

**2005 KSA General Election
Chief Returning Officer's Decision
Communications A and 39 (as it relates to the Newton ballot box)**

18 March 2005

Communication A

Summary:

On the afternoon of 25 February the C.R.O. was informed by the Chief Poll Clerk that the Newton ballot box was missing and presumed stolen. The circumstances relayed were that the poll clerk assigned to bring the box back to Surrey for counting put the box down near her car to briefly look for something and that it was gone when she looked back. The incident apparently occurred around 3:25 PM.

The incident has been reported to Surrey RCMP – file number 05-23664 – and to Kwantlen security at the Newton Campus. Newton Campus security has had some discussion about the circumstances with the Chief Poll Clerk and the C.R.O. They have requested to speak to the poll clerk in question. **Newton Ballot Box Missing – Item A**

Analysis:

This communication was submitted by the C.R.O. to record the incident. This communication is subsumed by communication 39 and is considered below in that decision.

Decision:

- The issue has now been raised in communication 39

Communication 39

Summary:

An allegation that the Newton ballot box was stolen and that the C.R.O. was [not fulfilling his obligation to keep the ballot box secure]. Also contains an allegation that Duncan McDonald told [a] poll clerk not to hand out multi-campus ballots for a four hour period on Thursday. **Signed by Steve Lee, Arka Movsessian, and Lisa Coan – 39**

Analysis:

This decision only relates to the Newton ballot box incident.

- Regulation X 3 1 (xvii) – requires the C.R.O. to cause ballot boxes to be distributed to and collected from the polling stations.
- This task was assigned to the Chief Poll Clerk.
- The Newton ballot box has gone missing.
- No ballots cast at Newton are available for counting.

Decision:

- The complaint is sustained.
- Newton Campus will be re-pollled on 4 and 5 April.

- The polls will be open from 10AM to 2PM on each day.
- The polling will be directly supervised by the C.R.O.
- The no-campaigning buffer zone surrounding the polling station will be the entire Newton Campus for this re-balloting
- Ballots will be prepared with all eligible candidates nominated in the General Election for Newton Campus positions and for Executive and Liaison positions.
- All election ballots will be counted on Wednesday 6 April 2005.
- Each candidate will be allowed to have a scrutineer at the ballot counting.
- Only members whose home campus is Newton and who did not vote at Surrey, Richmond, or Langley on 24 or 25 February will be allowed to cast ballots in this re-balloting.