

November 3, 2020

Please be advised that during the Committee of the Whole meeting on October 29, 2020 the following motion was carried;

RESOLUTION NO. CW-407-2020

DATE: October 29, 2020

MOVED BY: Councillor MacNaughton

SECONDED BY: Councillor St-Jean

Resolution by Councillor MacNaughton regarding Bill 218, Supporting Ontario's Recovery and Municipal Elections Act, 2020 is proposing changes to the Municipal Elections Act of 1996

WHEREAS municipalities in Ontario are responsible for conducting the fair and democratic elections of local representatives; and

WHEREAS Government of Ontario, with Bill 218, Supporting Ontario's Recovery and Municipal Elections Act, 2020 is proposing changes to the Municipal Elections Act of 1996

- to prohibit the use of ranked ballots in future Municipal Elections, and
- extend nomination day from the end of July to the second Friday in September; and

WHEREAS each municipal election is governed by the Municipal Elections Act which was amended in 2016 to include the option to allow Municipalities to utilize ranked ballots for their elections and shorter nomination periods; and

WHEREAS London, Ontario ran the first ranked ballot election in 2018 and several other municipalities since have approved bylaws to adopt the practice, or are in the process of doing so including our regional neighbours in Kingston via a referendum return of 63%; and

WHEREAS the operation, finance and regulatory compliance of elections is fully undertaken by municipalities themselves; and,

WHEREAS local governments are best poised to understand the representational needs and challenges of the body politic they represent, and when looking at alternative voting methods to ensure more people vote safely, it becomes more difficult to implement these alternatives with the proposed shorter period between Nomination day and the October 24, 2022 Election day;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Corporation of the County of Prince Edward Council send a letter to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing urging that the Government of Ontario continues to respect Ontario municipalities' ability to apply sound representative principles in their execution of elections;

AND THAT the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward Council recommends that the Government of Ontario supports the freedom of municipalities to run democratic elections within the existing framework the Act currently offers;

AND THAT this resolution be circulated to all Ontario Municipalities, AMO and AMCTO.

CARRIED



Catalina Blumenberg, **Clerk**

