

24 May, 2023

Standing Committee on Social and Economic Development
Manitoba Legislative Assembly
450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Re: Bill 230, *The Municipal Councils and School Boards Elections Amendment Act*

Dear Committee Members:

On behalf of our association, we would like to thank you in advance for the opportunity to provide comment and observations on the above noted Bill.

While we always appreciate the opportunity to engage with Members of the Legislative Assembly on the development of Bills, including Private Member's Bills, in advance of such proposed legislation appearing before legislative committees, we were not afforded such an opportunity in respect of Bill 230.

As the Committee members may be aware, municipal and school board elections occur in tandem on a fixed date prescribed by *The Municipal Councils and School Boards Elections Act* but the operational and administrative requirements may in fact remain separate. Both municipalities and school boards can appoint their own Senior Election Official (SEO) as an example and there are also differentiated processes and associated timeframes outlined under *The Municipal Councils and School Boards Elections Act* regarding candidate registration (municipal) and nomination (school board) requirements.

Subject to these noted differences, our association would equally reflect the concerns and issues raised by our municipal counterparts at the Association of Manitoba Municipalities regarding the next steps that must be taken to ensure that implementation of these proposed amendments are seamless and harmonized province-wide, should Bill 230 receive Assent.

As noted by AMM in its brief to the Committee, streamlining of the new requirements would be achieved under the development of a standardized template and appropriate reporting inputs for SEOs when publishing information as would be required under section 44(2) of the amended Act. Again, noting the differences between municipal candidate registration and school board candidate nomination periods established under the Act, we equally believe that establishing clear timeframes for reporting of such information would be an advantage to the successful implementation of these proposed amendments.

During future pre-election timeframes, based upon the information generally provided by Manitoba Municipal Relations to SEOs at the municipal level, it will prove essential to ensure that congruent information is tailored for provision to school board SEOs, in order to reflect the nuances that apply to school board elections.

To that end, if any new training is to be made available through Manitoba Municipal Relations regarding use of a reporting template or form related to an amended section 44(2), with explanation of associated

timeframes for reporting of information to the public under *The Municipal Councils and School Boards Elections Amendment Act*, we would request that Manitoba Municipal Relations share this information with our association, in order to reflect harmonization of practice and procedure province-wide during the future administration and conduct of local elections.

As always, we thank both the members of the Committee and of the larger Legislative Assembly for their consideration of our observations and recommendations and request that you please do not hesitate to contact us further should you require any further information from us in the above respect. You may direct inquiries to Executive Director Josh Watt at jwatt@mbschoolboards.ca.

Sincerely,



Sandy Nemeth
President
Manitoba School Boards Association

Cc. Honourable Wayne Ewasko, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning
Honourable Andrew Smith, Minister of Municipal Relations
Deputy Minister Bruce Gray, Manitoba Municipal Relations
Deputy Minister Dana Rudy, Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning
Len Isleifson, MLA for Brandon East