



November 12, 2020

MPP Will Bouma
96 Nelson Street, Suite 101
Brantford, ON N3T 2X1

Sent via email: will.bouma@pc.ola.org

Dear MPP Bouma:

Please be advised that Brantford City Council at its Special meeting held November 10, 2020 passed the following resolution:

Bill 218 - Ranked Ballots for Municipal Elections

WHEREAS Bill 218 – “Supporting Ontario's Recovery and Municipal Elections Act, 2020” removes the option for municipalities to choose the ranked ballot system for an election; and

WHEREAS in 2016 the Ontario Provincial Government gave municipalities the tools to use Ranked Balloting in Municipal elections commencing in 2018, which was deployed in the City of London thereby becoming the first Municipality in Canada to make the switch, while Cambridge and Kingston both passed referendums in favour of reform and Burlington, Barrie, Guelph, Meaford and others are now exploring a change as well; and

WHEREAS the change of election method process does not impact the Provincial election models but greatly impacts a Municipalities execution options; and

WHEREAS the only explanation given for this is that we should not be ‘experimenting’ with the electoral process during a pandemic mindful that ranked ballot voting is not an experiment but widely used throughout the world and should be a local option that Municipalities can look to utilize in the next election which is just under two years away

WHEREAS Bill 218 also moves up the Municipal nomination date from the end of July to mid September for no apparent reason thereby reinforcing the power of incumbency and potentially discouraging broader participation in municipal elections; and

WHEREAS these changes are being proposed without any consultation with AMO, Municipalities or the public;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the City Clerk BE DIRECTED to submit the following comments on behalf of the Council of the City of Brantford to the Province of Ontario with respect to the proposed changes to the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*:
- i. Council does not support the proposed changes to the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, specifically related to the removal of the option for a municipality to hold a ranked ballot election;
 - ii. Council does support the principle that each Municipality should be able to choose whether or not to use first-past-the-post or a ranked ballot election; and
 - iii. Council encourages the Provincial government to meaningfully consult with Municipalities on municipal issues before introducing legislative changes of this magnitude; and
- B. THAT the City Clerk BE DIRECTED to forward a copy of this resolution to MPP Will Bouma, Premier Doug Ford, and the list of other Municipalities and include a request to delay the decision until such a time that the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Large Urban Mayor's Caucus of Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and comments from Municipalities have been collected and submitted to the Province.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours truly,



Tanya Daniels
City Clerk
tdaniels@brantford.ca

cc: Hon. D. Ford, Premier of Ontario
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario;
The Federation of Canadian Municipalities;
Large Urban Mayor's Caucus of Ontario;
All Ontario Municipalities