Bulletin #2025-24

MUNICIPAL AND NORTHERN RELATIONS

Important Notice to Chief Administrative Officers

CANADA POST SERVICE DISRUPTION

Due to the nationwide postal disruption, effective September 25, 2025, the delivery of printed assessment notices may be delayed. Property owners can find their 2026 assessment through one of the following alternate options:

- Visit Manitoba Assessment Online (MAO) to view 2026 assessments once they are posted; click the links below for your municipality's Notice dates and appeal deadlines:
 - <u>Manitoba Assessment Online Property Search</u> no password or User ID is required to view land, building, and total assessments.
 - Notice dates per municipality
 - Appeal deadline dates per municipality
- Create a MyPropertyMB account to view their assessment and property details online, via MyPropertyMB
- Call or email their District Assessment Office: <u>Property Assessment Services District offices</u>. Property owners may also contact their district Property Assessment Services office to arrange for emailing of an electronic notice or pick-up of a printed assessment notice during the postal disruption.
- Municipalities post public notice annually when assessment rolls are available for public viewing, including the deadline for filing appeals and the date of their board of revision.
 Property owners may call or email their municipal office to inquire if and when the 2026 Assessment Roll is available for public viewing, and for appeal deadlines.
- Municipalities will be provided with 2026 assessment notices according to the notice schedule provided in the link above. If requested by a resident, municipalities may choose to print notices for property owners to pick up at their local municipal office.
- Please note that the mailing of assessment notices will commence once regular mail service resumes, however, the notices will continue to reference appeal deadlines that may have passed.

Sending Supplementary Tax Notices to taxpayers by municipalities

Section 327(1) of The Municipal Act advises that "If supplementary taxes are imposed, the municipality must send a supplementary tax notice to the taxpayer." The common interpretation is that the tax notice should be sent in the same manner as regular tax statements, i.e. in the mail.

In response to the current Canada Post strike, we would suggest that municipal offices could choose to send the supplementary tax notices by courier, by hand delivery, or with the property owner by facilitating in-person pick-up or drop-off. We would not encourage sending tax notices by email, as *The Municipal Act* does not establish electronic notification as a primary delivery method. If municipalities have property owner email addresses in their system, emailing tax notices may be a reasonable option during a postal disruption as an additional method of delivery to provide convenience to the owner.

Sending or Receiving Mail to or from Manitoba government

Municipalities will be able to continue to send and receive essential mail to and from Manitoba government. Manitoba's Material Distribution Agency (MDA) will be operating 24 mail distribution and drop-off centres throughout Manitoba for critical government mail.

Information for municipalities and the public about these distribution centres, including contact information and which community is served by which distribution centre, is included as an attachment to this bulletin. Please note that these distribution centres will **only process critical mail going to, or coming from, the provincial government.**

Municipalities should **not** bring non-essential mail to a distribution centre, as non-essential mail brought to these centres will be held, and then sent through Canada Post once the postal disruption is over.

Receiving Critical Mail

Critical mail that will continue to be sent from Manitoba through these distribution centres include cheques (for municipalities and the public) and Court or other legal/regulatory Orders. Other items deemed to be critical by Manitoba will also be sent through these centres.

Municipal staff collecting mail from a distribution centre should be prepared to **provide photo ID and should have an authorization letter on municipal letterhead**.

Sending Critical Mail

For municipalities sending mail to Manitoba, only critical mail should be brought to a distribution centre. If you are sending critical mail to Manitoba, **the mail must be clearly marked as critical.** Critical mail to Manitoba would be cheques or other payments, or reports or documents required by legislation or as part of a legislated process. For example:

- Regulatory submissions (to the Municipal Finance Officer, Municipal Board, Public Utilities Board, etc.)
- Other legislated submissions to Manitoba e.g. notices of proposed road closings, planning notices and bylaws, etc.

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