

# Questions and Answers Regarding Temporary Suspension of Local Election Provisions

## **Does this order apply to all vacancies on council?**

The temporary order suspending local election provisions applies to all municipal council vacancies that occur on or before October 26, 2021. Any vacancies occurring after that date will be addressed through the existing provisions under section 105(1) of The Municipal Act. For clarity, section 105(1) of the Act currently applies to the Village of Dunnottar, the Rural Municipality of Victoria Beach, and the Town of Winnipeg Beach that will hold their next general election on July 22, 2022.

## **Why is the order in place to November 26, 2021, but only applies to vacancies occurring to October 26, 2021?**

The order is in place to November 26, 2021, unless earlier revoked, to provide time for the Minister of Municipal Relations to approve municipal requests to not hold a by-election due to public health concerns related to COVID-19. The order must be in place at the time of ministerial approval of these requests.

## **How does a municipality request approval from the Minister of Municipal Relations to not hold a by-election?**

If a council seat is vacated on or before October 26, 2021, a municipal council that wishes to not hold a by-election must pass a resolution confirming this decision. The municipality must then submit a certified copy of the resolution as soon as possible (within two weeks) to Municipal Relations at [mrmaas@gov.mb.ca](mailto:mrmaas@gov.mb.ca).

The Minister of Municipal Relations will consider the request and provide a decision to the municipality as soon as possible. All decisions must be rendered prior to November 26, 2021, when this order expires. Therefore, municipalities should submit resolutions by November 9, 2021, at latest, to ensure sufficient time for the request to be considered.

## **Can municipal councils choose to hold a by-election while the temporary orders are in place?**

Yes. The temporary suspension of local election provisions are in place to provide flexibility to municipalities to respond to local public health circumstances. Municipalities may choose to proceed with by-elections while the temporary orders are in place.