

## Alberta Senate Elections Act – Summary of Changes

July 4, 2025

Summary of amendments to the *Alberta Senate Elections Act* contained in Bill 54: *Election Statutes Amendment Act*.

### Terminology changes

- Adds definitions of Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) and local jurisdiction. (s.1).

### Recommendation to discontinue election

- Adds section 5.1 Recommendation to discontinue election.
- In the case of a Senate election held in conjunction with a Provincial General Election or separately as a stand alone event, conducted under the *Election Act*, the CEO may recommend the Lieutenant Governor in Council discontinue an election and hold a new election at another date and time if the CEO is of the opinion an adjournment under section 4(3.1) of the *Election Act* is insufficient to address an emergency, disaster, or an unusual or unforeseen circumstance (s.54.1(a)).
- In the case of a Senate election held in conjunction with the general elections under the *Local Authorities Election Act*, the CEO may recommend the Lieutenant Governor in Council discontinue an election and hold a new election at another date and time if the CEO is of the opinion an extension, adjournment or any other action under section 6.1 of the *LAEA* is insufficient to address an emergency, disaster, or an unusual or unforeseen circumstance (s.8.4 (b)).

### Discontinuing and recommencing election due to emergency

- Adds section 5.2 Discontinuing and recommencing election due to emergency.
- The Lieutenant Governor in Council may discontinue a Senate election in conjunction with a provincial or municipal election in the event of an emergency in one or more electoral divisions or local jurisdictions and may commence a new election at another date and time and issue a writ of election to the CEO (s.5.2).
- The CEO will publish information on the Elections Alberta website and send a copy of the writ to each returning officer (s.5.2).
- Candidate nominations will remain valid for the new election (s.5.2).
- Returning officers and election officers will secure election materials (s.5.2(5)).

### Location of voting places on Indian reserves and Métis settlements

- Moves references to band councils of an Indian Band or Metis settlement from sections 38 and 48.1 to new section 38.1.
- In preparation for a Senate election to be held in conjunction with the municipal general elections, the CEO will consult with the band council of each Indian band and with the Métis settlement council and settlement administrator of each Métis settlement to determine whether a suitable building located on the Indian reserve or Metis settlement

may be used as a voting place for electors who are residents of the Indian reserve or Métis settlement (s.38.1(1)).

- If the band council of an Indian band or the Métis settlement council agrees to the use of a suitable building located on the Indian reserve or Metis settlement, the CEO will use the building as a voting place (s.38.1(2)).

## **Electors list**

- Aligns changes made to *Local Authorities Election Act*, allowing for the permanent electors registered for a municipality to be used when conducting a Senate election in conjunction with municipal elections (s.39).



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