

Chapter 693

SIGNS

ARTICLE I Third-Party Signs

- § 693-1. Definitions.
- § 693-2. Use prohibited near portions of certain highways.
- § 693-3. Applicability of other by-law provisions.
- § 693-4. Conflicting provisions.

ARTICLE II Election Signs

- § 693-5. Definitions.
- § 693-6. General requirements.
- § 693-7. Election signs on public property.
- § 693-8. Election signs on private property.
- § 693-9. Timing.
- § 693-10. Removal of unlawful election signs.
- § 693-11. Payment methods.
- § 693-12. Use of City of Toronto logo.
- § 693-13. Offences.

- § 693-14. Liability for damages.
- § 693-15. Authority of City Solicitor.

ARTICLE III Temporary Signs

- § 693-16. Definitions.
- § 693-17. Temporary signs; general requirements.
- § 693-18. Portable signs; A-frame signs.
- § 693-19. Mobile signs.
- § 693-20. New development signs.
- § 693-21. Real estate signs.
- § 693-22. Open house directional signs.
- § 693-23. Garage sale signs.
- § 693-24. Ground-mounted signs.
- § 693-25. Charity; religious institution; community organization; school.
- § 693-26. Removal of unlawful signs; costs of City removal.
- § 693-27. Offences.

[HISTORY: Adopted by the Council of the City of Toronto as indicated in article histories. Amendments noted where applicable.]

GENERAL REFERENCES

Fees and charges — See Ch. 441.

TORONTO MUNICIPAL CODE
SIGNS

§ 693-1

ARTICLE I
Third-Party Signs
[Adopted 1998-06-05 by By-law No. 280-1998¹]

§ 693-1. Definitions.

As used in this article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

HIGHWAY — Includes the area between the lateral property lines of the highway.

SIGN — Any device, structure or medium that uses any colour, form, graphic, illumination, symbol or writing to convey information of any kind to the public.

THIRD-PARTY SIGN — Any sign other than one which is intended to advertise or promote a business, product or service of the owner or occupant of the land on which the sign is located, but does not include the following:

- A. A sign which advertises for sale the property on which it is located.
- B. A directional sign at each point of ingress or egress from the land.

§ 693-2. Use prohibited near portions of certain highways.

No person shall erect or use any third-party signs on any of the lands within 400 metres of any limit of the following sections of highway:

- A. F.G. Gardiner Expressway from Highway 427 to the Humber River, transferred from the Province by Order in Council 534/97.
- B. Highway 27 from Highway 401 to Steeles Avenue, transferred from the Province by Order in Council 535/97.
- C. Highway 2A from Highway 401 to Old Highway 2 (Kingston Road), and Highway 2 from Highway 401 to the City of Toronto and Durham boundary, transferred from the Province by Order in Council 647/97.
- D. The portion of Highway 427 referred to as “Eglinton Avenue,” from The East Mall to a point 0.5 kilometre east, and transferred from the Province by Order in Council 533/97.

§ 693-3. Applicability of other by-law provisions.

With the exception of those by-law provisions relating to third-party signs, all other by-laws of the City shall continue to apply to the lands described in § 693-2 above.

¹ Editor’s Note: This by-law was passed under the authority of paragraph 146 of section 210 of the *Municipal Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.45.

§ 693-4. Conflicting provisions.

Where this article conflicts with any other by-law, this article prevails to the extent of the conflict.

ARTICLE II
Election Signs
[Adopted 2000-06-07 by By-law No. 316-2000²]

§ 693-5. Definitions.

As used in this article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

CAMPAIGN OFFICE — A building or portion of a building which is used by a candidate or an agent of a candidate as part of an election campaign and where a candidate's campaign staff are normally present and the public may enter to obtain information regarding the candidate. [Added 2004-12-02 by By-law No. 1081-2004]

CANDIDATE — A person who is running or has expressed an intention to run in a municipal, provincial or federal election, and shall be deemed to include a person seeking to influence other persons to vote for or against any candidate or any question or by-law submitted to the electors under section 8 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.³ [Amended 2004-12-02 by By-law No. 1081-2004]

ELECTION SIGN — Any sign:

- A. Advertising or promoting a candidate in a federal, provincial or municipal election, including an election of a local board or commission; or
- B. Intended to influence persons to vote for or against any candidate or any question or by-law submitted to the electors under section 8 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.⁴ [Amended 2004-12-02 by By-law No. 1081-2004]

HIGHWAY: [Added 2004-12-02 by By-law No. 1081-2004]

- A. A common and public highway including any sidewalk, untravelled portion of the road allowance, bridge, trestle, viaduct or other structure forming part of or located on the highway and includes a portion of a highway;
- B. But does not include a structure, including a bus shelter and a municipal garbage container, if the structure, shelter or container is not owned by the

² Editor's Note: This by-law was passed under the authority of paragraphs 146 to 149, inclusive, of section 210, and paragraph 3 of section 308, of the *Municipal Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.45*. This by-law also provided that it shall supersede the election sign provisions of any other by-law.

³ Editor's Note: See S.O. 1996, c. 32, Sched.

⁴ Editor's Note: See S.O. 1996, c. 32, Sched.

TORONTO MUNICIPAL CODE
SIGNS

§ 693-6

City or is subject to the rights of a third party under an agreement with the City.

PUBLIC PROPERTY: [Amended 2004-12-02 by By-law No. 1081-2004]

- A. Property owned by or under the control of the City of Toronto or any of its agencies, boards or commissions, including highways, and shall be deemed to include public utility poles, regardless of whether the poles are owned by or under the control of the City and shall also be deemed to include bus shelters, municipal garbage containers or other structures, located on a highway regardless of whether the shelters, containers or structures are owned by the City.
- B. The following shall not be deemed to be public property:
 - (1) Property owned by a corporation of which the City is the sole shareholder; or
 - (2) Property owned by the City and leased to another person or entity for a period of 21 years or longer.

PUBLIC UTILITY POLE — A pole owned or controlled by an entity which provides a municipal or public utility service, including the City, Bell Canada, Enbridge Consumers Gas, Toronto Hydro, Hydro One, Inc., and any subsidiaries thereof. **[Amended 2004-12-02 by By-law No. 1081-2004]**

§ 693-6. General requirements.

- A. No person shall erect, attach, place or display an election sign except as permitted by this article.
- B. Election signs shall not be:
 - (1) Illuminated; or
 - (2) Attached to trees.
- C. No person shall deface or wilfully cause damage to a lawfully erected election sign.

§ 693-7. Election signs on public property.

[Amended 2004-12-02 by By-law No. 1081-2004]

- A. Election signs are not permitted anywhere on public property other than on:
 - (1) A highway, or a public utility pole located on a highway, provided there is compliance with the requirements of Subsection B(1) and Subsection C(1); or

- (2) A structure, including a bus shelter and a municipal garbage container, located on a highway, if permitted under the terms and conditions of any agreement between the owner or operator of the structure and the City or one of its agencies, boards or commissions, and provided there is compliance with the requirements of Subsection B(1) and Subsections C(1)(e) to (g).
- B. Prerequisites for display of signs; refund of deposit.
- (1) No candidate or his or her agent shall erect, attach, place or display or permit the erection, attachment, placement or display of election signs which would otherwise be permitted under Subsection C unless:
 - (a) The candidate has paid an election sign deposit of \$250 to the City; and
 - (b) (Reserved)⁵
 - (2) Subject to any deduction made under § 693-10B(1) of this article, the person who paid to the City an election sign deposit on behalf of a particular candidate is entitled to have the amount of the election sign deposit refunded no later than 90 days after voting day.
- C. Regulations for signs on highways; removal of signs.
- (1) Subject to Subsection B, election signs may be erected or displayed on highways, except highways upon which pedestrians are prohibited, if:
 - (a) The signs are no larger than 1.2 square metres (12.92 square feet) in area and no higher than two metres above ground level;
 - (b) On highways without sidewalks, the signs are not located within 1.5 metres of the curb or the edge of pavement;
 - (c) On highways with sidewalks, the signs are not located between the curb and the sidewalk;
 - (d) The signs are not located within 15 metres of an intersection or pedestrian crossover;
 - (e) The signs are not located on a median or island installed within the highway;
 - (f) The signs do not interfere with the safe operation of vehicular traffic or with the safety of pedestrians;
 - (g) The signs are not erected adjacent to a voting place, City park or a facility that is owned or operated by the City; and

⁵ Editor's Note: Former § 693-7B(1)(b), regarding timely payments under § 693-10C, was repealed 2006-09-27 by By-law No. 862-2006.

TORONTO MUNICIPAL CODE
SIGNS

§ 693-8

- (h) The signs are erected with the consent of the owner or occupant of the abutting property.
- (2) No person shall pull down or remove an election sign erected or displayed in accordance with Subsection C(1) except with the consent of the candidate to whom the sign relates or the owner or occupant of the abutting property.

§ 693-8. Election signs on private property.

[Amended 2004-12-02 by By-law No. 1081-2004]

- A. Election signs may be erected or displayed on private property if:
 - (1) The signs are no larger than 1.2 square metres (12.92 square feet) in area and no higher than two metres above ground level, save and except signs on campaign offices;
 - (2) The signs do not interfere with the safe operation of vehicular traffic or with the safety of pedestrians; and
 - (3) The signs are erected with the consent of the owner or occupant of the property.
- B. Despite §§ 693-6B(1) and 693-8A(1), an election sign may be displayed on an illuminated billboard provided that each billboard has been installed under the authority of a permit issued under the applicable sign by-law.
- C. Despite § 693-8A(1), election signs no larger than 1.2 square metres (12.92 square feet) in area may be displayed higher than two metres above ground level on buildings on private property if such signs are displayed indoors.
- D. A candidate or an agent of a candidate may erect directional signs to identify the location of a campaign office provided that the directional signs are not designed or intended to be election signs and provided that the directional signs comply with all applicable by-laws.
- E. No person shall pull down or remove a lawfully erected election sign on private property without the consent of the candidate to whom the sign relates or the owner or occupant of the property upon which the sign is erected.

§ 693-9. Timing.

- A. Election signs shall not be erected or displayed for a federal or provincial election until the day the writ of election is issued.
- B. Election signs shall not be erected or displayed for a municipal election until 25 days prior to voting day.

- C. Despite Subsections A and B, election signs may be erected on campaign offices up to 90 days prior to voting day provided that: **[Amended 2004-12-02 by By-law No. 1081-2004]**
- (1) In the case of a candidate for the position of Councillor or Trustee, that right shall extend to no more than one campaign office in the ward where the candidate is running for election;
 - (2) In the case of a candidate for the position of Mayor, that right shall extend to no more than four campaign offices.
- D. Election signs shall be removed within 72 hours after the completion of voting on voting day.

§ 693-10. Removal of unlawful election signs.

A. Removal of signs by City; storage; retrieval.

- (1) If a sign is erected or displayed in violation of this article, the appropriate City officials may cause the sign to be removed immediately without notice.
- (2) Signs that have been removed under Subsection A(1) shall be stored by the City for a minimum of 30 days, during which time the owner of the sign or the owner's agent may retrieve the sign by:
 - (a) Paying any amounts owing to the City under this article; and
 - (b) Providing the City with a signed acknowledgement and release in a form acceptable to the City.
- (3) Any sign that has been removed by the City and stored for more than 30 days may be destroyed or otherwise disposed of by the City without notice and without compensation to the owner of the sign.
- (4) Despite Subsection A(2), the City shall not be obliged to store signs made entirely of paper or other lightweight material and may destroy these signs immediately upon removal.

B. Costs for removal and storage of signs.

- (1) Subject to Subsection B(2), if an election sign is removed from public property in accordance with Subsection A, the candidate to whom the sign relates will be charged a fee of \$25 to be deducted from the refundable portion of the candidate's election sign deposit to cover the cost of removing the sign. **[Amended 2005-06-16 by By-law No. 536-2005]**
- (2) The fee described in Subsection B(1) will be waived if, within 30 days from the date of receiving a notice of fees due to the City under this article, the

TORONTO MUNICIPAL CODE
SIGNS

§ 693-10

candidate provides a sworn statement to the City Clerk indicating that neither the candidate nor, to the best of the candidate's knowledge, any person acting on behalf of the candidate was responsible for the unlawful erection or display of the election sign. **[Amended 2004-12-02 by By-law No. 1081-2004]**

- (3) If a candidate is in violation of § 693-7B(1), the candidate shall, in addition to any fine or other penalty which may be imposed for an offence under this article, be required to pay to the City the cost of removing any of the candidate's election signs erected or displayed on public property, which amount may be recovered by legal action or in like manner as municipal taxes. **[Amended 2004-12-02 by By-law No. 1081-2004]**
- (4) Cost for removal and storage. **[Amended 2000-10-12 by By-law No. 958-2000]**
 - (a) If an election sign is removed from private property in accordance with Subsection A, any person responsible for erecting or displaying or causing the erection or display of the sign in contravention of this article shall, in addition to any fine or other penalty which may be imposed for an offence under this article, be required to pay to the City:
 - [1] The cost of removing the sign; and
 - [2] If a sign has been stored, a per-sign storage charge of \$2 per day or part thereof, or \$0.50 per square metre of sign face area per day or part thereof, whichever is the greater, the sign face area to be the total area of all sign faces on the sign.
 - (b) The amounts in Subsection B(4)(a)[1] and [2] may be recovered by legal action or in like manner as municipal taxes.
- (5) If an election sign has been stored after being removed from public property, the candidate to whom the sign relates shall pay a storage charge as outlined in Subsection B(4), which amount may be recovered by legal action or in like manner as municipal taxes.

C. When costs for removal exceed deposit; notice.

- (1) If the costs incurred by the City in removing a candidate's signs from public property exceed the election sign deposit paid by the candidate, the City shall notify the candidate, who, 30 days after the election date, shall pay: **[Amended 2004-12-02 by By-law No. 1081-2004; 2005-06-16 by By-law No. 536-2005; 2005-09-30 by By-law No. 817-2005⁶; 2006-09-27 by By-law No. 862-2006]**
 - (a) The outstanding costs of removal at a cost of \$25 per sign.

⁶ Editor's Note: This by-law provided that it comes into force 2004-12-02.

- (2) Notice under Subsection C(1) shall be given to the candidate by registered mail or facsimile transmission and shall be deemed to be received the next business day.
- (3) A candidate who has received notice under Subsection C(1) shall be informed of the outstanding costs of removal which he or she is required to pay.

§ 693-11. Payment methods.

[Added 2004-12-02 by By-law No. 1081-2004⁷]

The election sign deposit or other debt owed to the City under this article shall only be payable by cash, certified cheque or money order.

§ 693-12. Use of City of Toronto logo.

[Amended 2004-12-02 by By-law No. 1081-2004]

No person shall display on any election sign a logo, trademark or official mark, in whole or in part, owned or licensed by the City.

§ 693-13. Offences.

Any person who contravenes any provision of this article is guilty of an offence and upon conviction is liable to a fine or penalty as provided for in the *Provincial Offences Act*.⁸

§ 693-14. Liability for damages.

The provisions of this article shall not be construed as relieving or limiting the responsibility or liability of any person erecting or owning any sign for personal injury or property damage resulting from the placing of such signs or resulting from the negligence or wilful acts of such person, or his or her agents or employees, in the construction, erection, maintenance, repair or removal of any such signs.

§ 693-15. Authority of City Solicitor.

[Added 2004-12-02 by By-law No. 1081-2004]

Where a candidate has failed to pay any amount owed to the City under this article, and the outstanding amounts cannot be added to a candidate's tax roll, the City Solicitor may initiate court action to collect the outstanding amount, may appeal any decision where

⁷ Editor's Note: This by-law also provided for the renumbering of former §§ 693-11 through 693-13 as §§ 693-12 through 693-14, respectively.

⁸ Editor's Note: This section was passed under the authority of section 320 of the *Municipal Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.45. Under section 61 of the *Provincial Offences Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.33, a person convicted of an offence is liable to a fine of not more than \$5,000.

TORONTO MUNICIPAL CODE
SIGNS

§ 693-16

warranted, may discontinue or settle such claim or action where it is concluded by the City Solicitor, in consultation with the City Clerk and the Executive Director of Municipal Licensing and Standards, or successor official, that it is reasonable to do so and may execute any documents as required to discontinue or settle the claim or action.

ARTICLE III
Temporary Signs
[Adopted 2005-07-21 by By-law No. 698-2005⁹]

§ 693-16. Definitions.

As used in this article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

A-FRAME SIGN — A self-supporting structure shaped like an “A” with one or two sign faces, with a base dimension not more than 60 centimetres in width and 75 centimetres in length, and a height not less than 50 centimetres or not greater than one metre.

BUSINESS OPERATOR — A person who operates, manages, supervises, runs or controls any premises or part thereof in which services or materials are furnished, performed, provided, solicited, or given in pursuance of a trade or occupation, or other commercial, industrial or professional activities. [Added 2008-10-30 by By-law No. 1162-2008]

BUSINESS OWNER — Includes, in the case of premises or part of premises in which services or materials are furnished, performed, provided, solicited, or given in pursuance of a trade or occupation, or other commercial, industrial or professional activities: [Added 2008-10-30 by By-law No. 1162-2008]

- A. A person who has the right to possess or occupy the premises or part thereof; and
- B. A person who possesses or occupies the premises or part thereof.

CHARITY — A registered charity, as defined in subsection 248(1) of the federal *Income Tax Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. 1 (5th Supp.), or successor legislation, that has a registration number issued by the Canada Revenue Agency, or successor agency.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION — A non-profit group of persons organized for the advancement of activities of a civic, cultural or recreational nature.

ELECTION SIGN — An election sign as defined in § 693-5.

GARAGE SALE SIGN — A sign advertising the sale of merchandise in a private sale held on a property zoned residential.

⁹ Editor's Note: This article was passed under the authority of section 99 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25. This by-law stated that it comes into force 60 days after enactment (2005-09-20).

GROUND-MOUNTED SIGN — A sign upheld by one or more supports constructed or driven into the ground for the sign's exclusive support but excludes both a real estate sign and a sign that is affixed to the ground by a self-supporting structure that has a permanent foundation below grade or above grade.

GROUPING OF NEW DEVELOPMENT SIGNS — A group of not more than five new development signs all of which are located within a span of not more than 10 metres in length.

ILLUMINATED — Lighting of the sign by artificial means and "illumination" has a corresponding meaning.

LICENSED — Licensed under the provisions of any by-law licensing sign businesses and companies in the City.

MOBILE SIGN:

A. A sign that is:

- (1) Temporary;
- (2) Designed for the rearrangement of copy on the sign face; and
- (3) Part of, or attached to, a readily re-locatable wheeled trailer or frame without wheels.

B. Does not include a sign attached to a vehicle where the principal use of that vehicle is the transportation of people, goods or other materials.

NEW DEVELOPMENT SIGN — A sign that is not permanently installed or affixed to the ground and where the purpose of the sign is to direct attention to the sale of new developments.

OPEN HOUSE DIRECTIONAL SIGN — A sign intended to direct traffic to a residence for sale or lease, but does not include a new development sign.¹⁰

PORTABLE SIGN — A rigid free-standing moveable sign not fastened by any means to the ground or any structure, and includes an A-frame sign.

REAL ESTATE SIGN — An on-premises sign advertising the sale, rent or lease of the premises.

RELIGIOUS INSTITUTION — An association of persons that is registered as a charity under the federal *Income Tax Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. 1 (5th Supp.), or successor legislation, and is organized for the advancement of religion and for the conduct of religious worship, services or rites.

¹⁰ Editor's Note: The former definition of "owner," which immediately followed this definition, was repealed 2008-10-30 by By-law No. 1162-2008.

TORONTO MUNICIPAL CODE
SIGNS

§ 693-16

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY — Property that is zoned residential and “residential premises” has a corresponding meaning.

SCHOOL — A “school” or a “private school” as defined under the Ontario *Education Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.2, or successor legislation.

SIGHT TRIANGLE:

- A. In the case of a corner lot, the triangular space formed by the street lines and a line drawn from a point in one street line to a point in the other street line, each such point being 7.5 metres measured along the street from the point of intersection of the street lines where the street is a collector road, and 15 metres, where the street is a major or arterial road;
- B. Any other sight triangle that is set out in a site plan agreement; or
- C. A sight triangle otherwise approved by the City.

SIGN OWNER — Includes: **[Added 2008-10-30 by By-law No. 1162-2008]**

- A. A temporary sign provider who lawfully owns the temporary sign.
- B. A person:
 - (1) Described on the temporary sign;
 - (2) Whose name and address or telephone number appears on the temporary sign;
 - (3) Who installed the temporary sign;
 - (4) Who is in lawful control of the temporary sign; or
 - (5) Who benefits from the message on the temporary sign.

SIGN PERMIT — A sign permit issued under this article for the legal placement of a temporary sign.

SIGN PERMIT IDENTIFIER — An attachment issued by the City signifying the issuance of a valid sign permit by the City.

STREET — A highway, road allowance or a lane, and includes the surface, grassed area, boulevard, ditch, curb, gutter, sidewalk, and any other structure constructed on it by the City or with the City’s approval.

TEMPORARY SIGN — A sign that is not permanently installed or affixed to any structure or building, and:

- A. Includes:
 - (1) A mobile sign;

- (2) A portable sign;
 - (3) A real estate sign;
 - (4) An open house directional sign;
 - (5) A new development sign;
 - (6) A garage sale sign; and
 - (7) A ground-mounted sign.
- B. Does not include a poster.

TEMPORARY SIGN PROVIDER — A person who carries on or engages in the business of: [**Added 2008-10-30 by By-law No. 1162-2008**]

- A. Installing temporary signs of behalf of others; or
- B. Leasing or renting temporary signs to others.

ZONE — Any zone established in zoning by-laws of the City and includes all special exceptions to the zones and “zoned” has a corresponding meaning.

§ 693-17. Temporary signs; general requirements.

- A. General.
 - (1) No person shall erect, display, place or maintain a temporary sign except as permitted by this article.
 - (2) Temporary signs shall comply with all other applicable City by-laws.
 - (3) Where the provisions of this article are in conflict with any other by-law applicable to temporary signage, this article shall prevail to the extent of the conflict.
- B. Temporary sign permit.
 - (1) No person shall display, place, alter or erect or cause to be displayed, placed, altered or erected, any temporary sign on public or privately owned lands, without obtaining a permit, except in the case of the following temporary signs:
 - (a) An official sign required by or erected under a federal or provincial statute or a by-law;
 - (b) A real estate sign, if the sign is on the lot being advertised for real estate purposes and is removed within 30 days after the property is no longer for sale or lease;

TORONTO MUNICIPAL CODE
SIGNS

§ 693-17

- (c) An open house directional sign;
 - (d) Portable signs promoting citizen participation in civic, charitable or non-profit activities and events if:
 - [1] The signs are located at the site where the activity or event is taking place and where there is no existing signage; and
 - [2] The signs are erected no more than one week prior to the event taking place and removed within 48 hours of the conclusion of the activity or event;
 - (e) A garage sale sign; and
 - (f) Election signs, as permitted in Article II of this chapter.
- (2) An applicant for a temporary sign permit shall furnish to the City the information required by the City to process the permit, including:
- (a) The name and address of the sign owner and, if applicable, the temporary sign provider of the temporary sign; **[Amended 2008-10-30 by By-law No. 1162-2008]**
 - (b) The name and address of the property owner or business owner or business operator applying for the permit; **[Amended 2008-10-30 by By-law No. 1162-2008]**
 - (c) The municipal address of the premises upon which the sign is to be located;
 - (d) A site plan or survey, identifying the location of the temporary sign on the premises;
 - (e) The commencement and termination dates for the placement of the temporary sign;
 - (f) A contact name and number for the individual responsible for the temporary sign and written authorization from the property owner or management company to permit the applicant to have the temporary sign located and placed on the premises;
 - (g) The completed application; and
 - (h) The permit fee for the temporary sign set out in Chapter 441, Fees and Charges. **[Amended 2006-12-06 by By-law No. 12-2007¹¹]**
- (3) Applicants for a temporary sign permit shall provide the City with a general liability insurance certificate in the amount of no less than \$2,000,000.00 per

¹¹ Editor's Note: This by-law came into force 2006-09-27.

occurrence, naming the City as an additional insured and having provisions for cross-liability and severability of interest and the insurer or an authorized agent of the insurer must advise the City in writing in advance of a policy cancellation.

- (4) The refusal of an application for a temporary sign permit based on failure to comply with any provision of this article is not appealable or reviewable.
- (5) Despite Subsection B(4), if an application for a mobile or portable sign permit is received for a location within a registered Business Improvement Area (BIA) District and if the application is refused as a result of an objection made by a BIA Board of Management, based on its approved criteria, the refusal may be appealed.
- (6) Appeals made under Subsection B(5) shall be considered by the local community council that shall make the final decision, under delegated authority, or shall make recommendations to Council for final decision. **[Amended 2007-03-06 by By-law No. 176-2007]**
- (6.1) A final decision made under § 693-17B(6) is not appealable or reviewable. **[Added 2007-03-06 by By-law No. 176-2007]**
- (7) Where the City has refused an application for a temporary sign permit based on failure to comply with any provision of this article, there shall be no refund of any permit fee paid.

C. Revocation of permit.

- (1) The City may revoke a permit issued under this article, with no refund, where:
 - (a) The sign does not comply with this article or any other applicable by-law or legislation;
 - (b) The permit has been issued in error by the City; or
 - (c) The permit has been issued under false, mistaken, incorrect, or misleading information.
- (2) Appeals relating to temporary sign permit revocations may be considered by the local community council that shall make the final decision, under delegated authority, or shall make recommendations to Council for final decision. **[Amended 2007-03-06 by By-law No. 176-2007]**
- (2.1) A final decision made under § 693-17C(2) is not appealable or reviewable. **[Added 2007-03-06 by By-law No. 176-2007]**

D. Location.

TORONTO MUNICIPAL CODE
SIGNS

§ 693-17

- (1) Temporary signs may only be displayed or erected on lands zoned commercial, agricultural, institutional or mixed-uses and not on lands zoned solely for residential uses or industrial uses.
- (2) Despite Subsection D(1), real estate signs, open house directional signs and new development signs may be displayed or erected in any zone.
- (3) Despite Subsection D(1), garage sale signs may only be displayed or erected on lands zoned solely for residential uses.
- (4) Despite Subsections D(1), (2) and (3), Council may, subject to such conditions deemed necessary, including public consultation within the local community, prohibit any or all temporary signs within specified areas of the City.
- (5) Except as permitted by this article, no temporary sign shall be displayed or erected on, over, partly on or partly over, public property (for example, the road allowance, parks, community centres and public squares).
- (6) Despite Subsection D(5), the following are permitted on public property:
 - (a) An official sign required by a public authority;
 - (b) A work zone sign; and
 - (c) A non-illuminated directional sign for a religious institution.
- (7) Temporary signs shall not obstruct or be located in a required parking space.
- (8) The placement of temporary signs shall allow for 2.1 metres (seven feet) of unobstructed sidewalk space, and be located so as to avoid the disruption of traffic including access to a planter or bike rack.
- (9) Temporary signs shall not be:
 - (a) Displayed or erected on any centre median, traffic island or centre boulevard within the road allowance;
 - (b) Displayed or erected within a sight triangle;
 - (c) Affixed in any way to a utility pole, tree, official sign (such as, parking signs) or other public property;
 - (d) Displayed or erected within three metres (9.8 feet) of a driveway entrance or exit or a side property line.
- (10) Temporary signs shall be located as follows:
 - (a) Except as permitted by this article, on private property and not closer than one metre (3.2 feet) from a municipal sidewalk;

- (b) No closer than nine metres (29.5 feet) from the edge of the nearest traffic control device and shall not pose a line of sight issue by impeding a pedestrian's or driver's view of the traffic control device; and
- (c) No closer than nine metres (29.5 feet) from the closest edge of the nearest paved portion of an intersection and shall not pose a line of sight issue by impeding a pedestrian's or driver's view of the intersection.

E. Maintenance and safety.

Every temporary sign shall be displayed, placed, erected or maintained in a good state of repair and shall not become, and shall not be altered to become, in the opinion of the Executive Director of Municipal Licensing and Standards, or his or her designate, deteriorated, damaged, unsafe, defective, upset, dislodged, inoperative or with no message to remain placed, erected or displayed on a premises or property.

F. Removal of sign.

The business owner or business operator shall: **[Amended 2008-10-30 by By-law No. 1162-2008]**

- (1) Remove any temporary sign located on City property, if required to do so under this article;
- (2) Not obstruct the City from entering any portion of the boulevard for the purposes of snow removal and any other maintenance, installation or repair.

§ 693-18. Portable signs; A-frame signs.

A. Portable sign permit.

- (1) Subject to the exceptions listed in § 693-17B(1)(a) to (f) inclusive, every person displaying or erecting a portable sign shall obtain the following:
 - (a) A permit, if the person operates a business that does not require a licence; or
 - (b) An attachment to the applicable business licence if the person operates a business that requires a licence under Chapter 545, Licensing.
- (2) A person applying for an attachment to a business licence or for a permit for a portable sign shall provide the City with the information listed in § 693-17B(2) and the following:
 - (a) A site plan showing the dimensions of the portable sign and the location of the portable sign on the premises; and

TORONTO MUNICIPAL CODE
SIGNS

§ 693-18

- (b) The distance from the portable sign to the nearest street line, sidewalk, intersection, crosswalk, pedestrian crossover, corner, traffic light, driveway and street furnishings.
- (3) When the City authorizes a portable sign under this article, the sign owner of the sign shall display on the sign a sign permit identifier issued by the City as evidence that the sign has been authorized. **[Amended 2008-10-30 by By-law No. 1162-2008]**
- (4) No permit for a portable sign shall be issued in relation to a premises with a frontage of less than 20 feet.

B. Location.

- (1) When portable signs are displayed or erected on public property as permitted by this article, the placement of the signs shall allow for 2.1 metres (seven feet) of unobstructed sidewalk space or, where City-approved installations are located on the sidewalk, shall be located so as not to obstruct the remaining portion of the sidewalk.
- (2) Subject to Subsection B(1), portable signs shall only be displayed or erected on the road allowance abutting the business to which the sign relates, if there is insufficient area on private property in front of the main front wall of a building or side wall if the building is situated on a corner lot.
- (3) Portable signs shall be located against the front wall of the premises directly adjacent to the business which it is advertising or where City-approved installations are located on the sidewalk and the sign is permitted on public property, the portable signs shall be located so as not to obstruct the remaining portion of the sidewalk.
- (4) Only the business owner or business operator of the ground floor storefront may display a portable sign on the sidewalk adjacent to the premises. **[Amended 2008-10-30 by By-law No. 1162-2008]**
- (5) No business that has licensed a portion of the public right-of-way for a boulevard café or for marketing purposes may locate an A-frame sign outside the limits of the area so licensed.
- (6) No A-frame sign shall be located in an area that has tall grass or weeds, litter, trash or is generally unkept, and it shall be the responsibility of the business owner or business operator of the business being advertised in the sign to keep the property free of such conditions. **[Amended 2008-10-30 by By-law No. 1162-2008]**
- (7) A sign that does not comply with Subsection B(6) shall be removed immediately.

- (8) All lettering on an A-frame sign shall be done in a professional, workmanlike manner and it shall be the responsibility of the sign owner of the sign to provide a photograph or replica (design) of the front and rear face of the sign when making an application for a permit. **[Amended 2008-10-30 by By-law No. 1162-2008]**
- (9) No A-frame signs shall be displayed or erected along the right-of-way areas along Bloor Street between Avenue Road and Sherbourne Avenue, or along Yonge Street south of Davenport Road.

C. General requirements for portable signs.

- (1) No more than one portable sign shall be displayed or erected for each business location.
- (2) Every portable sign relating to a business may only be displayed during the hours that that business is open and operating.
- (3) A portable sign shall not be animated, illuminated, have flashing lights, emit sound or have an electronic device to create or simulate motion, nor have any attachments adding to its height or width.

§ 693-19. Mobile signs.

A. Mobile sign permit.

- (1) A permit for a mobile sign shall be valid for a period of 30 days.
- (2) No more than three mobile sign permits shall be issued for a single business location in a calendar year.
- (3) If a permit for a mobile sign has been issued for a business location, a subsequent permit will not be issued until at least 30 days have elapsed from the date of expiry of the previous permit.
- (4) A person to whom a permit is issued for a mobile sign shall ensure that the permit expiry date is prominently displayed on the sign so as to be visible from a distance of not less than 15 meters.

B. Location.

- (1) Mobile signs shall be located completely on private property.
- (2) Mobile signs shall be located in front of the business that the sign is advertising.
- (3) Mobile signs shall not be displayed or erected on vacant land.

TORONTO MUNICIPAL CODE
SIGNS

§ 693-20

- (4) No mobile sign shall be located in an area that has tall grass or weeds, litter, trash or is generally unkept, and it shall be the responsibility of the business owner or business operator of the business being advertised in the sign to keep the property free of such conditions. **[Amended 2008-10-30 by By-law No. 1162-2008]**
- (5) A sign that does not comply with Subsection B(4) shall be removed immediately.

C. Safety.

All mobile signs shall comply with minimum safety and design requirements, including the following:

- (1) Each sign shall have no more than two sign faces, each having a maximum area of five square metres (53.8 square feet);
- (2) The sign lettering shall be only black on white or white on black in the case of mobile signs having an area of 1.5 square metres, or more;
- (3) If backlit, the sign shall be Canadian Standards Association (CSA), hydro-approved battery or CSA hydro-approved power generator driven;
- (4) There shall be a minimum set distance between mobile signs so that each sign shall not be placed closer than 23 metres (75.5 feet) to another mobile sign located on the same lot or an adjoining lot; and
- (5) The sign shall not exceed 2.5 metres (8.2 feet) in height above grade and 3.05 metres (10 feet) in width.

§ 693-20. New development signs.

A. Permit.

- (1) New development signs will be authorized on an annual permit basis, subject to compliance with this article.
- (2) New development sign permits will be valid for no more than one year and may be renewed annually.
- (3) As evidence that a permit has been obtained for a new development sign, a sign permit identifier will be issued by the City and shall be posted by the person to whom the permit was issued in a designated place on the sign.

B. Location; ratio.

- (1) The number of new development signs shall not exceed 10 signs for every project and shall be limited to groupings of not more than five signs.

- (2) The groupings referred to in Subsection B(1) shall be:
 - (a) Restricted to two corners of a street intersection;
 - (b) Restricted to two on each street block and not placed closer than 100 metres from any other grouping of new development signs on the same side of the street; and
 - (c) Not placed adjacent to residential property except for the rear property line of the lot or a lot that is undeveloped.

C. Timing.

- (1) No new development sign may be erected, nor shall an application for a permit for a new development sign be accepted, until Council has approved the required zoning by-laws pertaining to that development.
- (2) No new development sign shall be displayed or erected on a street before 5:00 p.m. on a Friday, or after 7:00 a.m. of the immediately following Monday.
- (3) For the purposes of Subsection C(2), where a Friday or Monday is a statutory holiday, the hours shall be extended only to the extent necessary to include the statutory holiday.

D. Physical criteria.

- (1) The sign structure of each new development sign shall:
 - (a) Contain no more than two sign faces, each sign face having a maximum area of 1.5 square metres (16 square feet); and
 - (b) Be a maximum height of 1.2 metres (four feet).
- (2) New development signs shall not be located where parking is permitted at the curbside.
- (3) New development signs shall not be animated, illuminated, have flashing lights, emit sound or have an electronic device to create or simulate motion, nor have any attachments adding to its overall dimensions.

§ 693-21. Real estate signs.

A. Number; size; location.

- (1) A maximum of one real estate sign shall be permitted on each street line of the property or unit of a building or condominium on which the sign is erected.
- (2) The sign face of a real estate sign shall not exceed one square metre (10.7 square feet) if erected on a property zoned residential and four square metres

TORONTO MUNICIPAL CODE
SIGNS

§ 693-22

(43.0 square feet) if erected on a property zoned agricultural, industrial or commercial.

- (3) Real estate signs permitted by this article to be located on public property shall be positioned so as to prevent damage to underground services.

B. Safety.

- (1) No real estate sign shall be erected or maintained at any location where it may interfere with, obstruct the view of, or be confused with an authorized traffic sign, signal or warning device.
- (2) No real estate sign shall be erected or maintained that may obstruct the view of any pedestrian or driver of a motor vehicle or may interfere with vehicular movement to such a degree as may endanger any person or risk damage to any vehicle.

§ 693-22. Open house directional signs.

A. Location.

- (1) Open house directional signs may be placed on the public road allowance excluding any centre median, traffic island or centre boulevard within the road allowance.
- (2) Open house directional signs shall not be located closer than 0.3 metre from the pedestrian sidewalk and from the vehicular travelled portion of the road.
- (3) Open house directional signs shall not be affixed to a utility pole, tree, official sign (such as, parking signs) or other public property.

B. Safety.

- (1) No open house directional sign shall be erected or maintained at any location where it may interfere with, obstruct the view of, or be confused with an authorized traffic sign, signal or warning device.
- (2) No open house directional sign shall be erected or maintained which may obstruct the view of any pedestrian or driver of a motor vehicle or which may interfere with vehicular movement to such a degree as may endanger any person or risk damage to any vehicle.

C. Size; timing; contact information.

- (1) Open house directional signs shall have a maximum sign face area of 0.5 square metre.
- (2) Open house directional signs may only be displayed during the hours of the open house and must be removed before dusk.

- (3) An open house directional sign shall include the address of the property for sale or lease and the date of the open house.

§ 693-23. Garage sale signs.

A. General.

- (1) A garage sale sign shall not exceed 0.6 metre (two feet) in any dimension and shall not exceed 0.36 square metre (3.9 square feet) in sign area.
- (2) A garage sale sign may be located in the untravelled portion of the road allowance excluding any centre median, traffic island or centre boulevard within the road allowance.
- (3) No garage sale sign may be displayed or erected before 5:00 p.m. of the day immediately before the garage sale or after 7:00 a.m. of the day immediately following the garage sale.
- (4) A garage sale sign shall include the address of the property where the garage sale will be located and the date of the garage sale.

§ 693-24. Ground-mounted signs.

A. Permit.

- (1) Subject to the exceptions listed in § 693-17B(1)(a) to (f) inclusive, every person displaying or erecting ground-mounted signs shall obtain the following:
 - (a) A permit if the person operates a business that does not require a licence; or
 - (b) An attachment to the applicable business licence if the person operates a business that requires a licence under Chapter 545, Licensing.
- (2) An application for an attachment to a business licence or for a permit shall contain the information listed in § 693-17B(2) and the following:
 - (a) A site plan showing the dimensions of the sign and the location of the sign on the premises; and
 - (b) The distance from the sign to the nearest street line, sidewalk, intersection, crosswalk, pedestrian crossover, corner, traffic light, driveway and street furnishings.
- (3) A sign permit identifier issued by the City shall be displayed on the sign as evidence that a ground-mounted sign has been authorized.

B. Location.

TORONTO MUNICIPAL CODE
SIGNS

§ 693-25

- (1) Ground-mounted signs shall be located so as not to obstruct the sidewalk.
- (2) Ground-mounted signs shall only be displayed or erected on the road allowance abutting the business to which the sign relates, if the signs are permitted on public property under this article and if there is insufficient area on private property in front of the main front wall of a building or side wall if the building is situated on a corner lot.
- (3) Ground-mounted signs shall be located on the premises directly adjacent to the business which it is advertising, or where otherwise located so as not to obstruct the sidewalk.

C. General.

- (1) Ground-mounted signs shall:
 - (a) Contain no more than two sign faces, each sign face having a maximum area of one square metre (10.7 square feet) with neither the length nor width of any face exceeding one metre (three feet, three inches); and
 - (b) Be a maximum height of 1.2 metres (four feet).
- (2) No more than one ground-mounted sign may be displayed or erected at each business location.
- (3) A business owner or business operator of the ground floor/storefront only shall be allowed to display a ground-mounted sign adjacent to the premises. **[Amended 2008-10-30 by By-law No. 1162-2008]**
- (4) Every ground-mounted sign relating to a business may only be displayed during the hours that that business is open and operating.
- (5) A ground-mounted sign shall not be animated, illuminated, have flashing lights, emit sound or have an electronic device to create or simulate motion, nor have any attachments adding to its height or width.

§ 693-25. Charity; religious institution; community organization; school.

- A. A charity, religious institution, community organization and school may erect, display, place or maintain temporary signs promoting citizen participation in religious, civic, charitable or non-profit activities and events, or advertising festivals and community events on land which is primarily used for the operations or activities of the charity, religious institution, community organization or school.
- B. The physical criteria in this article that is applicable to the type of temporary signs being utilised shall apply to signs erected, displayed, placed or maintained by charities, religious institutions, community organizations and schools.

- C. Despite Subsection A, no more than one mobile sign may be erected, displayed, placed or maintained on land which are primarily used for the operation or activities of a charity, religious institution, community organization or school.

§ 693-26. Removal of unlawful signs; costs of City removal.

[Amended 2006-12-06 by By-law No. 12-2007;¹² 2008-10-30 by By-law No. 1162-2008]

- A. If a temporary sign is erected or displayed in contravention of this article, the Executive Director of Municipal Licensing and Standards, or a person acting upon his or her instructions, may, without notice to the sign owner, enter the land and pull down or remove the temporary sign at the expense of the sign owner.
- B. Despite Subsection A, if a new development sign, an open house directional sign, a real estate sign or a garage sale sign has been affixed, erected or otherwise displayed in contravention of this article, the Executive Director of Municipal Licensing and Standards, or a person acting upon his or her instructions, may:
- (1) Notify any or all of the sign owners to:
 - (a) Repair the sign;
 - (b) Pull down or remove the sign; or
 - (c) Correct the contravention so the sign complies with this article.
- C. Storage of temporary signs.
- (1) Temporary signs that have been removed under Subsection A shall be stored by the City for a minimum of 30 days, during which time the sign owner may retrieve the sign by:
 - (a) Paying any amounts owing to the City under this article, including the fee for retrieving an illegal temporary sign as set out in Chapter 441, Fees and Charges; and
 - (b) Providing the City with a signed acknowledgement and release in a form acceptable to the City.
 - (2) A temporary sign that has been removed by the City and stored for more than 30 days may be destroyed or otherwise disposed of by the City without notice and without compensation to the sign owner.

¹² Editor's Note: This by-law came into force 2006-09-27.

TORONTO MUNICIPAL CODE
SIGNS

§ 693-27

- (3) Despite Subsection C(1), the City shall not be obliged to store a temporary sign made primarily of paper or other lightweight material and may destroy the sign immediately upon removal.

D. Fees for storage and removal of temporary signs.

- (1) If a temporary sign is removed under Subsection A, in addition to any fine or other penalty that may be imposed for an offence under this article, the sign owner shall pay to the City the following fees as set out in Chapter 441, Fees and Charges:
 - (a) The fee for removing an illegal temporary sign;
 - (b) If a sign has been stored, the fee for storing an illegal temporary sign; and
 - (c) If a sign has been destroyed or otherwise disposed of by the City, the fee for disposal of an illegal temporary sign.
- (2) If a sign is not retrieved, the fee for removing an illegal temporary sign and the fees for storing and disposing of an illegal temporary sign as set out in Chapter 441, Fees and Charges, shall be added to the subsequent year's permit fee.
- (3) The fee for removing an illegal temporary sign as well as the fees for storing and disposing of an illegal temporary sign, as set out in Chapter 441, Fees and Charges, may also be recovered by action or adding the charge to the tax roll and collecting the charge in the same manner as taxes.

§ 693-27. Offences.

Any person who contravenes any provision of this article is guilty of an offence.¹³

¹³ Editor's Note: This section was passed under the authority of section 425 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25, and, under section 61 of the *Provincial Offences Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.33, a person convicted of an offence under this section is liable to a fine of not more than \$5,000.