle resident and an electoral candidate. At most, her reference to the

previously announced government contribution to the Community Centre was an instance of a candidate running on, and referring to, the record of her party. The answer to Mr. Johnston's question is therefore that Ms. Stone was not in breach of the Elections Financing Act.

Yours truly,



**Bill Bowles**  
Commissioner of Elections for Manitoba