

March 13, 2020

Decision Re: Candidate Poster Violations –Sandeep Singh

As Chief Returning Officer I am at times provided with complaints or information regarding the activity of various candidates. On February 26th and 27th 2020 I received a few emails from individuals alleging that Sandeep Singh had campaign materials posted on Instagram (screenshot attached). I immediately called Mr. Singh to inform him that these posts were in violations of the CSU procures, not allowing for campaigning prior to the official campaign period that for most candidates began on March 5th. Mr. Singh agreed to immediately remove the materials and a warning was issued to Mr. Singh.

On March 11th, 2020 I received a few emails from individuals alleging violations regarding other candidates and upon viewing the capilano_confession Instagram page again, noted that Mr. Singh had posted campaign material online numerous times again. At no time did Mr. Singh request approval for the use of any campaign materials and he clearly violated the procedures with regard to posting campaign materials again.

Both of these rules are clearly laid out in the CSU Rules of Procedure and are highlighted by the CRO during the candidate orientation session Mr. Singh attended on March 5th.

Section XVI, Article 6(a) of the CSU procedures state:

There shall be an Official Campaign Period beginning immediately after the conclusion of the All-Candidates Meeting until the end of voting in an election.

Article 3, Subsection 6(e) states:

All campaign material... must be approved by the Chief Returning Officer prior to its use (except as states in (viii)). The intent of this clause is to ensure that all campaign material is produced in accordance with these Procedures, and in particular to ensure that no candidate engages in the prohibited forms of campaigning, as outlined in (i) below.

Candidates enter into an election process that is a serious matter. By completing a nomination package that includes references to important clauses of the rules and regulations and informs prospective candidates to read the bylaws and procedures, the candidates take responsibility to read, understand and follow the rules and regulations.

Mr. Singh has clearly violated these important rules and I find these to be violations that left untreated both compromise the elections and erode the trust of the general electorate.

As such, as per the authority provided in Article 4, Section 6, I immediately withdraw the right for candidate Singh to poster, both with physical paper posters as well as posters uploaded online, in all spaces. All posters should be removed by candidate Singh by the end of day on March 14, 2020 for the duration of the election campaign.

I note that the candidate has 48 hours from the time they receive this decision to submit an appeal in the manner set forth in Section XVI, Article 10 of the CSU procedures.



Ron Laufer
Chief Returning Officer

Screen Shot 1 – Mr. Singh’s post on the capilano_confession Instagram page (Feb. 26).



Screenshot 2: One of Mr. Singh's current posters uploaded on the capilano_confession Instagram page. (March 13th)

