

## Bulletin #2021-37

### MUNICIPAL RELATIONS

#### Important Notice to All Elected Officials and Chief Administrative Officers

#### **Eight Acts Amended by Bill 25**

Bill 25, *The Municipal Statutes Amendment Act* was passed by the Legislative Assembly on May 20, 2021.

Amendments to eight acts changed legislative provisions respecting municipal elections, capital leasing procedures, interest payments on tax refunds due to successful appeals, tax exemption for regional libraries, the obligation to assign tax sale certificates in the City of Winnipeg, and council compositions in the Cities of Brandon, Flin Flon, Portage la Prairie and Thompson.

The amendments are now in force, except for an amendment to exempt regional libraries from municipal taxation, which will come into force at a later date by proclamation.

In particular, municipalities are now required to pass a by-law restricting the use of municipal resources during the 42-day period before a general election or by-election.

This by-law must include restrictions on municipal resources by a registered candidate, restrictions on municipal resources in communicating information about programs and services, and restrictions on the name, voice or image of a member of council in municipal communications. The by-law will come into effect six months after its passage; municipalities are encouraged to implement this by-law to be in effect for the 2022 general election.

A sample election restrictions by-law, which municipalities may use as a template for drafting and passing their own by-law, will follow.

The attached questions and answers document provides more detailed information about the legislative amendments. A copy of the bill is also attached for your reference and can be found at <https://web2.gov.mb.ca/bills/42-3/pdf/b025.pdf>.

Should you require additional information, please contact Municipal Relations at (204) 945-2572 or email [mrmaas@gov.mb.ca](mailto:mrmaas@gov.mb.ca).