

History of Discussions Receipt of Out of Province Campaign Contributions by Municipal Candidates

- **November 19, 2015 - Saskatoon Municipal Review Commission Report**
 - Noted that the City of Saskatoon was out of step with other jurisdictions with respect to accepting contributions from individuals residing outside of the province.
 - Contained a recommendation that the Bylaw be amended “to restrict donations to municipal candidates to those that come only from individuals normally resident in Saskatchewan”. This recommendation was made in conjunction with two others: (i) to place a limit on the total amount that individuals may contribute to candidates for municipal office; and (ii) to prevent donations to candidates for municipal office from corporations or trade unions.
 - The rationale for the out of province contribution recommendation was that the SMRC was of the view that only those who reside in the province should participate in municipal elections in Saskatoon and they noted that adopting this recommendation would bring Saskatoon in line with other jurisdictions (Alberta, Winnipeg and Ontario were noted).
 - Noted that the City’s jurisdiction to pass these amendments would require a legislative amendment to *The Local Government Election Act*.

- **January 25, 2016 - Regular Business Meeting of City Council**
 - City Council directed the Administration to seek the required legislative amendment to provide authority to limit campaign contributions.
 - A review of the debate when these recommendations were considered demonstrates that the then City Council was not in favour of either a general campaign contribution limit or limiting contributions from corporations and trade unions. The then City Council was, however, in support of a Canadian residency requirement, subject to obtaining the legislative amendment.

- **August 2016 – Legislative Amendment Follow Up**
 - The Administration provided an Information Report to City Council to report on the status of the legislative amendments indicating that the correspondence seemed to be well-received and indicating that the Minister had made note of the amendments and requested that they be brought to the Ministry’s attention again after the 2016 election when the LGEA was reopened for consideration.

- **June 20, 2017 - Saskatoon Municipal Review Commission Report**
 - The same three recommendations related to limiting campaign contributions were made, again noting that Saskatoon is out of step with other municipalities.
 - The SMRC noted that electoral candidates indicated that the lack of rules regarding campaign donations is concerning, as it was felt there is a strong correlation between fundraising and electoral success.
 - The SMRC further noted that unlike much of Canada, corporations, unions, trust funds and unincorporated groups can donate to Saskatchewan electoral candidates for municipal and provincial elections without limit.
 - There was no further discussion of jurisdiction or legislative amendments.

- **May 22, 2018 - Administrative Report on June 2017 Saskatoon Municipal Commission Report**
 - Contains no comment other than to indicate that the previous recommendation from 2015 was defeated.

- **May 15, 2019 - Bill 134 Received Royal Assent**
 - Bill 134 containing amendments to *The Local Government Election Act, 2015* received Royal Assent on May 15, 2019. It did not include amendments to the City's jurisdiction to limit campaign contributions.

- **June 7, 2021 - Saskatoon Municipal Review Commission Report**
 - The issue of limiting campaign contributions, including the imposition of residency requirements to restrict out of province contributions was not raised.