

BRIEFING NOTE: Ontario Election 2018 Protocols & Process

March 20, 2018

Under Ontario's fixed 4-year election cycle, the next Ontario provincial election is scheduled for June 7, 2018. The following note outlines considerations for planning certain IESO actions, initiatives and external communications during the period leading up to and after the election.

Examples of activities that will be limited during and immediately leading up to the writ period include:

- Issuing reports;
- Launching initiatives, programs, or engagements;
- Certain public facing activities under ongoing initiatives;
- Certain announcements;
- External speaking engagements,
- News releases and other external communications,
- Advertising

External communications will generally be restricted to urgent and time-sensitive messages, statutory or regulatory requirements, or mandatory communications to comply with the Market Rules.

Expect that the limitations on these activities will become increasingly restrictive as the writ period approaches. The IESO also expects that limitations will persist through Summer 2018 and will depend on election results and degree of readiness of the new government (whether the same or different party).

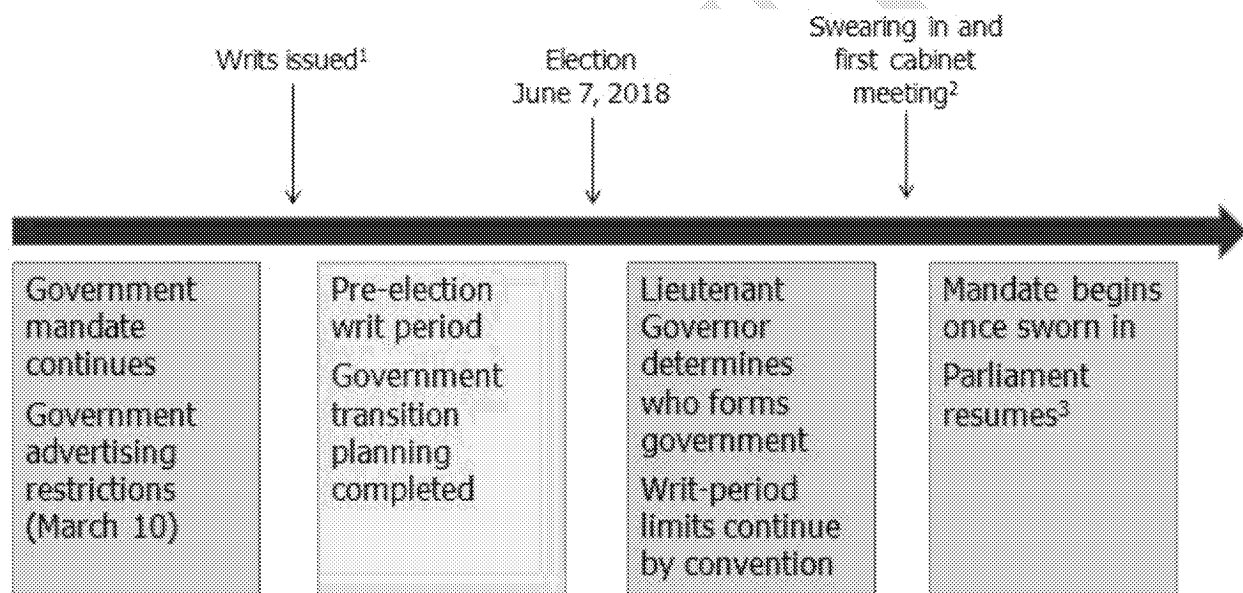
IESO staff should consult with Government Affairs before planning any such external facing activities during the writ period, and those expected in the second half of April.

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BACKGROUND

Writ period

- The election process starts when the Premier visits the Lieutenant Governor and advises that they would like to call an election.
- The Writs of Election, which are formal legal documents prepared for each electoral district, are put together by the Chief Electoral Officer and signed by the Lieutenant Governor. They are the official notice that the election process is under-way.
- Once the Writs of Election are issued, the campaign period begins and lasts about 28 days.



¹ The writ period must be between 28 and 35 days and so the election can start anytime between May 2 and 9

² Estimated June 28 to July 12 and depends on election result

³ Date uncertain but could be as early as July 2018

Government activity continues while Legislature is dissolved

- Ministers keep their technical legal authority leading up to, during, and immediately after election
- Continue as Ministers until the Lieutenant Governor accepts their resignation
- Ministers remain available to their Deputies during the election, particularly if circumstances require immediate activity
- Cabinet meetings suspended except for urgent items

Role of the Public Service

- Government support continues during election period
- Prepare briefing materials to ensure a smooth transition of government (returning or new)

Post-Election Period

- Will be a new Parliament and a new Executive Council, whether the same or new party
- Time to form the new government can vary depending on the election outcome (typically two to five weeks)
- Policy and political issues can also vary depending on the election outcome, e.g., majority or minority