

Motion following Notice of Motion

Voter Age for Municipal Elections

THAT the Mayor, on behalf of Council, write to the Minister of Municipal Affairs to request that lowering the voting age from 18 to 16 for municipal elections be considered as part of the ongoing review of the *Local Authorities Election Act*.

Background

Councillor Tonita served a Notice of Motion at the October 16, 2018 Council Meeting to be presented at the October 30, 2018 Council Meeting.

The Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA) outlines the rules for conducting elections in municipalities, school boards, Metis Settlements and irrigation districts.

These laws are generally reviewed after every municipal election to ensure they are up-to-date. The most recent elections were held in 2017 and thus Municipal Affairs has been leading and facilitating a review of the LAEA.

Municipal Affairs has held face-to-face meetings and conducted an online survey with a number of stakeholders regarding various topics under the Act (e.g. campaign contributions and finances, campaign expenses, third-party advertising, voter identification, advance votes, residency requirements, etc.). The Ministry is currently reviewing feedback from their public engagement.

Calgary city council passed a motion to explore lowering the voting age in municipal elections from 18 to 16. The motion passed asks the province to explore the pros and cons of lowering the voting age by two years, while still keeping the final choice in the hands of City Council.