

2020 Local Government Election – Remuneration of Election Officials

ISSUE

Local government elections require the experience and involvement of hundreds of election officials for a short period of time. These officials are expected to learn and retain specific election information and work long days, particularly on Election Day. As such, remuneration needs to be sufficient and competitive with other elections and municipalities so that workers are recruited and retained. Challenges recruiting sufficient numbers of election workers are anticipated due to the proximity of the provincial and municipal election periods.

BACKGROUND

Section 52 of *The Local Government Election Act, 2015* authorizes City Council to set the remuneration to be paid to election officials acting with respect to an election. Bylaw No. 9370, *The Returning Officer Bylaw*, passed by City Council on April 25, 2016, provides for the City Clerk to set the remuneration and term of appointment of the Returning Officer and other election officials.

CURRENT STATUS

Appendix 1 indicates remuneration to be provided for each election official position working Election Day, advance polls, and as part of the core election team. Remuneration for special polls, hospital voting, and homebound voting will be provided in a subsequent report. The Associate Returning Officer and Election Officer Coordinator, along with the Returning Officer, make up the core election team.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

A review of election worker remuneration was undertaken, taking into consideration rates for Federal and Provincial Election workers, as well as other cities in Saskatchewan.

IMPLICATIONS

The Saskatchewan provincial election is two weeks prior to the Saskatoon civic and school board election. This may pose challenges recruiting appropriate numbers of election workers required to adequately operate each of the 66 polling stations. Proximity of both elections may be beneficial, since workers involved with the provincial election are familiar with the work required; however there is some variation of rules between provincial and municipal elections and timelines to train workers will overlap.

NEXT STEPS

In order to manage applications, an online application for election workers has been developed. An advertising and recruitment strategy of election workers will be developed in order to recruit workers to apply. Elections Saskatchewan began advertising for election workers in March 2020. For the civic election, approximately 550

positions are required for Election Day alone. The first wave of workers to be recruited and brought in for orientation/training is anticipated for mid-September.

Appendix

1. Remuneration for Election Officials

Report Approval

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