

Resolution 26A

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS ACT—ELECTRONIC VOTING (PASSED)

⇒ Halifax Regional Municipality

WHEREAS Municipalities are responsible for running and financing their own election processes; and

WHEREAS Municipalities are most knowledgeable about the issues facing municipal elections and the preferences and habits of the local electorate; and

WHEREAS electronic voting is becoming a more popular option as well as providing cost efficiencies and the opportunity to increase voter participation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities write to Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations requesting that the *Municipal Elections Act* be amended to allow for more flexibility in electronic voting, thus enabling Councils to pass bylaws determining the use of electronic voting on a case-by-case basis.

BACKGROUND:

By motion of Regional Council on November 23, 2010, Halifax Regional Council recommended an amendment to the Municipal Elections Act, Section 146A (6), to allow for more choices regarding the conduct of advanced polls: either by a combination of in-person and electronic polls; or by electronic voting only. The propose of the amendments would enable Councils, by bylaw, to make the determination on an election-by-election basis as financial and as voter considerations evolve and could result in substantial cost-saving and cost-avoidance for future elections.

Forwarded to:
Minister of Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations

RESPONSE:

I am writing in response to your recent letter concerning resolutions passed at the recent Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities Conference.

I am pleased to inform the UNSM that the House of Assembly passed Bill 100, an Act to Amend the Municipal Elections Act during this session of the Legislature. This Bill, amongst other things, gives municipalities additional flexibility in providing for electronic voting.

*The Honourable John MacDonell
Minister
January 4, 2012*