



1910 Saskatchewan Avenue W.
Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 0P1
Ph: 204-857-8666
Email: amm@amm.mb.ca
www.amm.mb.ca

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Committees Branch
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba
Room 251, 450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8
Via email: committees@leg.gov.mb.ca

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM), I am writing to provide some comments regarding *Bill 230: The Municipal Councils and School Boards Elections Amendment Act*.

As municipal government is the order of government often described as 'closest to the people,' the AMM believes that there is value in municipal candidates disclosing offences while running for office to enhance transparency, credibility, and accountability as well as increase public trust. While we understand the proposed amendments that require prospective municipal candidates to disclose past offences, the AMM always encourages consultation with our organization prior to the introduction of any proposed legislation that may impact our members.

In regard to Section 44(2) specifically, the reporting process required by a Senior Election Official (SEO) requires greater clarity. To prevent possible confusion and inconsistent approaches, the AMM would encourage Manitoba Municipal Relations to develop a standardized template form for SEOs to use to publish offences and clear timelines to be established that outlines when information should be posted online. Moreover, the standardized form and supporting instructions should also be included in departmental guidance and training materials for municipal candidates and election officials that have been used to support the conduct and administration of previous elections.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these brief comments.

Sincerely,

Denys Volkov
Executive Director

cc: Hon. Andrew Smith, Minister of Municipal Relations
Deputy Minister Bruce Gray, Manitoba Municipal Relations
MLA Len Isleifson