



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Follow-up Report to Requests from Council re: 2010 Municipal Election

Date:	January 18, 2010
To:	Executive Committee
From:	City Solicitor and City Clerk
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

On November 24, 2009, Executive Committee considered several reports from the City Clerk regarding the 2010 municipal election. These same reports were before City Council on December 2, 2009. At those meetings a number of additional reports were requested for the February 1, 2010 meeting of Executive Committee. This report is a consolidated response to the requests.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Solicitor and City Clerk recommend that City Council receive this report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications arising from approval to receive this report.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial implications.

DECISION HISTORY

This report responds to various election-related requests made by City Council at its special meeting held on December 2, 2009. Council's decisions can be found at: <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/cc/decisions/2009-12-02-cc43-dd.htm>

The various election reports can be found at:

Election Administration By-laws – Updated Report (Bill 212)

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-25322.pdf>

Supplementary report from the City Manager and the City Clerk

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/cc/bgrd/backgroundfile-25517.pdf>

Election Campaign Finance By-laws – Updated Report (Bill 212)

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-25316.pdf>

Establishment of a Compliance Audit Committee for the 2010 Municipal Election – Updated Report (Bill 212)

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-25317.pdf>

Community Engagement Program

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-25318.pdf>

Supplementary report from the City Clerk

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/cc/bgrd/backgroundfile-25544.pdf>

The City Solicitor has previously reported on the legal issues associated with the reimbursement of compliance audit legal expenses. The City Solicitor's reports (dated November 9, 2007, June 12, 2008 and August 21, 2008) can be found at:

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/cc/bgrd/ex13.1e.pdf>

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-13851.pdf>

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-15126.pdf>

Council previously directed the City Clerk to report on the feasibility of establishing a fund to reimburse candidates for their compliance audit costs. The report (dated October 4, 2007) can be found at:

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-7632.pdf>

COMMENTS

Before responding to the requests, this report will describe the roles of the Clerk and Council within the current legislative framework as these roles inform some of the responses.

Role of the Clerk

The City Clerk is the person designated by the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* (the *Act*) to conduct the municipal election and performs a statutory role in this regard, independent

from the City. Under the *Act*, the City Clerk has the authority to establish policies and procedures to govern the election and is guided by the following principles of the *Act*:

- The secrecy and confidentiality of individual votes is paramount.
- The election should be fair and non-biased.
- The election should be accessible to the voters.
- The integrity of the process should be maintained throughout the election.
- Voters and candidates should be treated fairly and consistently within a municipality.
- There should be certainty that the results of the election reflect the votes cast.

Section 12 of the *Act* states that the Clerk may provide for any matter or procedure that is necessary or desirable for conducting the election and the Clerk's decisions are final. Council cannot interfere with the Clerk's performance of this role. In fact, under section 7 the *Act*, the City is required to pay all election-related costs once certified by the Clerk.

In addition to directing the Clerk to perform specific activities, the *Act* allows the Clerk to exercise significant discretion in performing her role. In administering the election, the Clerk must be impartial. This is a fundamental underpinning of the system established by the *Act*. Should the Clerk's neutrality be compromised by interference from Council, the integrity of the election can be called into question. Possible outcomes if the Clerk's neutrality is compromised include the following: a recount in all or some wards could be ordered by a court, an application for a finding invalidating the election could succeed, and/or compliance audit applications would likely increase as there would be less trust in the entire process.

Role of Council

Under the *Act*, Council has a restricted role with respect to election readiness and management. Through the *Act*, the province has given Council very limited authority relating to election administration and candidate conduct. The decisions which Council can make in relation to the administration of the election are generally those which may benefit from Council member awareness of community interest (e.g. How many advance vote days do electors want or need?). The apparent policy underpinning is a view that the integrity of the democratic process is supported when decisions about election process and candidate conduct are made by those who will not be candidates.

The *Act* sets out numerous rules for candidates and others (e.g. electors, scrutineers) in relation to their roles under the legislation. Council, as a legislative body, has the authority to make the decisions described below, but it has no authority to make decisions about the responsibilities of candidates under the *Act*. Council cannot modify the rules as the rules pertain to matters outside of Council's jurisdiction. Council is also precluded from requiring the Clerk to act on Council requests pertaining to any matters outside Council's jurisdiction.

The following outlines the limited jurisdiction and responsibilities of Council with respect to the administration of the election and other duties:

Administration of the Election

- decide when advance votes will be held in the City
- decide whether voting locations in the City will be open before the time set in the legislation
- decide whether to reduce hours of voting in retirement and nursing homes
- authorize the Clerk to make election materials available in languages other than English (Council can authorize but cannot require this)
- prohibit campaign donations by corporations and trade unions
- authorize the use of an alternative voting method or vote-counting equipment

Other

- establish a compliance audit committee (Council has no authority to determine the role of the committee or to interfere with the committee's performance of that role)
- decide whether to establish a contribution rebate program
- require a recount (Council may require a recount within 30 days of the declaration of results, but it may not in any way direct the recount procedure)
- submit a question to electors (the *Act* contains rules regarding the method for submission and the permissible subject matter for the question)
- requiring a by-election (when a vacancy occurs)

Other than the above, Council has no further powers in relation to the operations of municipal elections.

Reponses to Council's Requests

Below is a list of requests (in italics) made by City Council at its special meeting held on December 2, 2009 followed by a response.

Compliance Audit Costs

1. *City Council direct that if the Compliance Audit Committee finds that a complaint against a candidate is not valid, and City Council reimburse the candidate's compliance audit court costs, the City also reimburse the candidate's court costs to sue the complainant to recover legal costs, on condition that the candidate return the original reimbursement for their compliance audit costs to the City.*
2. *If the Province of Ontario fails to make the necessary legislative amendments, City Council establish a policy to*
 - a. *accept and review requests for reimbursement of legal expenses associated with compliance audit proceedings;*

- b. provide that the requests be reviewed by Council to determine if exceptional circumstances exist to warrant the reimbursement of the legal expenses;*
 - c. provide that reimbursements will be made to candidates only at the conclusion of the compliance audit proceedings and only if the candidate was vindicated.*
- 3. City Council request the City Clerk, in consultation with the City Solicitor, to report to the Executive Committee for its meeting on February 1, 2010, on the following proposal:*

That:

- a. the City establish the position of Independent Counsel to provide advice and legal support to Members of Council on matters related to compliance audits; and*
 - b. funds for this purpose be drawn from Election Reserve Fund XR1017.*
The report to also include recommendations to the Executive Committee on the amounts required for this purpose.
- 4. City Council request the City Clerk to research whether insurance companies offer candidate insurance to cover compliance audit costs, and report to the Executive Committee.*

On several occasions, the City Solicitor has advised that Council lacks the authority to provide financial assistance to members of Council for matters related to their candidacy.

As compliance audits relate to the activities of candidates, Council cannot provide financial assistance or assistance in-kind to members of Council in relation to these proceedings.

Council has proposed that the City establish the position of independent counsel to provide legal advice to members on matters related to compliance audits. In establishing and funding this position Council would be financially assisting members with expenses relating to their activities as candidates which are outside of the office of councillor. This kind of assistance is prohibited.

Recent amendments to the *Act* now permit a candidate to access the candidate's surplus for expenses relating to a compliance audit and to recommence the candidate's campaign (accepting contributions and incurring expenses) until June 30, 2011 for such purposes. At the Executive Committee's request, a letter was sent to the Chair of the Provincial Standing Committee and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing requesting further amendments to Bill 212 to address the inability of a candidate to recommence their campaign after June 30, 2011. The province did not incorporate this request into Bill 212.

Bill 212 also now makes compliance audit expenses a campaign expense underscoring Council's inability to assist. The *Act* prohibits a municipality from contributing to a campaign. It is also illegal for a candidate to accept a contribution from a municipality. A contribution of money to assist a candidate with a compliance audit would be a considered a campaign contribution.

Should Council wish to pursue the matter respecting the reimbursement of compliance audit costs, notwithstanding the advice provided, the City Solicitor and City Clerk suggest Council refer the matter to the Integrity Commissioner for consideration and a report to be produced for the Executive Committee's consideration after the 2010 election.

It should be noted that the Toronto Party has commenced legal proceedings against the City and a number of councillors. The Toronto Party is seeking declarations that decisions to reimburse Councillor Heaps for legal costs and settlement of a defamation action and to reimburse councillors for compliance audit related legal fees are of no effect. The Toronto Party seeks a court order requiring repayment of the amounts by both councillors who received reimbursement and those who voted to reimburse. Any court decision in the matter should be taken into account, and Council should await resolution of the matter before considering further options, if it is inclined to do so.

In response to Council's request as to whether insurance companies offer candidates insurance to cover compliance audit costs, Insurance and Risk Management has indicated that there is no known insurance coverage offered to cover compliance audits. That said, however, the City's Public Officials E&O Insurance Policy, which includes coverage for elected officials fulfilling their roles as councillors, does have some limited conflict of interest and defence expense insurance (related to defence of any statute or regulation of the Province of Ontario or of Canada), but there is limited coverage under the policy which is fully self-insured.

Voters' List

5. *City Council request the City Clerk to develop a door-to-door canvassing strategy, in accordance with the City's rights to develop a database under Section 22 of Bill 212, and report further to the Executive Committee at its February 1, 2010 meeting, including budget implications. The canvassing strategy should include arranging for supplementary canvassing, education and outreach in those rental apartment buildings where candidates have brought to the City Clerk's attention, instances where MPAC has failed to deliver an accurate voters' list.*
6. *City Council request the City Clerk to submit a report to the February 1, 2010 meeting of the Executive Committee on what additional sources of information will be used to improve the accuracy of the voters list, as provided for under new Section 22 of Bill 212.*

7. *Requested the City Clerk to meet with the Chief Executive Officer of MPAC, and the Province's Chief Electoral Officer to request a commitment, in writing, to:*

- a. Improve the voters' list for tenants and students;*
- b. Provide for on-line voter registration;*
- c. Provide reassurance that eligible voters will not be removed from the voters' list.*

and submit a report to the February 1, 2010 meeting of the Executive Committee on the outcome of these discussions.

It should be noted that every person who is qualified to vote in a municipal election is still entitled to do so even if their name is not on the voters' list.

Section 22 of the *MEA* provides the following:

22. (1) The clerk may correct any obvious errors in the preliminary list and shall notify the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation of the corrections.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the clerk may use any information that is in the local municipality's custody or control.

(3) Information in the local municipality's custody or control that is used by the clerk for the purposes of subsection (1) is deemed to have been collected for the purpose of correcting errors in the preliminary list.

The *Act* makes the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) responsible for the preparation and accuracy of the preliminary list of electors and requires the Clerk to use the preliminary list provided by MPAC as the basis for the voters' list. Together with the *Assessment Act*, the *Municipal Elections Act* makes MPAC's enumeration the basis for the voters' list. The Clerk cannot conduct a secondary enumeration as she has no legislative authority to collect the information and also does not have the same rights as candidates to access multi-residential buildings.

Once the preliminary list of electors (PLE) is provided to the City by MPAC, the Clerk has one month to correct the PLE for obvious errors and print sufficient copies for distribution. An obvious error is generally an error that is apparent on the face of the record and has been interpreted as being a "geographic error", i.e. streets in the wrong voting subdivision, incorrect spelling of street names or missing streets. Section 22 permits the Clerk to correct these errors, but it does not require her to correct every error on the PLE.

Once corrected for obvious errors the preliminary list of electors becomes the voters' list and is made available for public inspection and correction throughout the revision period. Sections 24 and 25 of the *Act* permit an individual to apply to the Clerk to add or remove

the individual's own name or to remove another person's name from the voters' list. The processes set out in these sections can be used to correct errors which are not obvious on the face of the document. An individual can also add their name to the voter's list at a voting place on voting day up to the close of voting. After voting day, City Clerk is required to forward to the assessment commissioner a certified copy of the final list of changes to the voters' list together with a copy of the approved applications received.

The Clerk gives notice to the public of the revision processes through newspaper ads and the election tabloid delivered to every household in the City, including apartments.

Section 22 of the *Act* also permits the Clerk to correct obvious errors and to use information that was collected by the municipality for other purposes. (As noted above, obvious errors have been interpreted as being geographic errors.) The City Clerk's Office works closely with the Information and Technology Division to use the most current geographic and addressing databases available (e.g. One Address Repository, Toronto Property System, Boundary Re-aligner) in correcting any obvious errors.

The Clerk, in consultation with the Chief Information Officer (CIO), is currently evaluating additional information in the City's custody and control to determine its usefulness for correcting obvious errors. These alternative sources have been compiled for purposes other than the creation of a voters' list and the Clerk can only use them if she is certain they are more accurate than MPAC's preliminary list. Further discussions need to be held with Legal, the CIO and other divisions to determine how in the future the City can collect information for this purpose and use it to improve the voters' list.

Section 22 of the *Act* is permissive giving the Clerk discretion to exercise her professional judgment to determine the best way to identify and correct errors on the preliminary list of electors (PLE). This is an area where Council's interference could undermine the integrity of the election.

Staff has met with the President and Chief Administrative Officer of MPAC as well as Ontario's Chief Electoral Officer to request a commitment in writing from them to improve the voters' list. A copy of the responses is attached as Appendix "A".

Other Election Issues

8. *City Council request the City Clerk to ensure that the intended location of polling stations be made public at least six months prior to the election date and establish a process that would allow for revisions to be made in polling station locations that are shown to be problematic.*

Under the *Act* the Clerk is required to "establish the number and location of voting places for an election" and this matter is entirely within the Clerk's discretion. To preserve the integrity of the election, her discretion must be exercised in a manner that is free of interference from Council.

Election staff is currently in the process of securing the approximate 1,700 accessible voting locations and once finalized, the Clerk will post the list of voting places.

9. *City Council request the City Clerk and the City Manager to report to the Executive Committee for its meeting on February 1, 2010, on:*

- a. *the feasibility and costs of providing transportation for electors with disabilities to the voting places if disabled accessibility cannot be achieved within a local voting area; and*

With the enactment of the *Good Government Act, 2009*, the *Municipal Elections Act* now requires all voting places to be accessible to electors with disabilities. This may mean that some voting places which were used in past elections can no longer be used as they are not fully accessible. Election staff is currently inspecting and evaluating all 1,700 voting places to determine if they meet the new accessibility requirement. Election staff is obtaining information from Elections Canada, Elections Ontario and the City's school boards on the accessibility of buildings the Clerk has traditionally used as voting locations. Staff will not know the full impact of the new accessibility requirements until this re-inspection is completed. Completion of the re-inspection is targeted by the spring of 2010.

Wherever possible, the Clerk has chosen voting locations that are accessible. In past elections, if an accessible voting place could not be secured for an area, electors with disabilities were given the opportunity to “transfer” their ballot to another voting place within the ward which was accessible or have the ballot brought to them outside of the room where voting is taking place. For both the 2003 and 2006 election, seven electors requested their ballots to be transferred.

Currently, the City does not have a fleet of vehicles available to transport electors with disabilities nor does it not have any existing programs in place that could provide this type of service. In order to find a service provider for such a program, the City would need to issue a Request for Quotation clearly identifying the requirement and use of such a service. Currently, we do not have any demand statistics readily available on which to either determine the feasibility or cost of such a program.

It is the City Clerk’s responsibility and priority to ensure that all voting locations meet the accessibility requirements of the *Act*.

- b. *the feasibility and potential costs for including in the Election householder, the translation of basic election information in languages that are spoken by a minimum of 2 percent of the population, by ward, according to the most recent statistics Canada data.*

The *Act* permits Council to authorize the use of certain languages however Council cannot require their use. It is strictly at the discretion of the Clerk to determine their use.

The election tabloid is an information piece which is distributed to all households, including apartments, and provides electors with critical election information such as voter qualifications, advance vote days, identification requirements, etc. As per the City's current standard practice, the tabloid is provided in English with language "slugs" directing non-English speaking residents to call 311 where information is available in more than 180 languages or to visit the City's website, where the tabloid will be available, in its entirety, in all 22 languages.

The estimated cost of producing and distributing the election tabloid in English with the inclusion of the 22 language "slugs" is approximately \$175,000. This figure also includes the higher rate that Election Services pays Canada Post in order to ensure that each tabloid is delivered into every tenant's mailbox in apartment buildings.

In addition, election information advertisements will be placed in the top 20 ethnic newspapers (plus French) promoting the election and how to get your name on the voters' list. Also upcoming issues of *Our Toronto*, which is distributed in English only but is translated and posted on the City's web site, will provide key election information and messages. Election staff is working with community groups and where staff are made aware of the opportunity and need, groups will be provided with the translated tabloid.

The Council's request to produce and distribute the election tabloid into the various languages that are spoken by a minimum of 2 percent of the population, by ward, is quite costly. To produce an election information piece specific to the languages in each ward would transform the one page double-sided tabloid into a multiple page booklet.

It is estimated that the cost of providing this option would be approximately \$407,000, including printing and distribution (\$232,000 over the budgeted amount). However, with this option Canada Post cannot guarantee that the election tabloid would be delivered to the elector in the appropriate ward as mail deliveries are managed by postal walk and do not match ward boundaries.

10. City Council request the City Clerk and other appropriate officials to contact Education institutions within the City of Toronto, including universities, community colleges, the Toronto District School Board (TDSB), the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) and the Conference of Independent Schools (Toronto Schools), with the objective of their becoming more actively involved in the involvement and engagement of students in the 2010 Municipal Election, with a request that she submit a detailed implementation plan to the Executive Committee, such report to include any financial requirement.

Election staff has met with various school board and educational institutions and will continue to meet with their representatives to engage their students in the 2010 Municipal Election.

The City Clerk's Office is taking an integrated approach to engage Toronto's large student and youth population ahead of the 2010 municipal election. Using new technologies, new messages, and involvement by young leaders, this targeted strategy will engage youth in all areas of the City. The messaging will emphasize participation and the importance of getting on the voters' list, with a focus on first-time voters. The strategy has four goals: awareness, education, engagement and connection. The youth campaign will target both secondary school students and college/university students. These initiatives are outlined below.

Secondary School Students

Educational Program – Online Resource Guide

The City Clerk's Office has partnered with the Civic Engagement Network to develop an *Online Education Resource Guide* for use by teachers and community organizations. The aim of the program is to educate students nearing voting age about the municipal election process, civic responsibility, and how they can get involved. Designed for grade 10 students, the guide provides teachers with lesson plans, activities for students as well as information about how Toronto is governed. This tool will assist teachers in bringing the 2010 election into the classroom.

Student Connect Program

The City Clerk's *Student Connect* program is an opportunity to inform, educate and engage our youth by involving them as active participants in the electoral process. In this program students fill the role of vote tabulator officer or customer service officers in the voting place on Election Day. It gives them the hands-on experience in municipal elections to enhance their classroom learning.

This initiative was introduced in 2003 with 14 secondary schools from across the city participating and 315 students employed as voting place staff on Election Day. The program was highly successful and participation doubled in 2006. In 2010, we will once again be inviting all Toronto secondary schools to participate in the *Student Connect* program for the upcoming election.

Staff has met with both the Toronto District School Board and Toronto Catholic District School Board to gain their support and participation with both of these initiatives.

College and University Students

The City Clerk's Office will be partnering with campus administrations and student groups to engage students in the 2010 election. Election messages such as getting on the voters' list, voting locations and how to get involved will be distributed through conventional methods such as posters, flyers, campus' radio and student papers. The campaign will also disseminate messaging through college and university email list-serves, social media technologies such as Facebook and Twitter, as well as peer-to-peer

communication to engage students and to have a presence on campus during the weeks preceding the election.

Election staff will continue to meet with campus administrators over the next few weeks to discuss the student campaign and how they can assist in engaging their students in the 2010 election.

The Election's Outreach and Communications team has been actively working to establish partnerships with the various school boards, colleges and universities and other community organizations. The City Clerk's Office is committed to continuing to work with these groups as well as many others during the lead up to the 2010 election and is very encouraged by their support and enthusiasm to be involved in the process.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Ulli Watkiss
City Clerk

Anna Kinastowski
City Solicitor

Appendix “A”

Office of the
Chief Electoral Officer
of Ontario



Bureau du directeur
général des élections
de l'Ontario

January 8, 2009

Ms. Ulli S. Watkiss
City Clerk's Office
Toronto City Hall
13th fl. W., 100 Queen St. W.
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

Dear Ms. Watkiss,

Further to our meeting on January 5, 2010, I am writing to respond to the Toronto City Council request that in my role as Chief Electoral Officer, I ensure the accuracy of the municipal list of electors.

As Chief Electoral Officer of Ontario, I am an independent officer of the provincial legislature. My roles include conducting provincial general elections, by-elections and referenda in accordance with the *Election Act* and *Representation Act*, and administering the *Election Finances Act*.

I have a very limited role pertaining to municipal elections as per the *Municipal Elections Act*, and I do not have jurisdiction over ensuring the accuracy of the municipal list. According to the legislative framework, the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) is responsible for compiling and producing the municipal list. I am therefore unable to play the role requested of me in ensuring its accuracy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Greg Essensa".

Greg Essensa
Chief Electoral Officer



MUNICIPAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT CORPORATION

January 11, 2010

Mr. Joe Pennachetti
City Manager
City of Toronto
100 Queen St. W
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Mr. Pennachetti:

I am writing in response to recent discussions at both Toronto City Council and the Executive Committee regarding the City of Toronto's 2010 Election Community Engagement Program and the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation's (MPAC) role in the enumeration of tenants.

As you are aware, legislation requires that MPAC produce a Preliminary List of Electors (PLE) for the purposes of municipal, school board and District School Services Administration Board elections and by-elections. Delivered up to twelve weeks prior to Election Day, by its very nature, the information provided by MPAC is "preliminary". Under the *Municipal Elections Act 1996*, the clerk of the municipality then finalizes the Voters' List through corrections to the PLE for obvious errors, accepts applications from eligible electors to be added, deleted or to have information changed.

As part of our requirement to provide an accurate and current PLE, MPAC relies on the following authoritative sources for occupant information:

- Land Registry Offices (new owners);
- Owners of multi-residential buildings;
- School Boards (school support changes); and
- Municipal Clerks (voter list revisions following an election).

Since information provided by these sources may not always include sufficient data to determine elector eligibility, MPAC annually mails occupancy questionnaires to approximately 600,000 households requesting additional information.

Basic elector eligibility criteria is the same for tenants and property owners. On Voting Day, both must be Canadian citizens, at least 18 years of age and be linked to a qualifying property. Furthermore, in Ontario, municipal electors are defined by their relationship to property as owners and tenants, or spouses of owners and tenants.

1305 Pickering Parkway, Pickering, ON L1V 3P2
www.mpac.ca

Form No LH4001A

Mr. Joe Pennachetti

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Returning MPAC's occupancy questionnaires is not mandatory for property owners or tenants. While overall questionnaire return rates have remained around 40% since 2000 (more than double that of Elections Canada's voter registration mailouts), return rates for tenants have generally been less than half that of owners (approximately 20% for tenants and 50% for owners).

In an effort to improve tenant questionnaire return rates, MPAC is actively pursuing cooperative efforts with municipalities, tenant associations and other groups to educate and inform occupants of the municipal and school board election process, voter eligibility requirements and elector confirmation procedures. In addition to providing information in English and French, MPAC will also be including multilingual enumeration information on its website to support the major languages spoken in Ontario's larger urban centres. Municipalities will be encouraged to post a link on their website to MPAC's site to promote MPAC's role in identifying potential electors. MPAC will also continue to offer tenants the opportunity to provide occupant information through its toll-free enquiry service and to use this service to confirm existing household information.

Recent amendments to the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, will provide municipalities with the opportunity to obtain a PLE from MPAC that is potentially six (6) weeks more current than in previous elections. Since MPAC's household information changes on a daily basis, providing a PLE closer to Voting Day will improve the currency of elector information. MPAC will also continue to provide municipal clerks with information about elector changes that have occurred between the delivery of the PLE and Voting Day.

MPAC remains committed to supporting every municipal clerk in their efforts to finalize an accurate Voters' List. MPAC will offer its assistance, where possible, to ensure such efforts have the greatest potential for the successful delivery of an accurate and current Preliminary List of Electors.

Yours truly,



Arthur Anderson,
Director, Municipal Relations



Greg Martino,
A/Director, Key Projects

Copy Carl Isenburg, President and Chief Administrative Officer, MPAC
Paul Galaski, Vice-President, Customer Relations, MPAC
Ulli Watkiss, City of Toronto, City Clerk
Bonita Pietrangelo, City of Toronto, Director, Elections & Registry Services

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