

Chief Electoral Officer J.M. Hamel expects to spend \$27 million of public funds at the next election -- on printing, salaries and fees for electoral officials, transportation and other costs.

The campaign expenses of candidates and political parties will exceed several million dollars. These funds come from private sources -- the candidates themselves, friends and well-wishers, and party supporters.

Individual candidates must keep records and, after the election, must declare their electoral expenses. They are required to appoint official agents to receive all contributions and make all disbursements on their behalf. There is at present no limit to the amount they may spend trying to get elected. In recent elections, statements have shown expenses ranging from a few hundred dollars to about \$92,000.

Legislation already approved by Parliament -- but not in force until August 1, 1974 -- will have the effect of limiting campaign spending. At the same time, candidates will be reimbursed from the public treasury for part of their campaign expenses.

Large expenditures are required to finance the national campaigns of the parties, but these, too, will henceforth be limited by law. They cover advertising in newspapers and other publications, radio and television broadcasts, printing and distribution of literature, travel expenses of the leaders and party organizers, and rental of office space and meeting-halls.

Partisan radio and television broadcasts are prohibited on election day and the day before. Owing to time-zone differences, election results in Eastern Canada are known before voting ends in the West. Federal law therefore prohibits the publication or broadcast in any province, before polls close in that province, of the result of voting in any other electoral district in Canada. This is intended to prevent late-voting Westerners from being influenced by results already made public in the East.

Compilation of results

As soon as the polls close, counting of ballots begins. The deputy returning officer and his assistant are responsible for counting the votes in each polling division. These counts are transmitted to the constituency returning officer and made public as they are completed. Within a few hours of the closing of the polls, the result in most constituencies is known. The national outcome of the election is usually known by midnight.