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Request for Proposal

ECTD-RFP-16-0011

Part 1. General Information

1.1 Code of Conduct for Procurement

1.1.1 To comply with the Code of Conduct for Procurement, the bidder must respond to RFPs in an honest, fair and comprehensive manner, accurately reflect their capacity to satisfy the requirements stipulated in the RFP, which includes the resulting Contract, and submit proposals and enter into contracts only if they will fulfill all obligations of those contracts.

1.1.2 Bidders acknowledge that, to ensure fairness, openness and transparency in the procurement process, the commission of certain acts or offences will render them ineligible to be awarded a contract. Elections Canada will declare non-responsive any proposal in respect of which the information herein requested is missing or inaccurate, or in respect of which the information contained in the certificates contemplated in this Section 1.1 is found to be untrue, in any respect, by Elections Canada. If it is determined, after Contract award, that the bidder made a false declaration or certification, Elections Canada will have the right to terminate for default the resulting Contract. The bidder and any of the bidder's Affiliates will also be required to remain free and clear of any acts or convictions specified herein during the period of any contract arising from this solicitation. Elections Canada may verify the information provided by the bidder, including the information relating to the acts or convictions specified herein, through independent research, use of any government resources or by contacting third parties.

1.1.3 By submitting a proposal, the bidder certifies that no one convicted under any of the provisions under Paragraphs 1.1.3(a) or (b) is to receive any benefit under a contract arising from this solicitation. In addition, the bidder certifies that except for those offences where a criminal pardon or a record suspension has been obtained or capacities restored by the Governor in Council, neither the bidder nor any of the bidder's Affiliates has ever been convicted of an offence under any of the following provisions:

(a) Criminal Code of Canada, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-46:

- i. section 121 (Frauds on the government and contractor subscribing to election fund);
- ii. section 124 (Selling or Purchasing Office);
- iii. section 380 (Fraud committed against Her Majesty);
- iv. section 418 (Selling defective stores to Her Majesty);
- v. section 462.31 (Laundering proceeds of crime);
- vi. section 467.11 to 467.13 (Participation in activities of criminal organization);

- (b) Financial Administration Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. F-11:
 - i. paragraph 80(1)(d) (False entry, certificate or return);
 - ii. subsection 80(2) (Fraud against Her Majesty);
 - iii. section 154.01 (Fraud against Her Majesty);

- (c) Competition Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-34:
 - i. section 45 (Conspiracies, agreements or arrangements between competitors);
 - ii. section 46 (Foreign directives);
 - iii. section 47 (Bid Rigging);
 - iv. section 49 (Agreements or arrangements of federal financial institutions);
 - v. section 52 (False or misleading representation);
 - vi. section 53 (Deceptive notice of winning a prize);

- (d) Income Tax Act, R.S.C. 1985, c-1:
 - i. section 239 (False or deceptive statements);

- (e) Excise Tax Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. E-15:
 - i. section 327 (False or deceptive statements);

- (f) Corruption of Foreign Public Officials Act, S.C. 1998, c-34:
 - i. section 3 (Bribing a foreign public official);

- (g) Controlled Drugs and Substance Act, S.C. 1996, c-19:
 - i. section 5 (Trafficking in substance);
 - ii. section 6 (Importing and exporting);
 - iii. section 7 (Production of substance).

1.1.4 In circumstances where a criminal pardon or a record suspension has been obtained or capacities restored by the Governor in Council, the bidder must provide with its proposal a certified copy of confirming documentation from an official source. If such documentation has not been received by the time the evaluation of proposals is completed, Elections Canada will inform the bidder of a time frame within which to provide the documentation. Failure to comply will render the proposal non-responsive.

1.1.5 Bidders understand that Elections Canada may contract outside of the present solicitation process with a supplier who has been convicted of an offence enumerated under Paragraphs 1.1.3 (c) to (g), or with an Affiliate who has been convicted of an offence enumerated under Paragraphs 1.1.3 (c) to (g), when required to do so by law or legal proceedings, or when Elections Canada considers it necessary to the public interest for reasons which include, but are not limited to:

- (a) only one person is capable of performing the Contract;

- (b) emergency;
- (c) national security;
- (d) health and safety; or
- (e) economic harm.

Elections Canada reserves the right to impose additional conditions or measures to ensure the integrity of the procurement process.

- 1.1.6 By submitting a proposal, the bidder certifies that neither the bidder nor any of the bidder's Affiliates have directly or indirectly paid or agreed to pay, and will not directly or indirectly pay a contingency fee to any individual for the solicitation, negotiation or obtaining of the Contract if the payment of the fee would require the individual to file a return under section 5 of the [Lobbying Act](#).
- 1.1.7 For the purposes of this RFP, an Affiliate means a business concern, organization or individual that, directly or indirectly, 1) either one controls or has the power to control the other, or 2) a third party has the power to control both. Indicia of control, include, but are not limited to, interlocking management or ownership, identity of interests among family members, shared facilities and equipment, common use of employees, or a business entity created following the charges or convictions contemplated in this Section which has the same or similar management, ownership, or principal employees as the bidder that is charged or convicted, as the case may be.
- 1.1.8 The bidder acknowledges and agrees that the certifications contemplated must remain valid during the period of the Contract arising from this RFP.

1.2 Definitions

Unless the context requires otherwise, the capitalized terms used in this RFP shall have the definitions assigned to them in the Contract.

1.3 Summary

The Chief Electoral Officer of Canada ("CEOC"), an agent of Parliament, exercises general direction and supervision over the conduct of elections and referendums at the federal level. The CEOC heads the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer which is commonly known as Elections Canada.

Elections Canada requires the services of regional media advisors (RMA's) in the National Capital region at ECHQ. Each RMA will provide media services and communications expertise to Elections Canada and its personnel. Up to 4 separate contracts will be issued.

1.3.1 Requirement

(a) Background

During and between Electoral Events, EC provides media and public relations services. this involves:

- a) answering French and English media queries, by phone or email
- b) conducting interviews (print/broadcast/online)
- c) developing proactive media relations strategies to support EC's communications objectives
- d) writing media lines, backgrounders, Q&As, web content and other documents
- e) preparing and disseminating press releases, media advisories and other media products
- f) organizing news conferences and media briefings
- g) researching and providing background information on topics of interest to members of the agency
- h) preparing daily and special press clippings, analyses and reports on media issues and coverage
- i) providing media training and public relations/media relations support to EC employees, FLOs and ROs
- j) supporting and implementing EC's ongoing strategic communications objectives and deliverables

(b) Brief Description

The objective is to provide the media—and by extension, the Canadian public—with accurate, timely information about federal Electoral Events and Elections Canada's work.

During an Electoral Event, following receipt of a Deployment Notice, the Contractor must provide Media Relations and Strategic Communications Services in accordance with Section 6, Statement of Work.

1.3.2 Period of the Contract

The Contract period is from the Effective Date of the Contract until March 31, 2018.

The bidder grants to Elections Canada the irrevocable option to extend the period of the Contract by two additional period(s) of one year each under the same terms and conditions.

1.3.3 Security Requirement

There is no security requirement associated with this solicitation.

1.3.4 Trade Agreements

The requirement is subject to the provisions of the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT)

1.4 **Communications Notification**

As a courtesy, Elections Canada requests that the successful bidder notify the Contracting Authority in advance of its intention to make public announcements related to the award of a contract.

1.5 **Debriefings**

Once the successful bidder has been announced, bidders may request a debriefing on the results of the RFP process. Bidders should make the request to the Contracting Authority within 15 Business Days of receipt of the results of the RFP process. The debriefing may be in writing, by telephone or in person.

Part 2. Bidders Instructions

2.1 Instructions and Conditions

Bidders who submit a proposal agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of this RFP and accept the clauses and conditions of the resulting Contract attached as Part 6 to this RFP.

2.2 Procurement Business Number

Canadian suppliers are required to have a Procurement Business Number (PBN) before the Effective Date of the Contract. Suppliers may register for a PBN in the [Supplier Registration Information system, on the buyandsell.gc.ca](#) Web site. For non-Internet registration, suppliers may contact the Infoline at 1-800-811-1148 to obtain the telephone number of the nearest [Supplier Registration Agent](#).

2.3 Definition of Bidder

For the purposes of this RFP, “bidder” means the person or entity (or, in the case of a joint venture, the persons or entities) submitting a proposal to perform a contract for goods, services or both. It does not include the parent, subsidiaries or other Affiliates of the bidder, or its subcontractors.

2.4 Submission of Proposals

2.4.1 Elections Canada requires that the bidder or the authorized representative of the bidder complete and sign the first page of the RFP and submit such page with its proposal at the RFP closing date and time. If a proposal is submitted by a joint venture, it must be in accordance with Section 2.17. If the first page of the RFP is not provided with the bidder's proposal; the Contracting Authority will request it and the bidder must provide it within the delay prescribed in such request.

2.4.2 It is the bidder's responsibility to:

- (a) obtain clarification of the requirements contained in the RFP, if necessary, before submitting a proposal;
- (b) prepare its proposal in accordance with the instructions contained in the RFP;
- (c) submit a complete proposal by the RFP closing date and time;
- (d) send its proposal only to Elections Canada Proposal Receiving Unit specified on page 1 of this RFP ("Proposal Receiving Unit"). The Proposal Receiving Unit is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday and closed on all statutory holidays;
- (e) ensure that the bidder's name and return address, the RFP number, and the RFP closing date and time are clearly visible on the envelope or the parcel(s) containing the proposal; and,
- (f) provide a comprehensible and sufficiently detailed proposal, including all requested pricing details, that will permit a complete evaluation in accordance with the criteria set out in the RFP.

2.4.3 If Elections Canada has provided bidders with multiple formats of a document that forms part of the RFP (for example, a document may be downloaded through the Government Electronic Tendering Service (GETS) but may also be made available on an alternate format), the format downloaded through GETS will take precedence. If Elections Canada posts an amendment to the RFP revising any documents provided to bidders in multiple formats, Elections Canada will not necessarily update all formats to reflect these revisions. It is the bidder's responsibility to ensure that revisions made through any RFP amendment issued through GETS are taken into account in those alternate formats that were not revised as a result of an amendment.

2.4.4 Proposals will remain open for acceptance for a period of not less than 180 Business Days from the RFP closing date. Elections Canada reserves the right to seek an extension of the proposal validity period from all responsive bidders in writing, within a minimum of three Business Days before the end of the proposal validity period. If the extension is accepted by all responsive bidders, Elections Canada will continue with the evaluation of the proposals. If the extension is not accepted by all responsive bidders, Elections Canada will, at its sole

discretion, either continue with the evaluation of the proposals of those who have accepted the extension or cancel the RFP.

- 2.4.5 Proposal documents and supporting information may be submitted in either English or French.
- 2.4.6 Proposals received on or before the stipulated RFP closing date and time will become the property of Elections Canada and will not be returned. All proposals will be treated as confidential, subject to the provisions of the [Access to Information Act, R.S. 1985](#), c. A-1 and the [Privacy Act, R.S. 1985](#), c. P-21.
- 2.4.7 Unless specified otherwise in the RFP, Elections Canada will evaluate only the documentation provided with a bidder's proposal. Elections Canada will not evaluate information such as references to Web site addresses where additional information can be found, or technical manuals or brochures not submitted with the proposal.
- 2.4.8 A proposal cannot be assigned or transferred in whole or in part.

2.5 Transmission by Facsimile and Email

- 2.5.1 Proposals transmitted by facsimile or electronic mail to Elections Canada will not be accepted.

2.6 Late Proposals

- 2.6.1 Elections Canada will return proposals delivered after the stipulated RFP closing date and time, unless they qualify as a delayed proposal as described in Section 2.7.

2.7 Delayed Proposals

- 2.7.1 A proposal delivered to the Proposal Receiving Unit after the RFP closing date and time but before the announcement of the successful bidder or before a contract is entered into may be considered, provided the bidder can prove the delay is due solely to a delay in delivery that can be attributed to the Canada Post Corporation (CPC) (or national equivalent of a foreign country). Purolator Inc. is not considered to be part of CPC for the purposes of delayed proposals. The only pieces of evidence relating to a delay in the CPC system that are acceptable to Elections Canada are:

- (a) a CPC cancellation date stamp;
- (b) a CPC Priority Courier bill of lading; or
- (c) a CPC Xpresspost label,

that clearly indicates that the proposal was mailed at a date that would otherwise have allowed its delivery before the RFP closing date.

2.7.2 Misrouting, traffic volume, weather disturbances, labour disputes or any other causes for the late delivery of proposals are not acceptable reasons for the proposal to be accepted by Elections Canada.

2.7.3 Postage meter imprints, whether imprinted by the bidder, the CPC or the postal authority outside Canada, are not acceptable as proof of timely mailing.

2.8 Delayed Proposal When Using Courier Companies

It is the responsibility of the bidder to allow sufficient time to courier companies to deliver the bidder's proposal before the RFP closing date and time. Delays caused by courier companies, including delays caused by postal code errors, cannot be construed as "undue delay in the mail" and will not be accepted as a delayed proposal under Section 2.7.

2.9 Customs Clearance

It is the responsibility of the bidder to allow sufficient time to obtain customs clearance, where required, before the RFP closing date and time. Delays related to the obtaining of customs clearance cannot be construed as "undue delay in the mail" and will not be accepted as a delayed proposal under Section 2.7.

2.10 Legal Capacity

The bidder must have the legal capacity to contract. If the bidder is a sole proprietorship, a partnership or a corporate body, the bidder must provide, if requested by the Contracting Authority, a statement and any requested supporting documentation indicating the laws under which it is registered or incorporated together with the registered or corporate name and place of business. This also applies to bidders submitting a proposal as a joint venture.

2.11 Rights of Elections Canada

2.11.1 Elections Canada reserves the right to:

- (a) reject any or all proposals received in response to the RFP;
- (b) enter into negotiations with bidders on any or all aspects of their proposals;
- (c) accept any proposal in whole or in part without negotiations;
- (d) cancel the RFP at any time;
- (e) reissue the RFP;

- (f) if no responsive proposals are received and the requirement is not substantially modified, reissue the RFP by inviting only the bidders that had submitted a proposal to resubmit proposals within a period designated by Elections Canada; and
- (g) negotiate with the sole responsive bidder to ensure best value to Elections Canada.

2.12 Rejection of Proposal

2.12.1 Elections Canada may reject a proposal where any of the following circumstances is present:

- (a) the bidder is bankrupt or, for whatever reason, its activities are rendered inoperable for an extended period;
- (b) evidence, satisfactory to Elections Canada, of fraud, bribery, fraudulent misrepresentation or failure to comply with any law protecting individuals against any manner of discrimination, has been received with respect to the bidder, any of its employees or any subcontractor included as part of the proposal;
- (c) evidence, satisfactory to Elections Canada, that based on past conduct or behavior, the bidder, a subcontractor or a person who is to perform the Work is unsuitable or has conducted himself/herself improperly;
- (d) Elections Canada has exercised its contractual remedies of suspension or termination for default with respect to a contract with the bidder, any of its employees or any subcontractor included as part of the proposal; and
- (e) Elections Canada determines that the bidder's performance on other contracts, including the efficiency and workmanship as well as the extent to which the bidder performed the Work in accordance with those contracts, is sufficiently poor to jeopardize the successful completion of the requirement of this RFP.

2.12.2 Where Elections Canada intends to reject a proposal pursuant to a provision of Subsection 2.12.1, the Contracting Authority will so inform the bidder and provide the bidder ten Business Days within which to make representations, before making a final decision on the rejection of the proposal.

2.12.3 Elections Canada reserves the right to apply additional scrutiny, in particular, when multiple proposals are received in response to a solicitation from a single bidder or a joint venture. Elections Canada reserves the right to:

- (a) reject any or all of the proposals submitted by a single bidder or joint venture if their inclusion in the evaluation has the effect of prejudicing the integrity and fairness of the process; or

- (b) reject any or all of the proposals submitted by a single bidder or joint venture if their inclusion in the procurement process would distort the solicitation evaluation, and would cause a result that would not reasonably have been expected under prevailing market conditions and/or would not provide good value to Elections Canada.

2.13 Communication – Solicitation Period

- 2.13.1 To ensure the integrity of the competitive procurement process, enquiries and other communications regarding the RFP must be directed only to the Contracting Authority identified in the RFP through email only at: proposition-proposal@elections.ca. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the proposal being declared non-responsive.
- 2.13.2 To ensure consistency and quality of information provided to bidders, and subject to Section 2.20, enquiries received and the replies to such enquiries that result in clarifications or modifications to the requirement or that provide additional information related to the requirement will be provided simultaneously to all bidders to which the RFP has been sent, in the same manner in which the RFP was sent, without revealing the sources of the enquiries.

2.14 Price Justification

- 2.14.1 In the event that the bidder's proposal is the sole responsive proposal received, the bidder must provide, on Elections Canada's request, a fair price certification, in the form prescribed by Elections Canada, whereby the bidder certifies that the price offered to Elections Canada for the goods or services:
 - (a) is not in excess of the lowest price charged to anyone else, including the bidder's most favoured customer, for the like quality and quantity of the goods, services or both;
 - (b) does not include an element of profit on the sale in excess of that normally obtained by the bidder on the sale of goods, services or both of like quality and quantity; and
 - (c) does not include any provision for discounts to selling agents.
- 2.14.2 Bidders must submit the fair price certification as well as any documentation supporting the fair price certification within the delay prescribed in the request issued pursuant to Subsection 2.14.1. Failure to comply with the request within such delay may result in the proposal being declared non-responsive.

2.15 Proposal Costs

2.15.1 No payment will be made for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a proposal in response to the RFP. Costs associated with preparing and submitting a proposal, as well as any costs incurred by the bidder associated with the evaluation of the proposal, are the sole responsibility of the bidder.

2.16 Conduct of Evaluation

2.16.1 In conducting its evaluation of the proposals, Elections Canada may, but will have no obligation to, do the following:

- (a) seek clarification or verification from bidders regarding any or all information provided by them with respect to the RFP;
- (b) contact any or all client references supplied by bidders to verify and validate any information submitted by them;
- (c) request, before the award of any contract, specific information with respect to bidders' legal status;
- (d) conduct a survey of bidders' facilities and/or examine their technical, managerial, and financial capabilities to determine if they are adequate to meet the requirements of the RFP;
- (e) correct any error in the extended pricing of proposals by using unit pricing and any error in quantities in proposals to reflect the quantities stated in the RFP; in the case of error in the extension of prices, the unit price will govern;
- (f) verify any information provided by bidders through independent research, use of any government resources or by contacting third parties; and
- (g) interview, at the sole costs of bidders, any bidder and/or any or all of the resources proposed by bidders to fulfill the requirement of the RFP.

2.16.2 Bidders must comply with any request related to any of the items listed in Subsection 2.16.1 within the delay prescribed in such request. Failure to comply with the request may result in the proposal being declared non-responsive.

2.17 Joint Venture

2.17.1 A joint venture is an association of two or more parties who combine their money, property, knowledge, expertise or other resources in a single joint business enterprise, sometimes referred as a consortium, to submit together a proposal on a requirement. Bidders who submit a proposal as a joint venture must indicate clearly that it is a joint venture and provide the following information:

- (a) the name of each member of the joint venture;
- (b) the PBN of each member of the joint venture;
- (c) the name of the representative of the joint venture, i.e. the member chosen by the other members to act on their behalf, if applicable; and
- (d) the name of the joint venture, if applicable.

2.17.2 If the information is not clearly provided in the proposal, the bidder must provide the information on request from the Contracting Authority within the delay prescribed in such request.

2.17.3 The first page of the RFP and the Contract must be signed by all the members of the joint venture unless one member has been appointed to act on behalf of all members of the joint venture. The Contracting Authority may, at any time, require each member of the joint venture to confirm that the representative has been appointed with full authority to act as its representative for the purposes of the RFP and the Contract. If a contract is awarded to a joint venture, all members of the joint venture will be jointly and severally liable for the performance of the Contract.

2.18 Conflict of Interest – Unfair Advantage

2.18.1 In order to protect the integrity of the procurement process, bidders are advised that Elections Canada may reject a proposal in the following circumstances:

- (a) if the bidder, any of its subcontractors, or any of their respective employees or former employees was involved in any manner in the preparation of the RFP or in any situation of conflict of interest or appearance of conflict of interest;
- (b) if the bidder, any of its subcontractors, or any of their respective employees or former employees had access to information related to the RFP that was not available to other bidders and that would, in Elections Canada's opinion, give or appear to give the bidder an unfair advantage.

2.18.2 The experience acquired by a bidder who is providing or has provided the goods and services described in the RFP (or similar goods or services) will not, in itself, be considered by Elections

Canada as conferring an unfair advantage or creating a conflict of interest, subject however, if such bidders trigger any of the circumstances identified in Paragraphs 2.18.1(a) and (b).

2.18.3 Where Elections Canada intends to reject a proposal under this Section, the Contracting Authority will inform the bidder and provide the bidder an opportunity to make representations before making a final decision. Bidders who are in doubt about a particular situation should contact the Contracting Authority before the RFP closing date. By submitting a proposal, the bidder represents that it does not consider itself to be in conflict of interest nor to have an unfair advantage. The bidder acknowledges that it is within Elections Canada's sole discretion to determine whether a conflict of interest, unfair advantage or an appearance of conflict of interest or unfair advantage exists.

2.19 Entire Requirement

2.19.1. The RFP contains all the relevant information relating to the requirement. Any other information or documentation provided to or obtained by a bidder from any source are not relevant to this RFP. Bidders should not assume that practices used under previous contracts will continue, unless they are described in the RFP. Bidders should also not assume that their existing capabilities meet the requirements of the RFP simply because they have met previous requirements.

2.20 Enquiries

2.20.1 All enquiries must be submitted in writing to the Contracting Authority no later than five Business Days before the RFP closing date. Enquiries received after that time may not be answered.

2.20.2 Bidders should reference as accurately as possible the numbered item of the RFP to which the enquiry relates. Care should be taken by bidders to explain each question in sufficient detail in order to enable Elections Canada to provide an accurate answer. Technical enquiries that are of a proprietary nature must be clearly marked "proprietary" at each relevant item. Items identified as "proprietary" will be treated as such except where Elections Canada determines that the enquiry is not of a proprietary nature. Elections Canada may edit the questions or may request that the bidder do so, so that the proprietary nature of the question is eliminated, and the enquiry can be answered with copies to all bidders. Enquiries not submitted in a form that can be distributed to all bidders may not be answered by Elections Canada.

2.21 Applicable Laws

- 2.21.1 The Contract must be interpreted and governed, and the relations between the parties determined, by the laws in force in Ontario, subject always to any paramount or applicable federal laws.
- 2.21.2 Bidders may, at their discretion, substitute the applicable laws of a Canadian province or territory of their choice without affecting the validity of their proposal, by indicating in their proposal the name of the Canadian province or territory of their choice. If no change is made, it acknowledges that the laws of Ontario are acceptable to the bidder.

Part 3. Proposal Preparation Instructions

3.1. Proposal Preparation Instructions

- 3.1.1 Elections Canada requests that bidders provide their proposal in separately bound and sealed sections as follows:

Section I: Technical Proposal (4 hard copies)
Section II: Certifications (1 hard copy)

- 3.1.2 Elections Canada requests that bidders follow the format instructions described below in the preparation of their proposal:

- (a) use 8.5 x 11 inch (216 mm x 279 mm) paper; and
- (b) use a numbering system that corresponds to the RFP.

- 3.1.3 In the event that a bidder fails to provide the number of copies required pursuant to Subsection 3.1.1 the Contracting Authority will contact the bidder and provide the bidder with a time frame within which to meet the requirement. Failure to comply with the request of the Contracting Authority and meet the requirement within that time period will render the proposal non-responsive.

- 3.1.4 To assist in reaching the objective set out in the Policy on Green Procurement, bidders are encouraged to:

- (a) use paper containing fibre certified as originating from a sustainably managed forest and/or containing a minimum 30% recycled content; and
- (b) use an environmentally preferable format including black and white printing instead of colour printing, printing double sided/duplex, using staples or clips instead of cerlox, duotangs or binders.

3.2. Section I – Technical Proposal

- 3.2.1 In their technical proposal, bidders should demonstrate their understanding of the requirements contained in the RFP and explain how they will meet the requirements of the SOW and carry out the Work in a thorough, concise and clear manner.
- 3.2.2 The technical proposal should address clearly and in sufficient depth the points that are subject to the evaluation criteria against which the proposal will be evaluated which are set out in Part 7 – Technical Evaluation Criteria. Simply repeating the statement contained in the RFP is not sufficient. In order to facilitate the evaluation of the proposal, Elections Canada requests that bidders address and present topics in the order of the evaluation criteria under the same headings. To avoid duplication, bidders may refer to different sections of their proposal by identifying the specific paragraph and page number where the subject topic has already been addressed.
- 3.2.3 The details of any client references requested under Part 7 – Technical Evaluation Criteria should be submitted with the proposal. If any of the required information is not submitted as requested, in the event that Elections Canada decides to contact client references, the Contracting Authority will so inform the bidder and provide the bidder with a time frame within which to meet the requirement. If the bidder fails to comply with the request of the Contracting Authority and meet the requirement within that time period, the proposal will be deemed non-responsive.

3.3. Section II – Certificates

- 3.3.1. The certificates under Part 8 must be completed by bidders in accordance with this Section 3.4 Bidders must provide the required certifications to be awarded a contract. Elections Canada will declare a proposal non-responsive if the required certifications are not completed and submitted as requested.
- 3.3.2. The Bidders' compliance with the certifications provided to Elections Canada is subject to verification by Elections Canada during the proposal evaluation period and after award of a contract. The Contracting Authority will have the right to ask for additional information to verify bidders' compliance with the certifications before award of a contract. The proposal will be declared non-responsive if any certification made by the bidder is untrue, whether made knowingly or unknowingly. Failure to comply with the certifications or to comply with the request of the Contracting Authority for additional information will also render the proposal non-responsive.
- 3.3.3. The certificates under Part 8 should be completed and submitted with the proposal but may be submitted afterwards. If any of these required certificates is not completed and submitted as requested, the Contracting Authority will so inform the bidder and provide the bidder with

a time frame within which to meet the requirement. Failure to comply with the request of the Contracting Authority and meet the requirement within that time period will render the proposal non-responsive.

Part 4. Evaluation Procedures and Basis of Selection

4.1. General Evaluation Procedures

- 4.1.1 Proposals will be assessed in accordance with the entire requirement of the RFP including the technical evaluation criteria.
- 4.1.2 An evaluation team composed of representatives from Elections Canada will evaluate the proposals.

4.2. Technical Evaluation

The mandatory technical evaluation criteria are set out in Section A of Part 7 – Technical Evaluation Criteria.

The rated technical evaluation criteria are set out in Section B & C of Part 7 – Technical Evaluation Criteria.

4.3. Basis of Selection

- 4.3.1 A proposal must comply with all the requirements of the RFP. If it is determined that a proposal does not comply with any of the requirements of the RFP, such proposal will be deemed non-responsive and will not be given further consideration.
- 4.3.2. The evaluation and selection process will be conducted in the following phases:

- Phase 1 – Mandatory Technical Evaluation
- Phase 2 – Rated Technical Evaluation
- Phase 3 – Rated Interview Evaluation
- Phase 4 – Determination of Highest Ranked Bidder

In the event evaluators are made aware of information in one Phase that contradicts information contained in a previous Phase, evaluators reserve the right to re-evaluate that portion of the previous Phase and adjust the previously adjudicated score accordingly. If such re-evaluation results in the bidder's proposal being non-responsive for the re-evaluated Phase, the proposal will be assessed as non-responsive and given no further consideration.

4.3.3 Phase 1 – Mandatory Technical Evaluation

In Phase 1, all proposals will be evaluated for their compliance with the mandatory technical evaluation criteria set out in Section A of Part 7 – Technical Evaluation Criteria. Any proposal that fails to meet any of the mandatory technical evaluation criteria will be deemed non-responsive and will not be given further consideration.

4.3.4 Phase 2 – Rated Technical Evaluation

In Phase 2, the proposals that are deemed responsive in Phase 1 will be evaluated against the rated technical evaluation criteria set out in Section B & C of Part 7 – Technical Evaluation Criteria (the “Phase 2 Proposal”).

If any Phase 2 Proposal does not obtain the required minimum of 60 percent overall of the points for the technical evaluation criteria which are subject to point rating, such proposal will be deemed non-responsive and will not be given further consideration. The rating is performed on a scale of 85 points.

4.3.5 Phase 3 – Rated Interview Evaluation

In Phase 3, the proposals that are deemed responsive in Phase 1 and 2 will be evaluated against the rated interview evaluation criteria set out in Section C of Part 7 – Interview Evaluation Criteria. (the Phase 3 Proposal”)

4.3.6 Phase 4 – Determination of Highest Ranked Bidder

In Phase 4, a combined evaluation score for those proposals deemed responsive in Phases 1, 2 and 3 will be determined in accordance with the following formula:

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{TECHNICAL PROPOSAL SCORE} \\ \text{X 60\%} \\ \text{MAXIMUM NUMBER OF POINTS} \end{array} + \begin{array}{r} \text{INTERVIEW EVALUATION} \\ \text{X 40\%} \\ \text{MAXIMUM NUMBER OF} \\ \text{POINT} \end{array} = \text{COMBINED EVALUATION SCORE}$$

For each responsive proposal, the rated technical score and rated interview score will be added together to determine the combined evaluation score.

The highest combined rating scores will be considered for the award of a contract.

4.3.7 If more than one bidder is ranked first because of identical scores, then the bidder with:

The best interview score will become the highest ranked bidder and will be considered for the award of a contract.



Regional Media Advisors

Annex A

Statement of Work

PART I – INTERPRETATION

1. DEFINITIONS

1.01. Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the capitalized terms used in the Statement of Work (SOW) must have the definitions assigned to them in the Contract or in this Section. These definitions must apply equally to both the singular and plural forms of the terms defined, and words of any gender must include each other gender when appropriate.

ECHQ	means EC's offices located at 30 Victoria Street, Gatineau, QC
FLO	means Field Liaison Officer
Deployment Notice	means the notice by the Technical Authority to the Contractor stating that a writ has been issued for a general election
EXCOM	Means Elections Canada's executive committee
RMA	Means Regional Media Advisor or the Contactor's resource, as applicable
EC	means the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), commonly known as Elections Canada
CEA	means the <i>Canada Elections Act</i> , S.C. 2000, c. 9, as amended from time to time
Electoral Event	means a general election, by-election or federally organized referendum. The CEA states that an Electoral Event must last a minimum of 36 days For the purposes of this SOW, an Electoral Event will be considered to have begun when both of the following have occurred: (a) the writ is issued for a federal general election (b) the Technical Authority has provided a Deployment Notice and will end two Business Days after polling day
RO	means Returning Officer

2. APPENDICES

- a) Appendix A – Media Relations Governance Framework

3. EC MANDATE

3.01. EC, headed by the CEO, is an independent, non-partisan agency with unique organizational features that reports directly to Parliament. EC exercises general direction and supervision over the conduct of elections and referendums at the federal level. Its mandate is to

- a) be prepared to conduct a federal general election, by-election or referendum
- b) administer the political financing provisions of the CEA
- c) monitor compliance with electoral legislation
- d) conduct public information campaigns on voter registration, voting and becoming a candidate
- e) conduct education programs for students on the electoral process
- f) provide support to the independent commissions in charge of adjusting the boundaries of federal electoral districts following each decennial census
- g) carry out studies on alternative voting methods and, with the approval of parliamentarians, test alternative voting processes for future use during electoral events
- h) provide assistance and co-operation in electoral matters to electoral agencies in other countries or to international organizations

4. INTRODUCTION

4.01. EC requires the professional services of four Regional Media Advisors on an as and when requested basis to provide media relations services during an Electoral Event, and outside of an electoral event at the request of the Technical Authority.

PART II – OVERVIEW

5. PROJECT BACKGROUND

5.01. During and between Electoral Events, EC provides media and public relations services. This involves:

- a) answering French and English media queries, by phone or email

- b) conducting interviews (print/broadcast/online)
- c) developing proactive media relations strategies to support EC's communications objectives
- d) writing media lines, backgrounders, Q&As, web content and other documents
- e) preparing and disseminating press releases, media advisories and other media products
- f) organizing news conferences and media briefings
- g) researching and providing background information on topics of interest to members of the agency
- h) preparing daily and special press clippings, analyses and reports on media issues and coverage
- i) providing media training and public relations/media relations support to EC employees, FLOs and ROs
- j) supporting and implementing EC's ongoing strategic communications objectives and deliverables

6. OBJECTIVE

- 6.01. The objective is to provide the media—and by extension, the Canadian public—with accurate, timely information about federal Electoral Events and Elections Canada's work.
- 6.02. During an Electoral Event, following receipt of a Deployment Notice, the Contractor must provide Media Relations and Strategic Communications Services in accordance with Section 7 of Part III, Scope of Work.
- 6.03. As and when requested using a Task Authorization, the Contractor must provide Media Relations and Strategic Communications Services in accordance with the Task Authorization.

PART III – SCOPE OF WORK

7. SERVICES DURING AN ELECTORAL EVENT

7.01. Media Relations and Strategic Communications Services

- 7.01.01. During an Electoral Event, or at the request of the Technical Authority issuing a Task Authorization, the Contractor must provide the following Media Relations and Strategic Communications Services. Working with ECHQ staff and a team of RMAs at ECHQ and in various regions across the country, the Contractor must

- a) answer media queries submitted by phone and email, using pre-approved information (media lines, backgrounders, web content, etc.) that will be supplied by the Technical Authority
- b) make proactive media calls to pitch stories or provide clarifications
- c) when a media query cannot be answered using existing approved content, research a response and/or pass the query on to ECHQ permanent staff according to approval protocols outlined by the Technical Authority
- d) record and evaluate requests for interviews
- e) as permitted under approval protocols established by the Technical Authority, conduct media interviews for print, online, radio and television broadcast
- f) log all media requests on the template provided
- g) compile statistics and reports on media requests and coverage
- h) participate in on-site training at ECHQ or in the Ottawa–Gatineau area.
- i) draft news releases, media advisories, media lines, communication strategies and/or other media-related documents
- j) provide media relations and strategic communications advice
- k) organize and deliver media relations training to EC officials, FLOs, ROs and election officers. This may include, but is not limited to, interview preparation and crisis communications training
- l) provide advertising placement advice or assist in placing advertising in national and/or regional media
- m) produce and deliver to the Technical Authority a daily field report on regional and national media issues
- n) participate in conference calls as requested by the Technical Authority.

7.02. Availability and Conditions of Work

An Electoral Event schedule will set out the Contractor's expected schedule based on EC requirements, and may from time to time be amended without notice. Shifts can be in the daytime, in the evenings, on weekends and on statutory holidays. Shifts are sometimes adjusted or extended to respond to emerging issues. The Technical Authority will design the Electoral Event schedule for ECHQ so as to maintain coverage of media lines during the following time ranges (all times EST):

For most of the election period

Monday to Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

During the four days of advance polls (Friday to Monday, starting 10 days before election day)

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight

On election day

5:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight

- 7.02.01. During an Electoral Event, in accordance with the Electoral Event schedule prepared by the Technical Authority, the Contractor must
- a) provide Media Relations and Strategic Communications Services
 - b) occasionally, perform work within a tight time frame, under stressful circumstances
 - c) report to ECHQ during regular and rotating shifts, which may include evening, weekend and statutory holiday shifts
 - d) be on call during regular and rotating shifts, which may include evening, weekend and statutory holiday shifts. If the Contractor is on call and the Technical Authority calls them in to the office, the Contractor must be on site at ECHQ within three hours of being notified (by cellphone and/or email).

8. SERVICES OUTSIDE AN ELECTORAL EVENT

8.01. As and when Requested Services

8.01.01. During the periods outside of an Electoral Event, as and when requested using a Task Authorization, the Contractor must provide Media Relations and Strategic Communications Services in accordance with the Task Authorization.

8.01.02. As and when requested using a Task Authorization, the Contractor must

- a) provide any or all of the Media Relations and Strategic Communications Services in any region of Canada in the language requested
- b) be available to receive training from EC by any means, anywhere in Canada, on the date and time specified in the Task Authorization

- c) provide any other services related to Media Relations and Strategic Communications Services

9. EVALUATION AND REPORTING

- 9.01. Throughout the election period, the Contractor will compile statistics and other information for a summary report on their experiences and interactions with media, field staff and ECHQ. A summary report, which will be five pages in length, is due no later than two Business Days after polling day. Throughout the election period, the Contractor will complete daily reports (media coverage, calls logged) as requested.

10. CONSTRAINTS

- 10.01. For the purposes of performing the Work, the Contractor acknowledges to agree and adhere to Appendix A - Media Relations Governance Framework attached herein.

PART IV – PARAMETERS

11. LOCATION OF WORK

- 11.01. The Work must be performed on site at ECHQ or at a location approved by the Technical Authority.

12. OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

- 12.01. The Contractor must produce all reports in English or French, at the Technical Authority's sole discretion.

Media Relations Governance Framework – Regional Media Advisors

Elections Canada’s approach to media relations responds to feedback from journalists and reflects our corporate governance and operating environment. We seek to:

- respond to media questions and requests for interviews in a timely way
- ensure EC key messages are reflected in short, easy-to-understand responses, with supporting rationale as required
- take advantage of opportunities to communicate EC key messages when responding to journalists and conducting interviews

Categorization	Approvals Required	Expected Timeline	Responsibilities
<p><u>Green Inquiry:</u> A green inquiry is one that is answered by using:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • information that is publicly available (i.e. EC website; information provided to stakeholders); or • An approved response that was previously provided; or • Pre-approved media lines 	None	Response is immediate or within one business hour	<p><u>Regional Media Advisor:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researches and responds to journalist • Closes the file and reports in the media call log
<p><u>Amber Inquiry:</u> An amber inquiry involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input/ consultation with subject matter expert (Amber Contact); or • A request for information that is not available publicly but is not deemed to be sensitive in nature; or • A request for clarification regarding the administration of the Canada Elections Act, the Referendum Act and/or the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act; or • An inquiry that relates to an isolated incident that is unlikely to gain national coverage 	<p>Amber Contact(s)</p> <p>ECHQ media relations staff</p>	Responds within 3 business hours	<p><u>Regional Media Advisor:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alerts ECHQ media relations staff that an inquiry has been received • Works with the Media Relations Manager to ensure key messages are clearly communicated • Responds to media once approved • Closes file and reports in the media call log <p><u>ECHQ media relations staff:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides content • Works with SME to determine if Legal Services needs to be consulted or Red Contact needs to be alerted • Approves final messaging

Categorization	Approvals Required	Expected Timeline	Responsibilities
<p><u>Red Inquiry:</u> A red inquiry is one that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • may impact the reputation of the agency and/or the integrity of the electoral process; or • could create a negative story with national implications; or • relates to an individual or group where the integrity of the individual or group could be damaged 	<p>Red contact, EXCOM member,</p> <p>CEO (if required) – the need to seek CEO approval is a joint decision of the red contact and the MRIM director</p>	<p>Response time is within 24 hours (if it can be approved at the EXCOM level)</p> <p>Approval by the CEO requires a longer response time</p> <p>In a G.E context: - All red files will be dealt with during two sessions throughout the day with CEO Meetings times with CEO : 11:30 am and 3:30 pm</p>	<p><u>ECHO media relations staff</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alerts Red Contact, and, if required, appropriate EXCOM member(s) and CEO • works with the Red Contact and EXCOM member(s) to ensure key messages are clearly communicated • briefs CEO at scheduled briefing session(s), accompanied by red contact (s), and Executive Director, PPA, as appropriate • prepares a red docket for sign-off • responds to media once approved by appropriate sign-off • Closes file and reports in the media call log <p><u>Red Contact</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provides content • consults with Legal Services if he/she deems it necessary • attends briefing session(s) with the CEO • recommends messaging • approves final message
<p><i>Notes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In some cases, EC will not be able to provide a same-day response. With agreement of the director of MRIM, the red contact commits to providing a response within a specified time frame. If MRIM is not provided a response within three hours, the CEO will be advised. • In a GE, red files will be addressed at daily sessions with the CEO, held at 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. 			



Regional Media Advisors

ANNEX B

Pricing Table

Annex B – Pricing Table

The Contractor will be paid a firm all inclusive hourly rate; applicable sale tax extra for the provision of services outlined in Annex A - Statement of Work.

Task	Firm All Inclusive Hourly Rate	Maximum Amount
For the services set out in Section 7 of the SOW performed during periods of an Electoral Event.	\$110.00	To a maximum amount of \$33,000.00
For the services set out in Section 8 of the SOW performed during periods outside of an Electoral Event	\$110.00	To a maximum amount of \$32,000.00

TO A MAXIMUM OF \$65,000.00 (applicable taxes excluded)

All payments are subject to Government Audit.

For the purposes of defining the Firm Hourly Rate(s), a day is defined as 7.5 hours exclusive of meal breaks. Payment shall be for days actually worked with no provision for annual leave, statutory holidays and sick leave. Time worked which is more or less than a day shall be prorated to reflect the actual time worked in accordance with the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Hours worked} \times \text{Firm Hourly Rate}}{7.5}$$

Annex
General Conditions
Services

Article 1 Interpretation

Section 1.01 Definitions

1.01.01 In the Contract, unless the context otherwise requires:

- “Articles of Agreement” means the clauses and conditions incorporated in full text in the body of the Contract; it does not include these general conditions, any supplemental general conditions, annexes, the Contractor’s bid or any other document;
- “Canada” means Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada;
- “Contract” means the Articles of Agreement, these general conditions, any supplemental general conditions, annexes and any other document specified or referred to as forming part of the Contract, all as amended by agreement of the Parties from time to time;
- “Contracting Authority” means the person designated by that title in the Contract, or by notice to the Contractor, to act as Elections Canada’s representative to manage the Contract;
- “Contractor” means the person, entity or entities named in the Contract to supply goods, services or both to Elections Canada;
- “Contract Price” means the amount stated in the Contract to be payable to the Contractor for the Work, exclusive of applicable sales tax;
- “Cost” means cost determined according to Contract Cost Principles 1031-2 as revised to the date of the bid solicitation or, if there was no bid solicitation, the date of the Contract;
- “EC Property” means anything supplied to the Contractor by or on behalf of Elections Canada for the purposes of performing the Contract and anything acquired by the Contractor in any manner in connection with the Work, the cost of which is paid by Elections Canada under the Contract;
- “Elections Canada” means the Chief Electoral Officer and any other person duly

authorized to act on his behalf;

“Party”	means Elections Canada, the Contractor, or any other signatory to the Contract and “Parties” means all of them;
“Specifications”	means the description of the essential, functional or technical requirements of the Work in the Contract, including the procedures for determining whether the requirements have been met; and
“Work”	means all the activities, services, goods, equipment, matters and things required to be done, delivered or performed by the Contractor under the Contract.

Section 1.02 Powers of Elections Canada

All rights, remedies, powers and discretions granted or acquired by Elections Canada under the Contract or by law are cumulative, not exclusive.

Section 1.03 Status of the Contractor

The Contractor is an independent contractor engaged by Elections Canada to perform the Work. Nothing in the Contract is intended to create a partnership, a joint venture or an agency between Elections Canada and the other Party or Parties. The Contractor must not represent itself as an agent or representative of Elections Canada to anyone. Neither the Contractor nor any of its personnel is engaged as an employee or agent of Elections Canada. The Contractor is responsible for all deductions and remittances required by law in relation to its employees.

Section 1.04 Severability

If any provision of the Contract is declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable, that provision is to be either adjusted the minimum necessary to make it enforceable (if permitted by law) or stricken (if not). If adjusting or striking the unenforceable provision would result in failure of an essential purpose of this agreement, the entire agreement is to be held unenforceable. After an unenforceable provision is adjusted or stricken in accordance with this Section 1.04, the rest of the Contract is to remain in effect as written and the unenforceable provision is to remain as written in any circumstances other than those in which the provision is held to be unenforceable.

Section 1.05 Entire Agreement

The Contract constitutes the entire and only agreement between the Parties and supersedes all previous negotiations, communications and other agreements, whether written or oral, unless they are incorporated by reference in the Contract. There are no terms, covenants, representations, statements or conditions binding on the Parties other than those contained in the Contract.

Article 2 Conduct of the Work

Section 2.01 Representation and Warranties

- 2.01.01 The Contractor represents and warrants that:
- (a) it is competent to perform the Work;
 - (b) it has everything necessary to perform the Work, including the resources, facilities, labour, technology, equipment, and materials; and
 - (c) it has the necessary qualifications, including knowledge, skill, know-how and experience, and the ability to use them effectively to perform the Work.
- 2.01.02 The Contractor must:
- (a) perform the Work diligently and efficiently;
 - (b) except for EC Property, supply everything necessary to perform the Work;
 - (c) use, as a minimum, quality assurance procedures, inspections and controls generally used and recognized by the industry to ensure the degree of quality required by the Contract; and
 - (d) ensure that the Work is of proper quality, using appropriate material and workmanship and meets all the requirements of the Contract.
- 2.01.03 Unless the Contracting Authority orders the Contractor to suspend the Work or part of the Work pursuant to Article 17, the Contractor must not stop or suspend the Work or part of the Work pending the settlement of any dispute between the Parties about the Contract.
- 2.01.04 The Contractor must provide all reports that are required by the Contract and any other information that Elections Canada may reasonably require from time to time.
- 2.01.05 The Contractor is fully responsible for performing the Work. Elections Canada will not be responsible for any negative consequences or extra costs if the Contractor follows any advice given by Elections Canada unless the Contracting Authority provides the advice to the Contractor in writing and includes a statement specifically relieving the Contractor of any responsibility for negative consequences or extra costs that might result from following the advice.

Article 3 Work

Section 3.01 Specification

- 3.01.01 All Specifications provided by Elections Canada or on behalf of Elections Canada to the Contractor in connection with the Contract belong to Elections Canada and must be used

by the Contractor only for the purpose of performing the Work.

- 3.01.02 If the Contract provides that Specifications furnished by the Contractor must be approved by Elections Canada, that approval will not relieve the Contractor of its responsibility to meet all requirements of the Contract.

Section 3.02 Condition of Material

Unless provided otherwise in the Contract, material supplied must be new and conform to the latest issue of the applicable drawing, specifications and part number that is in effect on the bid closing date or, if there was no bid solicitation, the date of the Contract.

Section 3.03 Replacement of Specific Individuals

- 3.03.01 If specific individuals are identified in the Contract to perform the Work, the Contractor must provide the services of those individuals unless the Contractor is unable to do so for reasons beyond its control.
- 3.03.02 If the Contractor is unable to provide the services of any specific individual identified in the Contract, it must provide a replacement with similar qualifications and experience. The replacement must meet the criteria used in the selection of the Contractor and be acceptable to Elections Canada. The Contractor must, as soon as possible, give notice to the Contracting Authority of the reason for replacing the individual and provide:
- (a) the name, qualifications and experience of the proposed replacement; and
 - (b) proof that the proposed replacement has the required security clearance granted by Elections Canada or Canada, if applicable.
- 3.03.03 Upon receiving the notice of replacement of a specific individual, if the Contracting Authority determines that the replacement is acceptable to Elections Canada, the Contracting Authority shall send a written notice to the Contractor confirming its acceptance of the replacement.
- 3.03.04 The Contractor must not, in any event, allow performance of the Work by unauthorized replacement persons. The Contracting Authority may order that a replacement stop performing the Work. In such a case, the Contractor must immediately comply with the order and secure a further replacement in accordance with Subsection 3.03.02. The fact that the Contracting Authority does not order that a replacement stop performing the Work does not relieve the Contractor from its responsibility to meet the requirements of the Contract.

Section 3.04 Inspection and Acceptance of the Work

- 3.04.01 All the Work is subject to inspection and acceptance by Elections Canada. Inspection and acceptance of the Work by Elections Canada do not relieve the Contractor of its

responsibility for defects or other failures to meet the requirements of the Contract. Elections Canada will have the right to reject any Work that is not in accordance with the requirements of the Contract and require its correction or replacement at the Contractor's expense.

- 3.04.02 The Contractor must provide representatives of Elections Canada access to all locations where any part of the Work is being performed at any time during working hours. Representatives of Elections Canada may make examinations and such tests of the Work as they may think fit. The Contractor must provide all assistance and facilities, test pieces, samples and documentation that the representatives of Elections Canada may reasonably require for the carrying out of the inspection. The Contractor must forward such test pieces and samples to such person or location as Elections Canada specifies.
- 3.04.03 The Contractor must inspect and approve any part of the Work before submitting it for acceptance or delivering it to Elections Canada. The Contractor must keep accurate and complete inspection records that must be made available to Elections Canada on request. Representatives of Elections Canada may make copies and take extracts of the records during the performance of the Contract and for up to three years after the end of the Contract.

Section 3.05 Time of the Essence

It is essential that the Work be delivered within or at the time stated in the Contract.

Article 4 Subcontracts

Section 4.01 Consent

- 4.01.01 Except as provided in Subsection 4.01.02, the Contractor must obtain the written consent of the Contracting Authority before subcontracting or permitting the subcontracting of any part of the Work. A subcontract includes a contract entered into by any subcontractor at any tier to perform any part of the Work.
- 4.01.02 The Contractor is not required to obtain consent for subcontracts specifically authorized in the Contract. The Contractor may also without the consent of the Contracting Authority:
- (a) purchase "off-the-shelf" items and any standard articles and materials that are ordinarily produced by manufacturers in the normal course of business;
 - (b) subcontract any portion of the Work as is customary in the carrying out of similar contracts; and
 - (c) permit its subcontractors at any tier to make purchases or subcontract as permitted in Paragraphs (a) and (b).

Section 4.02 Subcontractor to be bound by Contract

- 4.02.01 In any subcontract other than a subcontract referred to in Paragraph 4.01.02 (a), the Contractor must, unless the Contracting Authority agrees in writing, ensure that the subcontractor is bound by conditions compatible with and, in the opinion of the Contracting Authority, not less favourable to Elections Canada than the conditions of the Contract.
- 4.02.02 Even if Elections Canada consents to a subcontract, the Contractor is responsible for performing the Contract and Elections Canada is not responsible to any subcontractor. The Contractor is responsible for any matters or things done or provided by any subcontractor under the Contract and for paying any subcontractors for any part of the Work they perform.

Article 5 Harassment in the Workplace

Section 5.01 No Tolerance

The Contractor must not, either as an individual, or as a corporate or unincorporated entity, through its employees or subcontractors, harass, abuse, threaten, discriminate against or intimidate any employee, contractor or other individual employed by, or under contract with Elections Canada. The Contractor will be advised in writing of any complaint and will have the right to respond in writing. Upon receipt of the Contractor's response, the Contracting Authority will, at its entire discretion, determine if the complaint is founded and decide on any action to be taken, which action may be termination of the Contract by reason of default by the Contractor.

Article 6 Payment

Section 6.01 Invoice Submission

- 6.01.01 Invoices must be submitted in the Contractor's name. The Contractor must submit invoices for each delivery or shipment; invoices must only apply to the Contract. Each invoice must indicate whether it covers partial or final delivery.
- 6.01.02 Invoices must show:
- (a) the date, the name and address of Elections Canada, item or reference numbers, deliverable and/or description of the Work, contract number, Procurement Business Number (PBN), the Contractor's business number for tax remission purposes, and financial code(s);
 - (b) details of expenditures in accordance with the basis of payment provision in the Articles of Agreement, exclusive of applicable sales tax (such as item, quantity, unit of issue, unit price, fixed time labour rates and level of effort, subcontracts, as applicable);
 - (c) deduction for holdback, if applicable;

(d) the extension of the totals, if applicable; and

(e) if applicable, the method of shipment together with date, case numbers and part or reference numbers, shipment charges and any other additional charges.

6.01.03 Applicable sales tax must be specified on all invoices as a separate item together with the corresponding registration number issued by the appropriate tax authority. All items that are zero-rated, exempt or to which no sales tax applies, must be identified as such on all invoices.

6.01.04 By submitting an invoice, the Contractor certifies that the invoice is consistent with the Work delivered and is in accordance with the Contract.

Section 6.02 Payment Period

6.02.01 Provided that Elections Canada has received a duly signed original copy of the Contract, Elections Canada's standard payment period is 30 calendar days. The payment period will commence the date the invoice, in acceptable form and content, is received in accordance with the Contract or the date the Work is delivered in acceptable condition as required in the Contract, whichever is later. A payment is considered overdue on the 31st day following that date and interest will be paid automatically in accordance with Section 6.04.

6.02.02 If the content of the invoice and its substantiating documentation are not in accordance with the Contract or the Work is not in acceptable condition, Elections Canada will notify the Contractor within 15 calendar days of receipt. The 30-day payment period begins upon receipt of the revised invoice or replacement invoice or the Work being corrected. Failure by Elections Canada to notify the Contractor within 15 calendar days will only result in the date specified in Subsection 6.02.01 to apply for the sole purpose of calculating interest on overdue accounts.

Section 6.03 Withholding of Payment

Where a delay referred to in Article 16 – Excusable Delay has occurred, Elections Canada may, at Elections Canada's discretion, withhold all or a portion of any payment due to the Contractor until a "work-around" plan approved by Elections Canada has been implemented in accordance with Article 16. Section 6.04 shall not apply to any amount withheld under this Subsection.

Section 6.04 Interest on Overdue Accounts

6.04.01 For the purpose of this Section:

"Average Rate" means the simple arithmetic mean of the Bank Rates in effect at 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time each day during the calendar month immediately before the calendar month in which payment is made;

“Bank Rate” means the rate of interest established from time to time by the Bank of Canada as the minimum rate at which the Bank of Canada makes short term advances to members of the Canadian Payments Association;

“date of payment” means the date of the negotiable instrument drawn by the Receiver General for Canada to pay any amount under the Contract; and

an amount becomes “overdue” when it is unpaid on the first day following the day on which it is due and payable according to the Contract.

- 6.04.02 Elections Canada will pay to the Contractor simple interest at the Average Rate plus 3 percent per year on any amount that is overdue, from the date that amount becomes overdue until the day before the date of payment, inclusive. The Contractor is not required to provide notice to Elections Canada for interest to be payable.
- 6.04.03 Elections Canada will pay interest in accordance with this Article only if Elections Canada is responsible for the delay in paying the Contractor. Elections Canada will not pay interest on overdue advance payments.

Article 7 Accounts and Audit

Section 7.01 Accounts and Audit

- 7.01.01 The Contractor must keep proper accounts and records of the cost of performing the Work and of all expenditures or commitments made by the Contractor in connection with the Work, including all invoices, receipts and vouchers. The Contractor must retain records, including bills of lading and other evidence of transportation or delivery, for all deliveries made under the Contract.
- 7.01.02 If the Contract includes payment for time spent by the Contractor, its employees, representatives, agents or subcontractors performing the Work, the Contractor must keep a record of the actual time spent each day by each individual performing any part of the Work.
- 7.01.03 Unless Elections Canada has consented in writing to its disposal, the Contractor must retain all the information described in this Article for six years after it receives the final payment under the Contract, or until the settlement of all outstanding claims and disputes, whichever is later. During this time, the Contractor must make this information available for audit, inspection and examination by the representatives of Elections Canada, who may make copies and take extracts. The Contractor must provide all reasonably required facilities for any audit and inspection and must furnish all the information as the representatives of Elections Canada may from time to time require to perform a complete audit of the Contract.
- 7.01.04 The amount claimed under the Contract, calculated in accordance with the basis of payment provision in the Articles of Agreement, is subject to audit both before and after

payment is made. If an audit is performed after payment, the Contractor agrees to repay any overpayment immediately on demand by Elections Canada. Elections Canada may hold back, deduct and set off any credits owing and unpaid under this Article from any money that Elections Canada owes to the Contractor at any time (including under other contracts). If Elections Canada does not choose to exercise this right at any given time, Elections Canada does not lose this right.

Article 8 Taxes

Section 8.01 Municipal Taxes

Municipal Taxes do not apply.

Section 8.02 Provincial Taxes Exemption

8.02.01 Except as provided by law, Elections Canada is not required to pay any sales tax payable to the province in which the taxable goods or services are delivered. This exemption has been provided to federal government departments and agencies under the authority of one of the following:

(a) Provincial Sales Tax (PST) Exemption Licence Numbers, for the provinces of:

- i. British Columbia PST-1000-5001;
- ii. Manitoba 390-516-0;

(b) for Saskatchewan, the Yukon Territory, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, an Exemption certification, which certifies that the goods or services purchased by Elections Canada are not subject to the provincial and territorial sales and consumption taxes because they are purchased by a federal government department or agency with Canada funds for the use of Elections Canada.

8.02.02 Currently, in Alberta, the Yukon Territory, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, there is no general PST. However, if a PST is introduced in Alberta, the Yukon Territory, the Northwest Territories or Nunavut, PST will be payable unless an exemption certification is included in the purchasing document.

Section 8.03 Harmonized Sales Tax

Elections Canada must pay the HST in the participating provinces of Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario and Prince Edward Island.

Section 8.04 Quebec Sales Tax

Elections Canada must pay the Quebec Sales Tax in the province of Quebec.

Section 8.05 Provincial Taxes paid by the Contractor

The Contractor is not exempt from paying PST under the above Exemption Licence Numbers or Exemption Certification. The Contractor must pay the PST on taxable goods or services used or consumed in the performance of the Contract (in accordance with applicable provincial legislation), including material incorporated into real property.

Section 8.06 Changes to Taxes and Duties

8.06.01 If there is any change to any tax or duty payable to any level of government in Canada after the bid submission date that affects the costs of the Work to the Contractor, the Contract Price will be adjusted to reflect the increase or decrease in the cost to the Contractor.

8.06.02 However, there will be no adjustment for any change that increases the cost of the Work to the Contractor if public notice of the change was given before bid submission date in sufficient detail to have permitted the Contractor to calculate the effect of the change on its cost. There will be no adjustment if the change takes effect after the date required by the Contract for delivery of the Work.

Section 8.07 Applicable Sales Tax

The estimated amount of applicable sales tax is included in the total estimated cost on page 1 of the Contract. The applicable sales tax is not included in the Contract Price but will be paid by Elections Canada as provided in Section 6.01. The Contractor agrees to remit to the appropriate government agency any amount of applicable sales tax paid or due.

Section 8.08 Tax Withholding of 15 Percent

Pursuant to the Income Tax Act, 1985, c. 1 (5th Supp.) and the Income Tax Regulations, Elections Canada must withhold 15 percent of the amount to be paid to the Contractor in respect of services provided in Canada if the Contractor is a non-resident unless the Contractor obtains a valid waiver. The amount withheld will be held on account for the Contractor in respect to any tax liability which may be owed to Canada.

Article 9 Transportation

Section 9.01 Transportation Costs

Unless provided otherwise in the Contract, if transportation costs are payable by Elections Canada under the Contract and the Contractor makes the transportation arrangements, shipments must be made by the most direct and economical means consistent with normal shipping practice. The costs must be shown as a separate item on the invoice.

Section 9.02 Transportation Carriers' Liability

In light of the federal government's policy of underwriting its own risks, Elections Canada is precluded to pay for insurance or valuation charges for transportation beyond the point at which ownership of

goods passes to it (determined by the FOB point or Incoterms). Where increased carrier liability is available without charge, the Contractor must obtain the increased liability for shipment.

Article 10 Ownership

- 10.01.01 Unless provided otherwise in the Contract, the Work or any part of the Work belongs to Elections Canada after delivery and acceptance by or on behalf of Elections Canada.
- 10.01.02 However if any payment is made to the Contractor for or on account of any Work, either by way of progress or milestone payments, that Work paid for by Elections Canada belongs to Elections Canada upon such payment being made. This transfer of ownership does not constitute acceptance by Elections Canada of the Work or any part of the Work and does not relieve the Contractor of its obligation to perform the Work in accordance with the Contract.
- 10.01.03 Despite any transfer of ownership, the Contractor is responsible for any loss or damage to the Work or any part of the Work until it is delivered to Elections Canada in accordance with the Contract. Even after delivery, the Contractor remains responsible for any loss or damage to any part of the Work caused by the Contractor or any subcontractor.
- 10.01.04 Upon transfer of ownership to the Work or any part of the Work to Elections Canada, the Contractor must, if requested by Elections Canada, establish to Elections Canada's satisfaction that the title is free and clear of all claims, liens, attachments, charges or encumbrances. The Contractor must execute any conveyances and other instruments necessary to perfect the title that Elections Canada may require.

Article 11 Elections Canada Property

- 11.01.01 All EC Property must be used by the Contractor solely for the purpose of the Contract and remains the property of Elections Canada. The Contractor must maintain adequate accounting records of all EC Property and, whenever feasible, mark it as being the property of Elections Canada.
- 11.01.02 The Contractor must take reasonable and proper care of all EC Property while it is in its possession or subject to its control. The Contractor is responsible for any loss or damage resulting from its failure to do so other than loss or damage caused by ordinary wear and tear.
- 11.01.03 All EC Property, unless it is installed or incorporated in the Work, must be returned to Elections Canada on demand. All scrap and all waste materials, articles or things that are EC Property must, unless provided otherwise in the Contract, remain the property of Elections Canada and must be disposed of only as directed by Elections Canada.
- 11.01.04 At the time of completion of the Contract, and if requested by the Contracting Authority, the Contractor must provide to Elections Canada an inventory of all EC Property relating to the Contract.

Article 12 Liability

The Contractor is liable for any damage caused by the Contractor, its employees, subcontractors, or agents to Elections Canada or any third party. Elections Canada is liable for any damage caused by Elections Canada, its employees or agents to the Contractor or any third party. The Parties agree that no limitation of liability or indemnity provision applies to the Contract unless it is specifically incorporated in full text in the Articles of Agreement or specifically provided for in any supplemental general conditions that form part of the Contract. Damage includes any injury to persons (including injury resulting in death) or loss of or damage to property (including real property) caused as a result of or during the performance of the Contract.

Article 13 Confidentiality

Section 13.01 Confidentiality

- 13.01.01 The Contractor must keep confidential all information provided or made available to the Contractor by or on behalf of Elections Canada in connection with the Work, including any information that is confidential or proprietary to third parties, and all information conceived, developed or produced by the Contractor as part of the Work when copyright or any other intellectual property rights in such information belongs to Elections Canada under the Contract (collectively, the “EC Information”). The Contractor must not disclose any EC Information without the written permission of Elections Canada. The Contractor may disclose to a subcontractor any EC Information necessary to perform the subcontract as long as the subcontractor agrees to keep such EC Information confidential and that it will be used only to perform the subcontract.
- 13.01.02 The Contractor agrees to use the EC Information only for the purpose of the Contract. The Contractor acknowledges that all EC Information remains the property of Elections Canada or the third party, as the case may be. Unless provided otherwise in the Contract, the Contractor must deliver to Elections Canada all such EC Information, together with every copy, draft, working paper and note that contains such information, upon completion or termination of the Contract or at such earlier time as Elections Canada may require.
- 13.01.03 Subject to the *Access to Information Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. A-1, and to any right of Elections Canada under the Contract to release or disclose, Elections Canada must not release or disclose outside the Government of Canada any information delivered to Elections Canada under the Contract that is proprietary to the Contractor or a subcontractor.
- 13.01.04 The obligations of the Parties set out in this Article do not apply to any information if the information:
- (a) is publicly available from a source other than the other Party; or
 - (b) is or becomes known to a Party from a source other than the other Party, except any source that is known to be under an obligation to the other Party not to disclose the

information; or

(c) is developed by a Party without use of the information of the other Party.

- 13.01.05 Wherever possible, the Contractor must mark or identify any proprietary information delivered to Elections Canada under the Contract as “Property of (Contractor’s name), permitted uses defined under Elections Canada Contract No. (fill in Contract Number)”. Elections Canada will not be liable for any unauthorized use or disclosure of information that could have been so marked or identified and was not.
- 13.01.06 If the Contract, the Work, or any information referred to in Subsection 13.01.01 is identified as TOP SECRET, SECRET, CONFIDENTIAL, or PROTECTED by Elections Canada, the Contractor must at all times take all measures reasonably necessary for the safeguarding of the material so identified, including those set out in the PWGSC Industrial Security Manual and its supplements and any other instructions issued by Canada.
- 13.01.07 If the Contract, the Work, or any information referred to in Subsection 13.01.01 is identified as TOP SECRET, SECRET, CONFIDENTIAL, or PROTECTED, by Elections Canada, representatives of Elections Canada are entitled to inspect the Contractor’s premises and the premises of a subcontractor at any tier for security purposes at any time during the term of the Contract. The Contractor must comply with, and ensure that any subcontractor complies with, all written instructions issued by Elections Canada dealing with the material so identified, including any requirement that employees of the Contractor or of any subcontractor execute and deliver declarations relating to reliability screenings, security clearances and other procedures.

Section 13.02 An Oath of Secrecy

The Parties hereby agree to sign any document that is necessary for the execution of this Contract, including but not limited to, an oath of secrecy pertaining to information contained in the Register of Electors, lists of electors and/or any record placed under the responsibility and/or owned by Elections Canada.

Article 14 Copyright

Section 14.01 Copyright

- 14.01.01 In this Section, “Material” means anything that is created by the Contractor as part of the Work under the Contract, that is required by the Contract to be delivered to Elections Canada and in which copyright subsists. “Material” does not include anything created by the Contractor before the date of the Contract.
- 14.01.02 Copyright in the Material belongs to Elections Canada and the Contractor must include the copyright symbol and either of the following notice on the Material: © Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (year) or © Sa Majesté la Reine du chef du Canada (année).

- 14.01.03 The Contractor must not use, copy, divulge or publish any Material except as is necessary to perform the Contract. The Contractor must execute any conveyance and other documents relating to copyright in the Material as Elections Canada may require.
- 14.01.04 The Contractor must provide at the request of Elections Canada a written permanent waiver of moral rights, in a form acceptable to Elections Canada, from every author that contributed to the Material. If the Contractor is the author of the Material, the Contractor permanently waives its moral rights in the Material.

Section 14.02 Use and Translation of Documentation

The Contractor agrees that Elections Canada may translate in the other official language any documentation delivered to Elections Canada by the Contractor that does not belong to Elections Canada under Section 14.01. The Contractor acknowledges that Elections Canada owns the translation and that it is under no obligation to provide any translation to the Contractor. Elections Canada agrees that any translation must include any copyright notice and any proprietary right notice that was part of the original. Elections Canada acknowledges that the Contractor is not responsible for any technical errors or other problems that may arise as a result of the translation.

Article 15 Intellectual Property Infringement and Royalties

- 15.01.01 The Contractor represents and warrants that, to the best of its knowledge, neither it nor Elections Canada will infringe any third party's intellectual property rights in performing or using the Work, and that Elections Canada will have no obligation to pay royalties of any kind to anyone in connection with the Work.
- 15.01.02 If anyone makes a claim against Elections Canada or the Contractor concerning intellectual property infringement or royalties related to the Work, that Party agrees to notify the other Party in writing immediately. If anyone brings a claim against Elections Canada, Elections Canada may either defend the claim or may request that the Contractor defend Elections Canada against the claim. In either case, the Contractor agrees to participate fully in the defence and any settlement negotiations and to pay all costs, damages and legal costs incurred or payable as a result of the claim, including the amount of any settlement. Both Parties agree not to settle any claim unless the other Party first approves the settlement in writing.
- 15.01.03 The Contractor has no obligation regarding claims that were only made because:
- (a) Elections Canada modified the Work or part of the Work without the Contractor's consent or used the Work or part of the Work without following a requirement of the Contract;
 - (b) Elections Canada used the Work or part of the Work with a product that the Contractor did not supply under the Contract (unless that use is described in the Contract or the manufacturer's specifications);

- (c) the Contractor used equipment, drawings, specifications or other information supplied to the Contractor by Elections Canada (or by someone authorized by Elections Canada); or
- (d) the Contractor used a specific item of equipment or software that it obtained because of specific instructions from the Contracting Authority; however, this exception only applies if the Contractor has included the following language in its own contract with the supplier of that equipment or software:

“[Supplier name] acknowledges that the purchased items will be used by the Elections Canada. If a third party claims that equipment or software supplied under this contract infringes any intellectual property right, [supplier name], if requested to do so by either [Contractor name] or Elections Canada, will defend both [Contractor name] and Elections Canada against that claim at its own expense and will pay all costs, damages and legal fees payable as a result of that infringement.”

Obtaining this protection from the supplier is the Contractor’s responsibility and, if the Contractor does not do so, it will be responsible to Elections Canada for the claim.

15.01.04 If anyone claims that, as a result of the Work, the Contractor or Elections Canada is infringing its intellectual property rights, the Contractor must immediately do one of the following:

- (a) take whatever steps are necessary to allow Elections Canada to continue to use the allegedly infringing part of the Work; or
- (b) modify or replace the Work to avoid intellectual property infringement, while ensuring that the Work continues to meet all the requirements of the Contract; or
- (c) take back the Work and refund any part of the Contract Price that Elections Canada has already paid.

If the Contractor determines that none of these alternatives can reasonably be achieved, or if the Contractor fails to take any of these steps within a reasonable amount of time, Elections Canada may choose either to require the Contractor to do (c), or to take whatever steps are necessary to acquire the rights to use the allegedly infringing part(s) of the Work itself, in which case the Contractor must reimburse Elections Canada for all the costs it incurs to do so.

Article 16 Excusable Delay

16.01.01 A delay in the performance by the Contractor of any obligation under the Contract that is caused by an event that:

- (a) is beyond the reasonable control of the Contractor;
- (b) could not reasonably have been foreseen;
- (c) could not reasonably have been prevented by means reasonably available to the Contractor; and
- (d) occurred without the fault or neglect of the Contractor, will be considered an “Excusable Delay” if the Contractor advises the Contracting Authority of the occurrence of the delay or of the likelihood of the delay as soon as the Contractor becomes aware of it.

16.01.02 Within 15 Business Days of an Excusable Delay, the Contractor must:

- (a) provide written notice to the Contracting Authority of all the circumstances relating to such Excusable Delay; and
- (b) provide for approval to the Contracting Authority within 15 Business Days a clear work around plan explaining in detail the steps that the Contractor proposes to take in order to minimize the impact of the event causing the delay.

16.01.03 Any delivery date or other date that is directly affected by an Excusable Delay will be postponed for a reasonable time that will not exceed the duration of the Excusable Delay.

16.01.04 However, if an Excusable Delay has continued for 30 calendar days or more, the Contracting Authority may, by giving notice in writing to the Contractor, terminate the Contract. In such a case, the Parties agree that neither will make any claim against the other for damages, costs, expected profits or any other loss arising out of the termination or the event that contributed to the Excusable Delay. The Contractor agrees to repay immediately to Elections Canada the portion of any advance payment that is unliquidated at the date of the termination.

16.01.05 Unless Elections Canada has caused the delay by failing to meet an obligation under the Contract, Elections Canada will not be responsible for any costs incurred by the Contractor or any of its subcontractors or agents as a result of an Excusable Delay.

16.01.06 If the Contract is terminated under this Article, the Contracting Authority may require the Contractor to deliver to Elections Canada, in the manner and to the extent directed by the Contracting Authority, any completed parts of the Work not delivered and accepted before the termination and anything that the Contractor has acquired or produced specifically to perform the Contract. Elections Canada will pay the Contractor:

- (a) the value, of all completed parts of the Work delivered to and accepted by Elections Canada, based on the Contract Price, including the proportionate part of the Contractor’s profit or fee included in the Contract Price; and

- (b) the Cost to the Contractor that Elections Canada considers reasonable in respect of anything else delivered to and accepted by Elections Canada.

The total amount paid by Elections Canada under the Contract to the date of termination and any amounts payable under this Subsection must not exceed the Contract Price.

Article 17 Suspension of the Work

- 17.01.01 The Contracting Authority may at any time, by written notice, order the Contractor to suspend or stop the Work or part of the Work under the Contract for a period of up to 180 calendar days. The Contractor must immediately comply with any such order in a way that minimizes the cost of doing so. While such an order is in effect, the Contractor must not remove any part of the Work from any premises without first obtaining the written consent of the Contracting Authority. Within these 180 calendar days, the Contracting Authority must either cancel the order or terminate the Contract, in whole or in part, under Article 18 or Article 19.
- 17.01.02 The Contracting Authority may, whether in the notice of the order or during the 180 calendar days referred to in Subsection 17.01.01, request that the Contractor provide information regarding the status of the Work or outstanding invoices. The Contractor shall respond within the timeline provided in the request.
- 17.01.03 When an order is made under Subsection 17.01.01, unless the Contracting Authority terminates the Contract by reason of default by the Contractor or the Contractor abandons the Contract, the Contractor will be entitled to be paid its additional costs incurred as a result of the suspension plus a fair and reasonable profit.
- 17.01.04 When an order made under Subsection 17.01.01 is cancelled, the Contractor must resume work in accordance with the Contract as soon as practicable. If the suspension has affected the Contractor's ability to meet any delivery date under the Contract, the date for performing the part of the Work affected by the suspension will be extended for a period equal to the period of suspension plus a period, if any, that in the opinion of the Contracting Authority, following consultation with the Contractor, is necessary for the Contractor to resume the Work. Any equitable adjustments will be made as necessary to any affected conditions of the Contract.

Article 18 Default by the Contractor

- 18.01.01 If the Contractor is in default in carrying out any of its obligations under the Contract, the Contracting Authority may, by giving written notice to the Contractor, terminate for default the Contract or part of the Contract. The termination will take effect immediately or at the expiration of a cure period specified in the notice, if the Contractor has not cured the default to the satisfaction of the Contracting Authority within that cure period.
- 18.01.02 If the Contractor becomes bankrupt or insolvent, makes an assignment for the benefit of creditors, or takes the benefit of any statute relating to bankrupt or insolvent debtors, or if

a receiver is appointed under a debt instrument or a receiving order is made against the Contractor, or an order is made or a resolution passed for the winding down of the Contractor, the Contracting Authority may, to the extent permitted by the laws of Canada, by giving written notice to the Contractor, immediately terminate for default the Contract or part of the Contract.

18.01.03 If Elections Canada gives notice under Subsection 18.01.01 or 18.01.02, the Contractor will have no claim for further payment except as provided in this Article. The Contractor will be liable to Elections Canada for all losses and damages suffered by Elections Canada because of the default or occurrence upon which the notice was based, including any increase in the cost incurred by Elections Canada in procuring the Work from another source. The Contractor agrees to repay immediately to Elections Canada the portion of any advance payment that is unliquidated at the date of the termination.

18.01.04 Upon termination of the Contract under this Article, the Contracting Authority may require the Contractor to deliver to Elections Canada, in the manner and to the extent directed by the Contracting Authority, any completed parts of the Work, not delivered and accepted before the termination and anything the Contractor has acquired or produced specifically to perform the Contract. In such a case, subject to the deduction of any claim that Elections Canada may have against the Contractor arising under the Contract or out of the termination, Elections Canada will pay or credit to the Contractor:

(a) the value, of all completed parts of the Work delivered to and accepted by Elections Canada, based on the Contract Price, including the proportionate part of the Contractor's profit or fee included in the Contract Price; and

(b) the cost to the Contractor that Elections Canada considers reasonable in respect of anything else delivered to and accepted by Elections Canada.

The total amount paid by Elections Canada under the Contract to the date of the termination and any amount payable under this Subsection must not exceed the Contract Price.

18.01.05 Title to everything for which payment is made to the Contractor will, once payment is made, pass to Elections Canada unless it already belongs to Elections Canada under any other provision of the Contract.

18.01.06 If the Contract is terminated for default under Subsection 18.01.01, but it is later determined that grounds did not exist for a termination for default, the notice will be considered a notice of termination for convenience issued under Subsection 19.01.01.

Article 19 Termination for Convenience

19.01.01 At any time before the completion of the Work, the Contracting Authority may, by giving notice in writing to the Contractor, terminate for convenience the Contract or part of the Contract. Once such a notice of termination for convenience is given, the Contractor must

comply with the requirements of the termination notice. If the Contract is terminated in part only, the Contractor must proceed to complete any part of the Work that is not affected by the termination notice. The termination will take effect immediately or, as the case may be, at the time specified in the termination notice.

19.01.02 If a termination notice is given pursuant to Subsection 19.01.01, the Contractor will be entitled to be paid, for costs that have been reasonably and properly incurred to perform the Contract to the extent that the Contractor has not already been paid or reimbursed by Elections Canada. The Contractor will be paid:

- (a) on the basis of the Contract Price, for all completed Work that is inspected and accepted in accordance with the Contract, whether completed before, or after the termination in accordance with the instructions contained in the termination notice;
- (b) the Cost to the Contractor plus a fair and reasonable profit for all work terminated by the termination notice before completion; and
- (c) all costs incidental to the termination of the Work incurred by the Contractor but not including the cost of severance payments or damages to employees whose services are no longer required, except wages that the Contractor is obligated by statute to pay.

Elections Canada may reduce the payment in respect of any part of the Work, if upon inspection, it does not meet the requirements of the Contract.

19.01.03 The total of the amounts, to which the Contractor is entitled to be paid under this Article, together with any amounts paid, due or becoming due to the Contractor must not exceed the Contract Price. The Contractor will have no claim for damages, compensation, loss of profit, allowance arising out of any termination notice given by Elections Canada under this Article except to the extent that this Article expressly provides. The Contractor agrees to repay immediately to Elections Canada the portion of any advance payment that is unliquidated at the date of the termination.

Article 20 Assignment

20.01.01 The Contractor must not assign the Contract without first obtaining the written consent of the Contracting Authority. Any assignment made without that consent is void and will have no effect. The assignment will be effective upon execution of an assignment agreement signed by the Parties and the assignee.

20.01.02 Assignment of the Contract does not relieve the Contractor from any obligation under the Contract and it does not impose any liability upon Elections Canada.

Article 21 Right of Set-Off

Without restricting any right of set-off given by law, Elections Canada may set-off against any amount

payable to the Contractor under the Contract, any amount payable to Elections Canada by the Contractor under the Contract or under any other current contract. Elections Canada may, when making a payment pursuant to the Contract, deduct from the amount payable to the Contractor any such amount payable to Elections Canada by the Contractor which, by virtue of the right of set-off, may be retained by Elections Canada.

Article 22 Amendments and Waivers

Section 22.01 Amendment

- 22.01.01 To be effective, any amendment to the Contract must be done in writing by the Contracting Authority and the authorized representative of the Contractor.
- 22.01.02 While the Contractor may discuss any proposed modifications to the Work with other representatives of Elections Canada, Elections Canada will not be responsible for the cost of any modification unless it has been incorporated into the Contract in accordance with Subsection 22.01.01.

Section 22.02 Waiver

- 22.02.01 A waiver will only be valid, binding or affect the rights of the Parties if it is made in writing by, in the case of a waiver by Elections Canada, the Contracting Authority and, in the case of a waiver by the Contractor, the authorized representative of the Contractor.
- 22.02.02 The waiver by a Party of a breach of any condition of the Contract will not be treated or interpreted as a waiver of any subsequent breach and therefore will not prevent it from enforcing that term or condition in the case of a subsequent breach.

Article 23 Codes

Section 23.01 Conflict of Interest and Values and Ethics Codes for the Public Sector

The Contractor acknowledges that individuals who are subject to the provisions of the *Conflict of Interest Act*, 2006, c. 9, s. 2, the Conflict of Interest Code for Members of the House of Commons, the Values and Ethics Code for the Public Sector or all other codes of values and ethics applicable within specific organizations cannot derive any direct benefit resulting from the Contract.

Section 23.02 Code of Conduct for Procurement

The Contractor certifies that it has read the *Code of Conduct for Procurement* (<http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/app-acq/cndt-cndct/index-eng.html>) and agrees to be bound by its terms.

Article 24 No Bribe or Conflict

Section 24.01 No Bribe

The Contractor declares that no bribe, gift, benefit, or other inducement has been or will be paid, given, promised or offered directly or indirectly to any official or employee of Elections Canada or to a member of the family of such a person, with a view to influencing the entry into the Contract or the administration of the Contract.

Section 24.02 No Conflict of Interest

- 24.02.01 The Contractor must not influence, seek to influence or otherwise take part in a decision of Elections Canada knowing that the decision might further its private interest. The Contractor must have no financial interest in the business of a third party that causes or would appear to cause a conflict of interest in connection with the performance of its obligations under the Contract. If such a financial interest is acquired during the period of the Contract, the Contractor must immediately declare it to the Contracting Authority.
- 24.02.02 The Contractor warrants that, to the best of its knowledge after making diligent inquiry, no conflict exists. In the event the Contractor becomes aware of any matter that causes or is likely to cause a conflict in relation to the Contractor's performance under the Contract, the Contractor must immediately disclose such matter to the Contracting Authority in writing.
- 24.02.03 If the Contracting Authority is of the opinion that a conflict exists as a result of the Contractor's disclosure or as a result of any other information brought to the Contracting Authority's attention, the Contracting Authority may require the Contractor to take steps to resolve or otherwise deal with the conflict or, at its entire discretion, terminate the Contract for default. Conflict means any matter, circumstance, interest, or activity affecting the Contractor, its personnel or subcontractors, which may or may appear to impair the ability of the Contractor to perform the Work diligently and independently.

Article 25 Contingency Fees

- 25.01.01 The Contractor certifies that it has not, directly or indirectly, paid or agreed to pay and agrees that it will not, directly or indirectly, pay a contingency fee for the solicitation, negotiation or obtaining of the Contract to any person, other than an employee of the Contractor acting in the normal course of the employee's duties.
- 25.01.02 In this Article:
- (a) "contingency fee" means any payment or other compensation that depends or is calculated based on a degree of success in soliciting, negotiating or obtaining the Contract; and
 - (b) "person" includes any individual who is required to file a return with the registrar pursuant to section 5 of the *Lobbying Act*, 1985, c. 44 (4th Supplement).

Article 26 International Sanctions

- 26.01.01 Persons in Canada, and Canadians outside of Canada, are bound by economic sanctions imposed by Canada. As a result, Elections Canada cannot accept delivery of goods or services that originate, either directly or indirectly, from the countries or persons subject to economic sanctions.
- 26.01.02 The Contractor must not supply to Elections Canada any goods or services which are subject to economic sanctions.
- 26.01.03 The Contractor must comply with changes to the regulations imposed during the period of the Contract. The Contractor must immediately advise Elections Canada if it is unable to perform the Work as a result of the imposition of economic sanctions against a country or person or the addition of a good or service to the list of sanctioned goods or services. If the Parties cannot agree on a work around plan, the Contract will be terminated for the convenience of Elections Canada in accordance with Article 19.

Article 27 Notice

Any notice under the Contract must be in writing and may be delivered by hand, courier, mail, facsimile or other electronic method that provides a paper record of the text of the notice. It must be sent to the Party for whom it is intended at the address stated in the Contract or to such other address, from time to time designated in writing. Any notice will be effective on the day it is received at that address. Any notice to Elections Canada must be delivered to the Contracting Authority.

Article 28 Survival

All the Parties' obligations of confidentiality, representations and warranties set out in the Contract as well as the provisions, which by the nature of the rights or obligations might reasonably be expected to survive, will survive the expiry or termination of the Contract.

Article 29 Governing Law

Section 29.01 Compliance with Applicable Laws

- 29.01.01 The Contractor must comply with all laws applicable to the performance of the Contract. The Contractor must provide evidence of compliance with such laws to Canada at such times as Elections Canada may reasonably request.
- 29.01.02 The Contractor must obtain and maintain at its own cost all permits, licenses, regulatory approvals and certificates required to perform the Work. If requested by the Contracting Authority, the Contractor must provide a copy of any required permit, license, regulatory approvals or certificate to Elections Canada.

Article 30 Successor and Assigns

The Contract is binding upon and enures to the benefit of Elections Canada and its successors and assigns and the Contractor and its successors and permitted assigns.



Regional Media Advisors

Part 7

Technical Evaluation Criteria

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- **SECTION B – IDENTIFICATION OF SERVICES**
- **TABLE A – MANDATORY TECHNICAL EVALUATION CRITERIA**

#	MANDATORY TECHNICAL EVALUATION CRITERIA	MET/NOT MET
M1	Official Languages	
M2	Media Writing	

- **TABLE B – RATED TECHNICAL EVALUATION CRITERIA**

#	RATED TECHNICAL EVALUATION CRITERIA	MAX. POINTS
R1	Experience Providing Communications and/or Media Relations Advice	15
R2	Experience Responding to Media Requests	20
R3	Media Writing Abilities	10
R4	Interview Samples	40

- **TABLE C – RATED INTERVIEW EVALUATION CRITERIA**

#	RATED INTERVIEW EVALUATION CRITERIA	MAX. POINTS
I1	Scenarios Applying Media Relations Governance Framework	12
I2	Experience Working Under Pressure	10
I3	Scenario Applying Media Relations and Issues Management Knowledge	32
I4	Scenario Assessing Media Relations Skills	50

- **TEMPLATE A – NEWS RELEASE TEMPLATE**
- **TEMPLATE B – PROJECT DESCRIPTION TEMPLATE**

SECTION A – INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS

1. In order to facilitate the evaluation of the proposal, EC requests that bidders address and present topics in the same order and with the same headings as the evaluation criteria. Bidders should clearly identify where in their proposal each criterion is addressed. To avoid duplication, bidders may refer to different sections of their proposals by identifying the specific paragraph and page number where the topic has already been addressed.
2. If more projects/samples are provided than the requirements of the criterion, only the first projects/samples in the proposal will be evaluated. Any excess projects/samples will not be evaluated.
3. In determining years of experience, overlapped years or months for projects submitted by the bidder to demonstrate such experience will only be counted once for evaluation purposes.
4. Demonstrated projects must have a minimum duration of 6 months. For longer projects, the project duration will be divided by 6 months, e.g. a 12-month project is equal to 2 projects. No partial values will be given. The proposed resources must have worked on the project for the minimum duration. If using project equivalency, the bidder must indicate this in the grid.
5. Projects must have been completed by the solicitation closing date.
6. For requirements relating to education or professional qualifications, certifications, designation, or membership, the proposed resource must have the required education, qualification, certification, designation or membership by the solicitation closing date and must continue, where applicable, to be a member in good standing of the profession's governing body throughout the evaluation and contract period.
7. In addition to the information requested in the individual criterion, the bidder is requested to include complete client contact information for each project description including the client contact name, title and telephone number or e-mail address. The client contact for any project must be an employee of the originating client organization. EC reserves the right to request client contact information, at any time during the evaluation process, for the purposes of verification.

SECTION B – IDENTIFICATION OF SERVICES

Name of Offeror	
Name of Offeror's proposed individual (if the Offeror is not an individual)	

Categories of Service
Indicate with a check mark (✓) the Services for which you are submitting a proposal. <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Media Advisor – French <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Media Advisor – English

TABLE A – MANDATORY TECHNICAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

Criteria	Mandatory Technical Evaluation Criteria	Scoring Methodology
M1	<p>Official Languages The bidder’s proposed resource(s) must be able to perform the Work in French or English, in particular with regard to communicating orally and in writing, reading and understanding text in French or English, at an advanced level for the resource category for which they are being proposed.</p> <p>Submission Requirement The bidder must demonstrate that each proposed resource meets the requirement by clearly attesting in its bid that the proposed Assigned Resource has the capabilities with regard to reading, writing and speaking in French or English, at an advanced level specific to the resource category for which they are being proposed.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Met</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not Met</p>
M2	<p>Media Writing The bidder must clearly demonstrate, using Table 1 – News Release Template, which the proposed resource(s) has (have) experience in writing news releases.</p> <p>The news release submitted in response to this criterion must be based on facts gathered from the Elections Canada website and relate to the following topic:</p> <p>How Canadian Forces electors can vote</p> <p>Submission requirements The bidder must clearly demonstrate the required experience by completing Table 1 – News Release Template for each proposed resource that allows the bidder to meet the mandatory criteria. The news release must:</p> <p>a) follow Elections Canada’s standard news release template, with a descriptive title, a lead, a date and location, bullet points and linked text as appropriate (template attached as Table 1); reference news releases can be found on the Elections Canada website by clicking here. ; and</p> <p>b) Be no more than 500 words and be submitted in Microsoft Word format.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Met</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not Met</p>

TABLE B – RATED TECHNICAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

Criteria	Rated Technical Evaluation Criteria	Max. Points
R1	<p>Experience Providing Communications and/or Media Relations Advice</p> <p>The bidder’s proposed resource(s) should have experience providing communications and/or media relations advice to managers, executives and/or board members on the following types of news media profiles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. national news release ii. provincial news release iii. municipal news release <p>Note: Elections Canada may search for the media profile of the news release. “Media profile” is defined as national, provincial or municipal news source.</p> <p>Submission Requirements</p> <p>For each proposed resource, the bidder should provide a maximum of 3 project descriptions that include the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a description (max. 80 words) of the event(s) or issue(s) for which the resource provided communications and/or media relations advice b) a description (max. 80 words) of the resource’s role c) the client organization for which the resource provided communications and/or media relations advice d) the news media profile (national, provincial or municipal) e) the duration (start and end date) for which the resource provided services to this client organization f) the title(s) of the person/people they advised <p>The bidder must clearly demonstrate the required experience by completing Table 2 – Project Reference Template for each proposed resource that allows the bidder to meet the mandatory criteria.</p> <p>Scoring Methodology</p> <p>Points allocation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advice given on a national news release—5 points Advice given on a provincial news release—3 points Advice given on a municipal news release—2 points No identified type of news media profile—0 points 	15

Criteria	Rated Technical Evaluation Criteria	Max. Points
R2	<p>Experience Responding to Media Requests The bidder’s proposed resource(s) should have a minimum of one (1) year of experience in responding to media requests. This includes, but is not limited to, being the subject of a broadcast or print interview, providing information relevant to a media enquiry, providing a quote for a news story, helping journalists locate information, and speaking at or managing a press conference.</p> <p>Submission Requirements The bidder should clearly demonstrate the experience by completing Table 2 – Project Reference Template.</p> <p>Scoring Methodology One (1) year of experience in responding to media requests, as described—10 points Each additional six (6)-month increment of experience—2 points</p>	20
R3	<p>Media Writing Abilities The news release provided in response to Mandatory Criteria M2 should be clear, accurate and concise, without grammar and/or punctuation errors.</p> <p>Submission Requirements The bidder should clearly demonstrate the required experience by completing Table 1 – News Release Template for each proposed resource that allows the bidder to meet the mandatory criteria. The news release must: a) follow Elections Canada’s standard news release template, with a descriptive title, a lead, a date and location, bullet points and linked text as appropriate (template attached as Table 1); reference news releases can be found on the Elections Canada website by clicking here; and b) be submitted in Microsoft word format</p> <p>Scoring Methodology The news release will be evaluated as set out below:</p> <p>Accuracy (max. 4 points) The news release accurately covers the topic identified in M2—4 points The news release is missing minor factual information—2 points The news release is missing major factual information—0 points</p>	10

Criteria	Rated Technical Evaluation Criteria	Max. Points
	<p>Clarity (max. 2 points) The writing clearly expresses the meaning and intent of the topic identified—2 points The writing somewhat expresses the meaning and intent of the topic identified—1 point The writing does not clearly express the meaning and intent of the topic identified—0 points</p> <p>Concision (max. 2 points) There are no superfluous ideas or facts—2 points There is one superfluous idea or fact—1 point There are two or more superfluous ideas or facts—0 points</p> <p>Grammar and spelling (max. 2 points) The writing does not contain any grammar or spelling errors—2 points The writing contains 2 grammar or spelling errors—1 point The writing contains 3 or more grammar or spelling errors—0 points</p>	
R4	<p>Interview Samples The bidder’s proposed resource(s) should have samples of work that support their experience in responding to media.</p> <p>The bidder should provide two (2) samples of the media relations work done by the proposed resource(s) for each of the following:</p> <p>a)as the subject of an on-camera TV interview, and b)as the subject of a radio interview</p> <p>Submission Requirements</p> <p>The bidder should supply a USB key with video or audio clips OR an MS Word file that links to the relevant clips/articles available to the public on the Internet.</p> <p>Each sample must be accompanied by the following information: a)a brief (max. 80 words) description of the context of the interview b)the broadcast date and the outlet where it was broadcast</p> <p>Note: Accepted audio formats: •Wave Audio (.wav) •Audio Interchange File Format (.aiff/.aif)</p>	40

Criteria	Rated Technical Evaluation Criteria	Max. Points	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Free Lossless Audio Codec (.flac) •Apple Lossless Audio Codec (.m4a) •MPEG Audio Layer-3 (.mp3) •Advanced Audio Coding (.m4a/.aac) •Windows Media Audio (.wma) <p>Accepted video formats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Audio Video Interleave (AVI) •Flash Video (FLV) •Windows Media Video (WMV) •Apple QuickTime Movie (MOV) •Moving Picture Experts Group 4 (MP4) <p>Scoring Methodology</p> <p>A)For each radio interview, the bidder will receive up to 10 points; and</p> <p>B)For each TV interview, the bidder will receive up to 10 points.</p> <p>Points will be allocated as follows:</p> <p>Uses language and tone appropriate to topic and medium—max. 4 points always: 4 points; sometimes: 2 points; seldom or never: 0 points</p> <p>Expresses self clearly and logically—max. 4 points always: 4 points; sometimes: 2 points; seldom or never: 0 points</p> <p>Presents a professional image that reflects well on their employer (appropriate body language, posture, dress)—max. 2 points always: 2 points; sometimes: 1 point; seldom or never: 0 points</p>		
MAXIMUM POINTS AVAILABLE	85	MINIMUM SCORE REQUIRED (60%):	51

TABLE C – POINT-RATED INTERVIEW

Criteria	Point-Rated Interview	Max. Points
I1	<p>Scenarios Applying Media Relations Governance Framework</p> <p>The interviewer will provide three (3) sample media requests to the bidder’s proposed resource(s). They will be asked how they would triage the request, according to the Media Relations Governance Framework, and why they would triage it that way.</p> <p>Note: The Media Relations Governance Framework will be provided at the time of the interview. The bidder’s proposed resource(s) will have thirty (30) minutes to study the document prior to the interview. The Framework will also be available during the interview as reference material.</p> <p>Scoring Methodology</p> <p>Each request correctly triaged earns 3 points. Each correct rationale earns 1 point.</p>	12
I2	<p>Experience Working Under Pressure</p> <p>The bidder’s proposed resource(s) will be asked to discuss two (2) media-related situations or events in which they had to use the following abilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) issues management b) problem solving c) quick thinking d) prioritizing e) multi-tasking <p>Scoring Methodology</p> <p>For each ability demonstrated, the bidder’s proposed resource(s) will be awarded 2 points, up to a maximum of 10 points.</p>	10

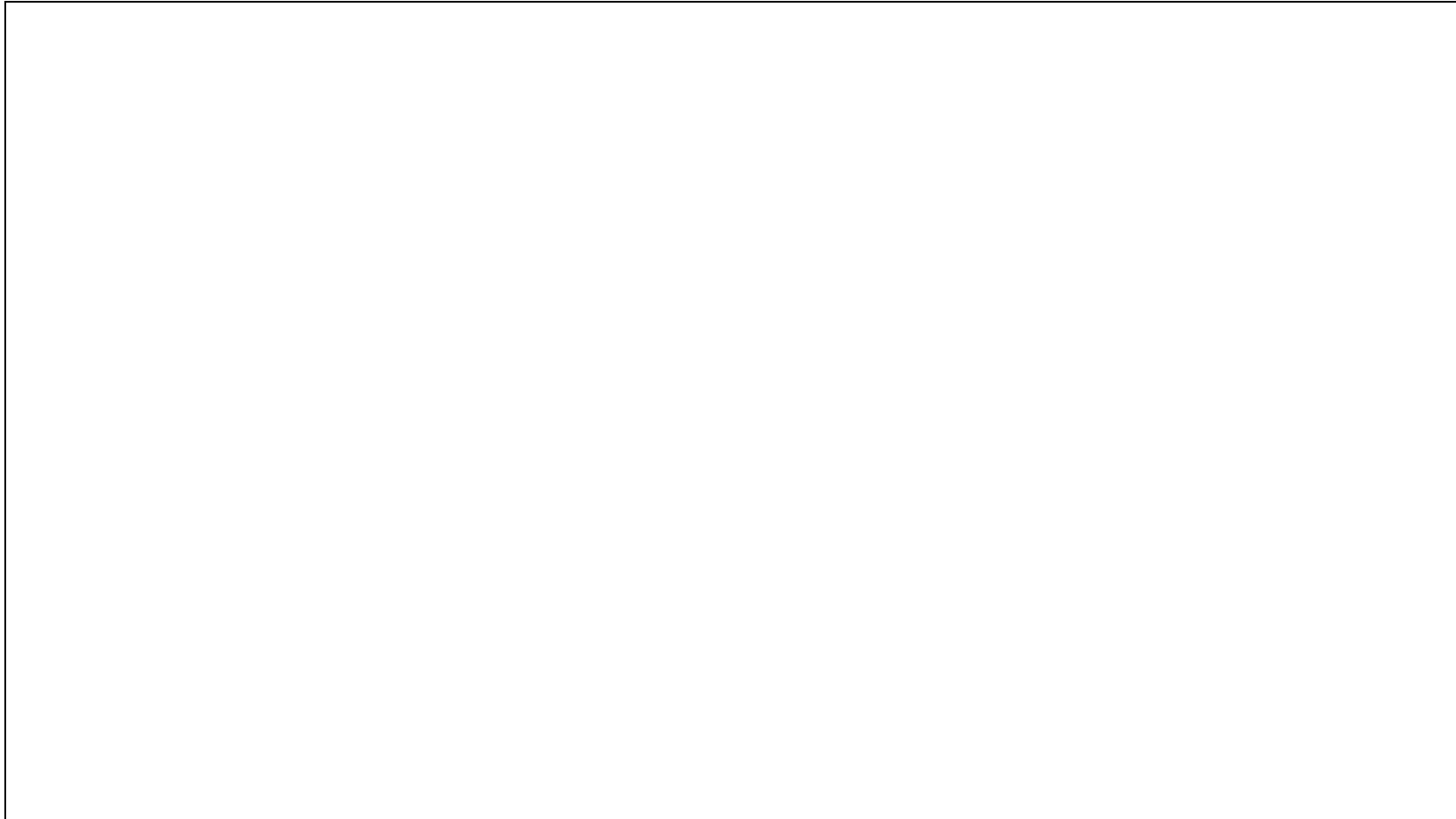
Criteria	Point-Rated Interview	Max. Points
<p>I3</p>	<p>Scenario Applying Media Relations and Issues Management Knowledge</p> <p>The bidder’s proposed resource(s) will be given a scenario one hour before the start of the interview to prepare an answer. The scenario will be designed to allow evaluators to assess the ability of the proposed resource(s) to apply media relations and issues management knowledge.</p> <p>Scoring Methodology</p> <p>Each of the following aspects will be worth a maximum of 8 points, for a total maximum of 32 points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Quality of analysis of risks and opportunities related to holding a press conference •Pertinence and clarity of key messages •Soundness of press conference logistics •Soundness of rationale for recommendations regarding media to be granted interviews <p>For each aspect: If the answer is complete and correct, 8 points are awarded. If the answer lacks quality or completeness to a small degree, 5 points are awarded. If the answer lacks quality or completeness to a major degree, 2 points are awarded. If the aspect is not addressed, 0 points are awarded.</p>	<p>32</p>
<p>I4</p>	<p>Scenario Assessing Media Relations Skills</p> <p>The bidder’s proposed resource(s) will be asked to participate in a simulation of two media interviews—one audio, one video—as might occur while representing Elections Canada as an RMA.</p> <p>They will be provided with a description of the scenario and a set of media lines that provide the facts required to answer the interview questions. They will have one hour to study the material and prepare answers.</p> <p>The following aspects will be evaluated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a)Information is accurate b)Answers are clear and easy to understand c)Information provided is pertinent to question d)Language level used is suitable for interview audience and format e)Tone used is appropriate for subject matter <p>Scoring Methodology</p> <p>A maximum of 50 points will be awarded—25 points for each of the two media interviews.</p> <p>For each interview, up to 5 points will be awarded in each of these areas:</p>	<p>50</p>

Criteria	Point-Rated Interview	Max. Points	
	a)Accuracy b)Clarity c)Provision of pertinent information d)Appropriate language level e)Suitable tone If demonstrated consistently, 5 points are awarded. If demonstrated partially, 3 points are awarded. If not demonstrated, 0 points are awarded.		
MAXIMUM POINTS AVAILABLE	104	MINIMUM SCORE REQUIRED (40%):	42

TEMPLATE A – NEWS RELEASE TEMPLATE

Client Identification			
Bidder name		Name of proposed resource	
	Project title		
	Client name		
	Client address		
	Client contact name		
	Client contact title		
	Client telephone no.		
	Client e-mail address		

Sample News Release	
Descriptive Title	
Lead	
LOCATION, Date	
Points outlining the news release and linked text as appropriate. Maximum 500 words.	



TEMPLATE B – PROJECT DESCRIPTION TEMPLATE

Project # [Bidder to Insert]	
Bidder name	Name of proposed resource
Client Identification	Project title
	Client name
	Client contact name
	Client contact title
	Client telephone no. or e-mail address
1. Project description (max. 250 words)	
2. Start and end dates (MM/YYYY TO MM/YYYY)	
3. Description of role of the resource on the project (max. 250 words)	

Regional Media Advisors

PART 8

Certificates

Regional Media Advisors

PART 8

Certificates

Certificates

1. Independent Proposal

1.1. I, the undersigned, on behalf of _____ [insert name of Bidder] (the “Bidder”) in submitting the accompanying proposal (the “proposal”) to Elections Canada for the Regional Media Advisors hereby make the following statements, that I certify to be true and complete in every respect:

- (a) I have read and I understand the contents of this Certificate;
- (b) I understand that the proposal will be disqualified if this Certificate is found not to be true and complete in every respect;
- (c) I am authorized by the Bidder to sign this Certificate, and to submit the proposal, on behalf of the Bidder;
- (d) each person whose signature appears on the proposal has been authorized by the Bidder to determine the terms of, and to sign, the proposal, on behalf of the Bidder;
- (e) for the purpose of this Certificate and the proposal. I understand that the word “competitor” shall include any individual or organization, other than the Bidder, whether or not an Affiliate of the Bidder, who:
 - i. has been requested to submit a proposal in response to the request for proposal;
 - ii. could potentially submit a proposal in response to the request for proposal, based on their qualification, abilities or experience;
- (f) the Bidder disclosed that (check one of the following, as applicable):
 - i. the Bidder has arrived at the proposal independently from, and without consultation, communication, agreement or arrangement with, any competitor;

OR

- ii. the Bidder has entered into consultations, communications, agreements or arrangements with one or more competitors regarding this call for proposals, and the Bidder disclosed, in the attached documents (s) complete details thereof, including the names of the competitors and the nature of, and reasons for, such consultation, communications, agreements or arrangements.

- (g) in particular, without limiting the generality of subparagraphs (f)i. or (f)ii. above, there has been no consultation, communications, agreement or arrangement with any competitor regarding:
- i. prices
 - ii. methods, factors or formulas used to calculate prices;
 - iii. the intention or decisions to submit, or not to submit, a proposal; or
 - iv. the submission of a proposal which does not meet the specifications of the call for proposals;
- except as specifically disclosed pursuant to subparagraph (f)ii. above:
- (h) in addition, there has been no consultation, communications, agreement or arrangement with any competitor regarding the quality, quantity, specifications or delivery particulars of the products or services to which this call for proposals relates, except as specially authorized by the Contracting Authority or as specifically disclosed pursuant to subparagraph (f)ii. above;
- (i) the terms of the proposal have not been, and will not be, knowingly disclosed by the Bidder, directly or indirectly, to any competitor, prior to the date and time of the official proposal opening, or of the awarding of the contract, whichever comes first, unless otherwise required by law or as specially disclosed pursuant to subparagraph (f)ii. above.

2. Former Public Servant

- 2.1. Contracts with former public servants (FPS) in receipt of a pension or of a lump sum payment must bear the closest public scrutiny and reflect fairness in the spending of public funds. In order to comply with Treasury Board policies and directives on contracts with FPS, bidders must provide the information required below.
- 2.2. For the purposes of this clause,

“former public servant” is any former member of a department as defined in the *Financial Administration Act*, R.S., 1985, c. F-11, a former member of the Canadian Armed Forces or a former member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. A former public servant may be:

- (a) an individual;
- (b) an individual who has incorporated;
- (c) a partnership made of former public servants; or
- (d) a sole proprietorship or entity where the affected individual has a controlling or major interest in the entity.

“lump sum payment period” means the period measured in weeks of salary, for which payment has been made to facilitate the transition to retirement or to other employment as a result of the implementation of various programs to reduce the size of the Public Service. The lump sum payment period does not include the period of severance pay, which is measured in a like manner.

“pension” means, in the context of the fee abatement formula, a pension or annual allowance paid under the *Public Service Superannuation Act (PSSA)*, R.S., 1985, c. P-36, and any increases paid pursuant to the *Supplementary Retirement Benefits Act*, R.S., 1985, c. S-24 as it affects the PSSA. It does not include pensions payable pursuant to the *Canadian Forces Superannuation Act*, R.S., 1985, c. C-17, the *Defence Services Pension Continuation Act*, 1970, c. D-3, the *Royal Canadian Mounted Police Pension Continuation Act*, 1970, c. R-10, and the *Royal Canadian Mounted Police Superannuation Act*, R.S., 1985, c. R-11, the *Members of Parliament Retiring Allowances Act*, R.S., 1985, c. M-5, and that portion of pension payable to the *Canada Pension Plan Act*, R.S., 1985, c. C-8.

2.3. Is the Bidder a FPS in receipt of a pension as defined above? **YES** **NO**

If yes, the Bidder must provide the following information:

- (a) name of former public servant;
- (b) date of termination of employment or retirement from the Public Service.

By providing this information, Bidders agree that the successful Bidder’s status, with respect to being a former public servant in receipt of a pension, will be reported on departmental websites as part of the published proactive disclosure reports in accordance with Contracting Policy Notice: 2012-2 and the Guidelines on the Proactive Disclosure of Contracts.

2.4. Is the Bidder a FPS who received a lump sum payment pursuant to the terms of a work force reduction program? **YES** **NO**

If yes, the Bidder must provide the following information:

- (a) name of former public servant;
- (b) conditions of the lump sum payment incentive;
- (c) date of termination of employment;
- (d) amount of lump sum payment;
- (e) rate of pay on which lump sum payment is based;

- (f) period of lump sum payment including start date, end date and number of weeks;
 - (g) number and amount (professional fees) of other contracts subject to the restrictions of a work force reduction program.
- 2.5. For all contracts awarded during the lump sum payment period, the total amount of fees that may be paid to a FPS who received a lump sum payment is \$5,000, including the Goods and Services Tax or Harmonized Sales Tax.
- 2.6. By submitting a proposal, the Bidder certifies that the information submitted by the Bidder in response to the above requirements is accurate and complete.

3. Status and Availability of Resources

- 3.1. The Bidder certifies that, should it be awarded a contract as a result of the RFP, every resource proposed in its proposal will be available to perform the Work as required by Elections Canada and at the time specified in the RFP or agreed to with Elections Canada. If for reasons beyond its control, the Bidder is unable to provide the services of its proposed resources, the Bidder acknowledges that Elections Canada may:
- (a) at its sole discretion, either before or after obtaining the name of a replacement in accordance with Section 3.03 of the General Conditions, terminate the Contract for default, pursuant to Article 18 of the General Conditions; or
 - (b) request that the Bidder propose, in accordance with Section 3.03 of the General Conditions, a replacement with similar qualifications and experience. In response to such request, the Bidder must advise the Contracting Authority of the reason for the substitution.
- 3.2. If the Bidder has proposed any resource who is not an employee of the Bidder, the Bidder certifies that it has the permission from that resource to propose his/her services in relation to the Work to be performed and to submit his/her résumé to Elections Canada. The Bidder must, upon request from the Contracting Authority, provide a written confirmation, signed by the resource, of the permission given to the Bidder and of his/her availability.

4. Education and Experience

- 4.1. The Bidder certifies that all the information provided in the résumés and supporting material submitted with its proposal, particularly the information pertaining to education, achievements, experience and work history, has been verified by the Bidder to be true and accurate. Furthermore, the Bidder warrants that every resource proposed by the Bidder for the requirement is capable of performing the Work described in the resulting contract.

Signature of the Authorized Representative of Bidder

Date

Print Name of Authorized Representative of Bidder:

Print Title of Authorized Representative of Bidder:

