

From: "Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing / ministère des Affaires municipales et du Logement"
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Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2009 3:32 PM
To: Sara Almas
Subject: A message from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing / Un message du ministère des Affaires municipales et du Logement

To: Heads of Council
C: Municipal Clerks

A bill introduced in the Ontario Legislature today includes proposed reforms in a number of areas of interest to municipalities, including proposed changes to the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, the Municipal Act, 2001, and the City of Toronto Act, 2006.

Municipal Elections

We are proposing changes to the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 in the following areas:

- Moving the election date forward to the fourth Monday of October, beginning October 25, 2010.
- Promoting greater accessibility to the election process for voters and candidates with disabilities.
- Improving the accuracy of the voters' list.
- Bringing greater transparency to the voting process by requiring voter identification.
- Clarifying campaign finance rules and supporting a more level playing field for candidates.
- Creating a new contribution limit of \$5,000 per contributor in each jurisdiction, in addition to the existing limit of \$750 per candidate.
- Eliminating the carrying forward of surplus campaign funds by candidates from one election to the next (existing surplus will be grandfathered for use in the 2010 campaign).
- Strengthening the compliance and enforcement regime through firm deadlines for submitting financial statements and harmonized penalties.

Other Reforms

Proposed changes to the Municipal Act, 2001 and City of Toronto Act, 2006 fall into the areas of finance and accountability and transparency:

- Clarifying that a municipal Auditor General's functions are to be carried out in an independent manner.
- Providing greater flexibility by reducing and streamlining prescriptive financial process requirements (e.g. the removal of deadlines for certain tax policy decisions).
- Revoking all municipal restructuring orders signed prior to January 2, 2005, except for provisions in orders that still have effect. (This would not undo any restructuring implemented by any of the affected municipal restructuring orders)
- Changing regulation making authority for municipal services corporations established by municipalities.

Proposed regulatory amendments would allow municipal services corporations to put in place corporate structures and subsidiaries.

These legislative and regulatory amendments are aimed at increasing municipalities' economic competitiveness, innovation, economic readiness and flexibility in meeting their needs.

Should your municipality have any additional questions, please feel free to call (416) 585-7041 or visit the [Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing website](#).

Learn more about the proposed [Good Government Act](#).