



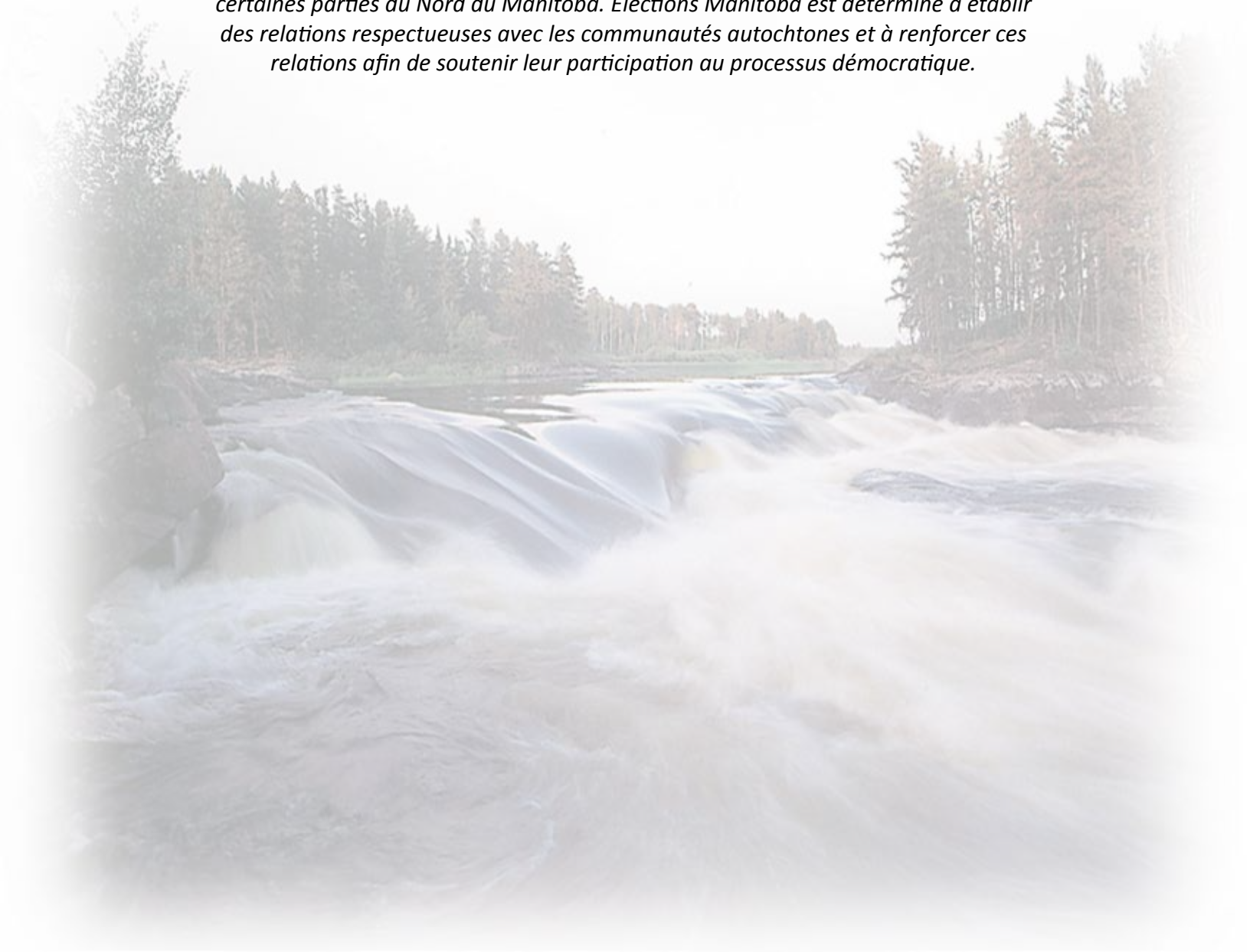
2022

ANNUAL REPORT

Acknowledging Territory

Manitoba is situated on the Treaty Territories and ancestral lands of the Anishinaabeg, Anishinewuk, Dakota Oyate, Denesuline and Nehethowuk Nations; on the Homeland of the Red River Métis and the ancestral lands of the Inuit in parts of Northern Manitoba. Elections Manitoba is committed to building and strengthening respectful relationships with Indigenous communities to support their participation in the democratic process.

Le Manitoba est situé sur les territoires visés par un traité et les terres ancestrales des peuples anichinabé, anishinewuk, dakota oyate, dénésuline et nehethowuk, sur le territoire des Métis de la rivière Rouge et sur les terres ancestrales des Inuits dans certaines parties du Nord du Manitoba. Élections Manitoba est déterminé à établir des relations respectueuses avec les communautés autochtones et à renforcer ces relations afin de soutenir leur participation au processus démocratique.



Honourable Myrna Driedger
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Room 244 Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8

May 16, 2023

Madame Speaker:

I have the honour of submitting to you the annual report on the activities of Elections Manitoba for the year 2022. This report is submitted pursuant to subsection 32(1) of *The Elections Act* and subsection 107(1) of *The Election Financing Act*.

Respectfully yours,



Ms. Shipra Verma, CPA, CA
Chief Electoral Officer

Madame Myrna Driedger
Présidente de l'Assemblée législative
Palais législatif, bureau 244
Winnipeg (Manitoba) R3C 0V8

Le 16^e mai 2023

Madame la Présidente :

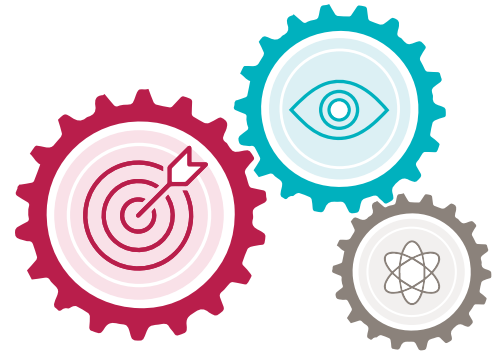
J'ai l'honneur de vous présenter le rapport annuel sur les activités d'Élections Manitoba pour l'année civile 2022. Ce rapport est soumis à votre attention conformément aux dispositions du paragraphe 32(1) de la *Loi électorale* et du paragraphe 107(1) de la *Loi sur le financement des élections*.

Le tout respectueusement soumis.



Ms. Shipra Verma, CPA, CA
Directrice générale des élections

Mission, Vision and Values



OUR MISSION

To foster the democratic rights of citizens through the conduct of free and fair elections, enhance public confidence and awareness of the electoral process, and assist political participants to comply with legislation.

OUR VISION

To provide information, opportunities and resources to foster excellence, participation and fairness in the electoral process.

OUR VALUES

Elections Manitoba has a set of core values that guide the organization to fulfill its mandate and achieve its strategic priorities. The activities and actions of Elections Manitoba reinforce these core values as part of its culture.

**Fairness | Integrity | Respect | Excellence | Participation
Innovation | Accountability**

NOTRE MISSION

Garantir les droits démocratiques des citoyens par l'organisation d'élections libres et justes, améliorer la confiance du public et la sensibilisation au processus électoral, et prêter assistance aux participants politiques afin qu'ils se conforment à la législation.

NOTRE VISION

Informer et fournir des possibilités et des ressources qui favorisent l'excellence, la participation et l'impartialité du processus électoral.

NOS VALEURS

Élections Manitoba s'inspire de valeurs fondamentales qui guident l'organisation dans la réalisation de son mandat et l'atteinte de ses priorités stratégiques. Les activités et les actions du personnel et de la direction d'Élections Manitoba confirment ces valeurs en tant que parties intégrantes de la culture organisationnelle.

**Équité | Intégrité | Respect | Excellence | Participation
Innovation | Obligation redditionnelle**

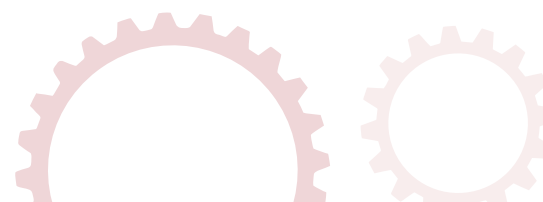
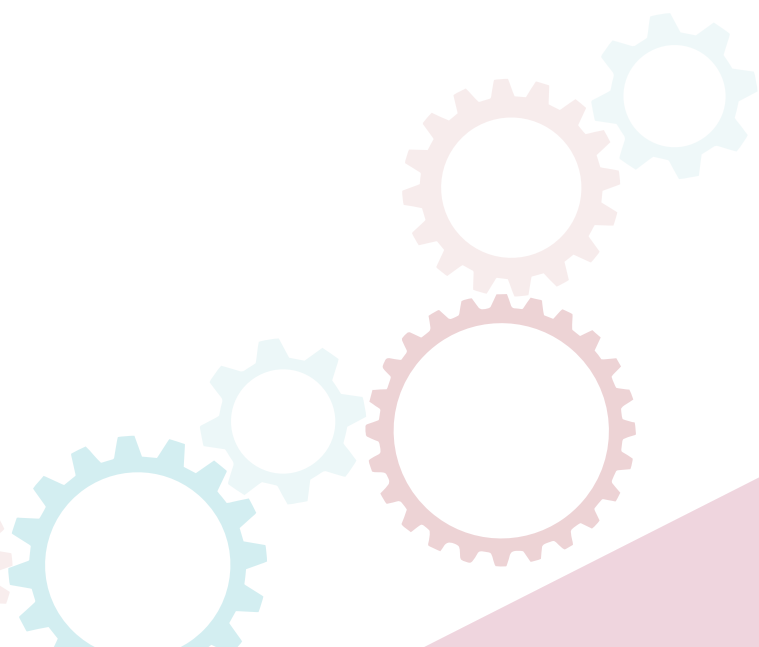


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I. Message from the CEO

In 2022, Elections Manitoba took a leap forward in our three-step vision to modernize provincial elections in Manitoba.

Bill 11, *The Elections Amendment Act*, passed quickly and with unanimous support and confidence from the legislature. This truly shows the trust elected members in the province have in Elections Manitoba to conduct and deliver free, fair and accessible elections. As we move forward with the modernization plan, we are working to keep the confidence of voters and elected officials.

The passing of Bill 11 on March 16 allowed us to implement tools and processes that will bring greater service and access for voters. Most importantly, the new legislation continues to safeguard the integrity of the electoral process. This modernization will also improve efficiency for election workers and voters alike and make it faster to share results in a secure way.

We worked hard to implement these legislative changes to prepare for the general election next year. In 2022 we also delivered three byelections – in Fort Whyte (March 22), Thompson (June 7) and Kirkfield Park (December 13) where we were able to test some of these new processes. Real-time electronic strike-off on election day, and the use of a political information portal were all successfully implemented and refined for these byelections.

The 43rd general election will bear the fruits of the hard work put into this new legislation. This new technology will make it possible for voters to vote at any polling station in their electoral division on election day, and when doing so, the vote will be struck off the voting list in real-time. This builds on the service offered in advance voting where voters can vote at any poll in the province during eight days of advance polls. The introduction of vote counting machines will also allow for greater speed and accuracy on election night.

Improving service and access for voters is a driving force behind Elections Manitoba's modernization efforts. The improved efficiency at polling places makes voting more convenient and faster.



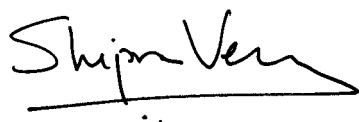
"This new technology will make it possible for voters to vote at any polling station in their electoral division during advanced voting and on election day, and when doing so, the vote will be struck off the voting list in real-time."

Shirpa Verma CPA, CA – Chief Electoral Officer

This work to improve the voter experience relates to another important area of focus for Elections Manitoba this year – diversity, equity, and inclusion. Every person deserves to feel heard and that they belong. Elections Manitoba is dedicated to removing barriers so that all Manitobans can participate in the electoral process – at all levels. Connecting people to the democratic process remains vitally important for us.

As the providers of a crucial public service, it is important that Elections Manitoba be reflective of the Manitobans we serve. This is why we work with local communities to hire election workers from within their electoral district as much as we can. By providing greater access and service at the polls, we are working to make the process of voting more equitable and inclusive for all Manitobans.

We close the year with a firm focus on the election we will deliver in 2023. We are looking forward to delivering a free and fair election using new tools that will offer voters, candidates and campaign staff improved service with greater efficiency.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Shipra Verma". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Shipra Verma, CPA, CA
Chief Electoral Officer

I. Message du directeur général

En 2022, Élections Manitoba a fait un bond en avant dans sa vision en trois étapes visant à moderniser les élections provinciales au Manitoba.

Le projet de loi 11, *Loi modifiant la Loi électorale*, a été adopté rapidement, avec l'appui unanime et la confiance de l'Assemblée législative. Cela montre à quel point les élus de la province se fient à Élections Manitoba pour la conduite et l'organisation d'élections libres, équitables et accessibles. Pendant la mise en œuvre du plan de modernisation, nous nous appliquons à conserver la confiance des électeurs et des représentants élus.

L'adoption du projet de loi 11, le 16 mars, nous a permis de mettre en place des outils et des processus qui amélioreront le service et l'accès par les électeurs. Plus important encore, la nouvelle loi continue de préserver l'intégrité du processus électoral. Cette modernisation renforcera également l'efficacité du processus pour le personnel électoral et les électeurs et permettra de communiquer plus rapidement les résultats de manière sécurisée.

Nous avons travaillé d'arrache-pied pour mettre en œuvre ces changements législatifs en vue de l'élection générale de l'an prochain. En 2022, nous avons également organisé trois élections partielles – à Fort Whyte (22 mars), Thompson (7 juin) et Kirkfield Park (13 décembre) – au cours desquelles nous avons pu tester certains de ces nouveaux processus. La radiation en temps réel par voie électronique le jour du scrutin et l'utilisation d'un portail d'information politique ont été mises en œuvre avec succès et affinées pour ces élections partielles.

La 43^e élection générale profitera du travail soutenu consacré à cette nouvelle loi. La nouvelle technologie mise en place permettra aux électeurs de voter dans n'importe quel bureau de scrutin de leur circonscription le jour de l'élection. Chaque électeur qui aura voté sera rayé de la liste électorale en temps réel. Cela complétera le service proposé pendant les huit jours du scrutin par anticipation, où les électeurs pourront voter à n'importe quel bureau de scrutin de la province. L'introduction de machines à compter les voix permettra également une plus grande rapidité et une plus grande précision le soir de l'élection.



"La nouvelle technologie mise en place permettra aux électeurs de voter dans n'importe quel bureau de scrutin de leur circonscription pendant le scrutin par anticipation et le jour du scrutin. Chaque électeur qui aura voté sera rayé de la liste électorale en temps réel."

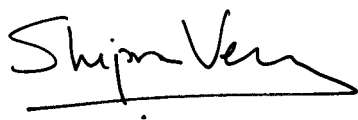
Shirpa Verma CPA, CA – Chief Electoral Officer

L'amélioration des services et de l'accès par les électeurs est l'une des forces motrices qui sous-tendent les efforts de modernisation d'Élections Manitoba. Grâce à l'efficiencia renforcée des bureaux de scrutin, il sera plus pratique et plus rapide de voter.

Ce travail d'amélioration de l'expérience des électeurs est lié à un autre domaine d'intérêt important pour Élections Manitoba cette année : la diversité, l'équité et l'inclusion. Chacun mérite de se sentir écouté et d'avoir un sentiment d'appartenance. Élections Manitoba se consacre à l'élimination des obstacles afin que tous les Manitobains puissent participer au processus électoral, à tous les niveaux. Connecter les gens au processus démocratique demeure pour nous d'une importance vitale.

En tant que fournisseur d'un service public crucial, Élections Manitoba doit refléter la population que nous servons. C'est pourquoi nous travaillons avec les collectivités locales pour embaucher, dans la mesure du possible, des travailleurs électoraux au sein même de leur circonscription. En offrant un meilleur accès et un meilleur service aux bureaux de scrutin, nous nous efforçons de rendre le processus de vote plus équitable et plus inclusif pour toute la population.

Nous concluons l'année en nous concentrant sur l'élection que nous organiserons en 2023. Nous nous réjouissons à la perspective d'organiser un scrutin libre et équitable à l'aide de nouveaux outils qui offriront aux électeurs, aux candidats et au personnel de campagne un service amélioré et plus efficient.



Shipra Verma, CPA, CA
Directrice générale des élections

II. Election Activities

A. BYELECTIONS

Three byelections were held in 2022, following the resignation of Brian Pallister (Fort Whyte), the tragic passing of Danielle Adams (Thompson), and the resignation of Scott Fielding (Kirkfield Park). Each byelection was held on a different date:

Electoral Division:	Order in council:	Writ of Election Issued:	Byelection Date:
Fort Whyte	88/2002	February 22, 2022	March 22, 2022
Thompson	196/2002	May 10, 2022	June 7, 2022
Kirkfield Park	397/2002	November 15, 2022	December 13, 2022

Operational Conduct

The byelections were conducted under different legislative frameworks. Several modifications to the voting process were used for the Fort Whyte byelection. Legislation passed in March 2022, which brought the amendments in to full effect for Thompson and Kirkfield Park.

Modifications

Three modifications introduced in the 2019 general election were repeated during the Fort Whyte byelection. The modifications used technology to increase administrative efficiencies and improve the voting process for voters.



- 1. Real-time strike-off for advance voting:** Staff quickly found voters' names by either scanning a barcode on their voter information card or searching the electronic voters list. Staff would then strike the voter's name electronically.
- 2. New advance voting book format:** The voting book was re-formatted to allow for labels to be printed and pasted into the voting book, eliminating the need to hand write information for non-resident advance voting.
- 3. Combined voting book and voters list for election day:** A pre-printed voting book was used on election day that combined the preliminary and revised paper voters lists along with those who had voted in advance

In addition, the Standing Committee on Legislative Affairs approved the expanded use of vote by mail on October 13, 2021, in recognition of serving voters during a pandemic.

Under legislation (EA s. 143(1)), absentee voting by mail-in ballot is only available to electors who would be absent from their electoral division during advance voting and election day. This modification allowed for expanded vote by mail access for the byelection.

A complete report on the vote by mail modification can be found in Elections Manitoba's 2021 annual report.

Shadow Process

In Fort Whyte, a secondary team of clerks ran a parallel process alongside the voting officials administering the vote on election day to test real-time strike-off. The process allows candidates and parties to have immediate access to who has voted throughout the day through a secure online portal. The political information portal was piloted in Fort Whyte.

Pandemic Planning

The Fort Whyte byelection was the first provincial election event held in Manitoba during the COVID-19 pandemic. Elections Manitoba consulted with stakeholders, including the Office of the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer, to develop COVID safety protocols for in-person voting.

The following protocols were implemented to follow public health orders and guidance to ensure voters felt they could safely participate in the election.

- Vote by mail
- One voting officer per table
- Adherence to public health orders and guidance, including:
 - Mandatory mask use (until the public health order expired after advance voting)
 - Physical distancing markers
 - Hand sanitizer stations
 - Barriers
 - Single use pencils
- Vaccinated workers serving in higher risk situations (institutional polls, homebound voting)



Legislative Implementation

Bill 11 passed March 16, 2022, bringing the modifications to the voting process used in the 2019 general election and the Fort Whyte byelection into legislation. Electronic real time strike-off was used during advance voting and on election day in both Thompson and Kirkfield Park.

The use of electronic strike-off allowed for the political information portal to be used in both byelections. The portal was further utilized in Kirkfield Park, with the addition of file sharing for voters list distribution.

Advance voting took place from Saturday to Saturday (Day 10 through Day 3 on the election calendar), where it previously took place from Thursday to Thursday (Day 12 through Day 5).

Results – Fort Whyte

The member elected in Fort Whyte was Obby Khan. The table below summarizes the results.

Candidate Candidat(e)	Registered Party Parti inscrit	Votes Received Voix obtenues	Percent of Votes Cast Pourcentage des suffrages exprimés
Khan, Obby*	PC	3,050	42.43%
Reaves, Willard	MLP	2,853	39.69%
Schroeder, Trudy	NDP	1,112	15.47%
Allard, Patrick	Ind.	101	1.40%
Geddert, Nicolas	GPM	55	0.77%

*Member elected

Rejected Rejetés	15
Declined Refusés	3
Total Votes Cast Total de bulletins déposés	7,189
Registered Voters Électeurs inscrits	16,184
Turnout Participation	44.42%
Plurality Écart gagnant	197

Results – Thompson

The member elected in Thompson was Eric Redhead. The table below summarizes the results.

Candidate Candidat(e)	Registered Party Parti inscrit	Votes Received Voix obtenues	Percent of Votes Cast Pourcentage des suffrages exprimés
Redhead, Eric*	NDP	1,465	70.74%
Larocque, Charlotte	PC	581	28.05%

*Member elected

Rejected Rejetés	21
Declined Refusés	4
Total Votes Cast Total de bulletins déposés	2,071
Registered Voters Électeurs inscrits	10,706
Turnout Participation	19.34%
Plurality Écart gagnant	884



Results – Kirkfield Park

The member elected in Kirkfield Park was Kevin Klein. The table below summarizes the results.

Candidate Candidat(e)	Registered Party Parti inscrit	Votes Received Voix obtenues	Percent of Votes Cast Pourcentage des suffrages exprimés
Klein, Kevin*	PC	2,357	36.97%
Oxenham, Logan	NDP	2,196	34.45%
Nichol, Rhonda	MLP	1,741	27.31%
Bayomi, Dennis	GPM	70	1.10%

*Member elected

Rejected Rejetés	9
Declined Refusés	2
Total Votes Cast Total de bulletins déposés	6,375
Registered Voters Électeurs inscrits	17,584
Turnout Participation	36.25%
Plurality Écart gagnant	161

Methods of Voting

Voting Method	Fort Whyte		Thompson		Kirkfield Park	
	Ballots Cast	% of Ballots Cast	Ballots Cast	% of Ballots Cast	Ballots Cast	% of Ballots Cast
Regular	4,472	62.2%	1,209	58.3%	4,094	64.2%
Advance	2,334	32.5%	728	35.1%	2,231	35.0%
Institutional	70	1.0%	95	4.6%	0	0.0%
Institutional Write-in	0	0.0%	36	1.7%	0	0.0%
Homebound	13	0.2%	1	0.0%	23	0.4%
Vote by Mail/Absentee	300	4.2%	5	0.2%	27	0.4%
Total Votes Cast	7,189		2,074		6,375	

Registration

Details of registration for each by election follows.

Registration Method	Fort Whyte		Thompson		Kirkfield Park	
	Registered Voters	Percent*	Registered Voters	Percent*	Registered Voters	Percent*
Close of Preliminary List	15,741	97.3%	10,420	97.3%	17,412	99.2%
Revision	109	0.7%	6	0.1%	41	0.2%
Advance Swear-ons	57	0.4%	114	1.1%	15	0.1%
Election Day Swear-ons	277	1.7%	166	1.6%	80	0.5%
Total Registered Voters	16,184		10,706		17,548	

**Percent of total registered voters on final voters list*

Campaign Finance

Candidates and parties must file audited statements for financial activity during an election or byelection. Statements for the byelections were due on July 22, 2022 (Fort Whyte) and October 7, 2022 (Thompson). In some circumstances, it is possible to have the deadline extended.

The party and candidate filing deadline for Kirkfield Park is April 13, 2023, and were not available at the time this report was prepared.

Registered Party	Fort Whyte Date Filed	Thompson Date Filed
Green Party of Manitoba	August 18, 2022	No candidates
Manitoba Liberal Party	July 25, 2022	No candidates
New Democratic Party of Manitoba	July 21, 2022	October 7, 2022
The Progressive Conservative Party of Manitoba	August 12, 2022	October 7, 2022

Financial Administration

Summary of Byelection Field Expenditures

Election Officials Expenditures

	Fort Whyte	Thompson	Kirkfield Park
Fees			
Voting Officials	\$31,366	\$21,988	\$28,223
Office & Field Support	11,013	12,644	9,523
Registration Agents	-	430	4,245
Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers	25,184	24,908	31,660
Officials/Office & Field Support Benefits	7,625	6,464	8,213
Subtotal	\$75,187	\$66,435	\$81,864
Training			
Voting Officials	3,240	2,754	6,900
Office & Field Support	-	0	0
Registration Agents	-	0	400
Learning Management System	1,276	770	450
Subtotal	\$4,516	\$3,524	\$7,750
Travel			
Voting Officials	82	4,121	40
Office & Field Support	22	813	207
Registration Agents	-	-	273
Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers	656	1,532	72
Subtotal	\$760	\$6,466	\$592
Total Election Officials Expenditures	\$80,463	\$76,424	\$90,206

Returning Office Expenditures

	Fort Whyte	Thompson	Kirkfield Park
Furniture & Equipment Rental	\$19,459	\$ -	\$100
Office Supplies & Expenses			
- Ballot Printing	2,461	1,600	2,642
- Courier and Freight	-	773	249
- Election Materials	19,508	19,493	867
- Telephone and Internet	1,943	2,805	694
Professional Services	375	3,348	1,775
Repairs and Maintenance			
- Advance	1,600	1,650	2,040
- Election Day	5,402	5,900	5,320
- Returning Office	12,840	7,500	12,000
COVID Related Materials	7,116	7,116	-
Voter Information Mail	22,714	13,661	29,011
Total Returning Office Expenditures	\$93,417	\$63,845	\$54,699
Total Field Expenditures	\$173,880	\$140,268	\$144,905

Summary of Byelection Headquarters Expenditures**Headquarters Expenditures**

	Fort Whyte	Thompson	Kirkfield Park
Community and Outreach	\$25,390	\$30,644	\$25,694
Office Supplies and Expenses	4,342	4,774	6,434
Postage & Courier	1,207	835	817
Professional Fees	17,602	14,329	17,016
Salaries and Benefits	3,269	3,917	3,788
Space Rental & Storage	10,570	22,660	-
Travel	-	15,959	-
Total Headquarters Expenditures	\$62,379	\$93,118	\$53,749

Summary of candidate assets and liabilities, income, expenses, expense limits, and reimbursements - Fort Whyte

	Allard, Patrick IND	Geddert, Nicolas GPM	Khan, Obby* PC	Reaves, Willard MLP	Schroeder, Trudy NDP
Assets and Liabilities					
Assets	2,023	30	39,059	(1,698)	86
Liabilities	410	179	10,667	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$1,613	(\$149)	\$28,392	(\$1,698)	\$86
Income					
Contribution	5,120	30	82,023	310	6
Transfers	-	-	840	5,972	22,745
Other	360	-	7,535	0	0
Total	\$5,480	\$30	\$90,398	\$6,282	\$22,752
Expenses					
Election	3,868	131	55,513	7,979	20,490
Non-Election		48	6,493	2,176	
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$3,868	\$179	\$62,006	\$7,979	\$22,666
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$1,613	(\$149)	\$28,392	(\$1,698)	\$86
Reimbursements	\$-	\$-	\$13,878	\$1,973	\$5,073

Advertising limit: \$11,741

Election expense limit: \$56,943

**Member elected*

Summary of party assets and liabilities, income, expenses, expense limits, and reimbursements - Fort Whyte

	GPM	MLP	NDP	PC
Income				
Contributions ¹	\$3,280	\$55,603	\$259,544	\$132,179
Transfers	-	-	5,625	-
Other	5	8,200	21,269	25,092
Total	\$3,285	\$63,804	\$286,438	\$157,271
Expenses				
Election Expenses	-	\$34,148	\$169	\$67,255
Transfers	-	-	81,283	840
Surplus/(Deficit)				
	\$3,285	\$29,655	\$204,986	\$89,176
Reimbursements²				
	\$-	\$8,537	\$42	\$16,814

Advertising limit: \$33,658

Election expense limit: \$67,510

1. Contributions include money received and the value of non-monetary contributions.
2. Three registered parties qualified for reimbursement. The amount reimbursed was 25% of actual election expenses (total election expenses less non-monetary election expenses).



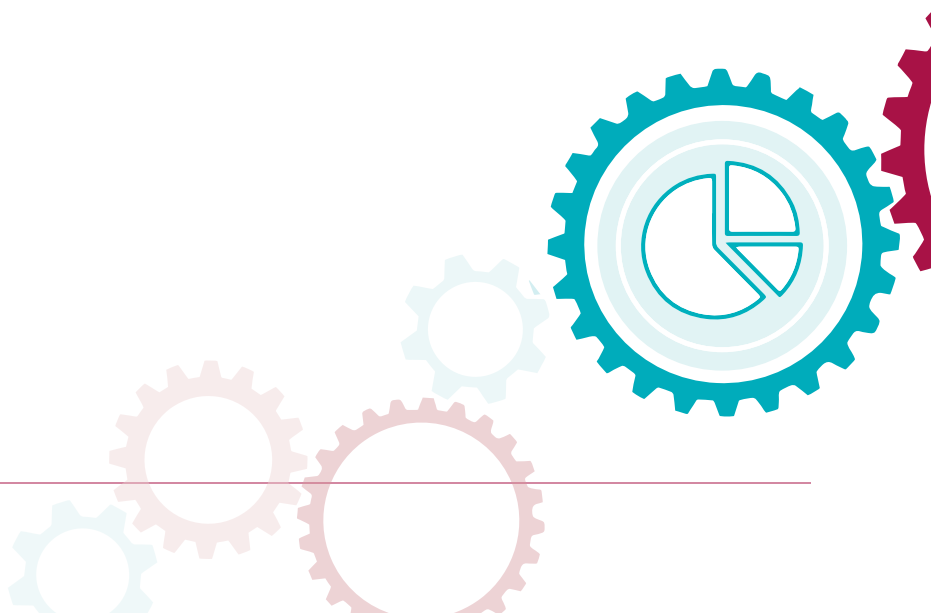
Summary of candidate assets and liabilities, income, expenses, expense limits, and reimbursements - Thompson

	Larocque, Charlotte PC	Redhead, Eric* NDP
Assets and Liabilities		
Assets	-	6,289
Liabilities	-	2,792
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$-	\$3,498
Income		
Contribution	-	-
Transfers	9,623	36,062
Other	-	2
Total	\$9,623	\$36,064
Expenses		
Election	9,139	29,286
Non-Election	484	3,281
Transfers	-	-
Total	\$9,623	\$32,567
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$-	\$3,498
Reimbursements	\$2,285	\$7,321

Advertising limit: \$8,086

Election expense limit: \$62,535

**Member elected*



Summary of party assets and liabilities, income, expenses, expense limits, and reimbursements - Thompson

	NDP	PC
Income		
Contributions ¹	\$229,697	\$259,942
Transfers	580	1,601
Other	4,771	70,157
Total	\$235,047	\$331,701
Expenses		
Election Expenses	\$5,629	\$-
Transfers	57,248	9,623
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$172,170	\$322,077
Reimbursements²	\$1,407	\$-

Advertising limit: \$23,181

Election expense limit: \$46,496

1. Contributions include money received and the value of non-monetary contributions.
2. Two registered parties qualified for reimbursement. The amount reimbursed was 25% of actual election expenses (total election expenses less non-monetary election expenses).



B. PREPARING FOR THE 43RD GENERAL ELECTION

Procurement

In March of 2022 new legislation passed, allowing for voters to vote anywhere in their electoral division on election day, and the use of vote counting machines to count ballots. Elections Manitoba launched a competitive bid process to select providers for the technology to deliver this. Vendors were selected for vote counting machine hardware, as well as the equipment to be used in electronic strike-off (such as laptops and printers). A request for tenders for printing ballots to meet the security standards of vote counting machines also began.

Training and Recruitment

Once the technology picture became clearer, EM staff began the work of updating training procedures and guides to reflect the technology and process changes.

In 2022, Elections Manitoba fully hired returning officers (RO) and assistant returning officers for each electoral division in the province, plus a team of RO support agents. Training began with a seminar held in Winnipeg in September. At the training, all ROs, AROs, and support staff received an overview of Elections Manitoba's mission and mandate and got hands-on experience with some of the new processes and technology that will be used in the 43rd general election. More training sessions are planned in 2023 in different regions of the province.



Political Information Portal

Elections Manitoba developed and launched a political information portal that provided real-time voter data, fed from real-time strike-off. This was first used as a modification to voting in the Fort Whyte byelection, and then further refined for the Thompson and Kirkfield Park byelections.

Upgrading Internal Systems

To implement the new legislation, changes were also required Elections Manitoba's Election Management System (EMS). EMS touches most parts of how Elections Manitoba delivers the election, from hiring and training to tracking polling places to reporting election night results. Elections Manitoba's information technology team has completed a round of upgrades to the EMS and will further work on the system to provide a seamless election experience.





Recordkeeping and Financial Compliance Tools

Elections Manitoba launched its web-based recordkeeping system for parties. This tool allows parties to provide supporting documents for their annual and election returns. Previously, the tool was only available for candidates. The system allows for efficient tracking and exporting of data into the required reporting form, as well as the ability to issue tax receipts. The tool was used by parties and candidates in all three byelections in 2022.

Development continues on FACT (Financial Audit and Compliance Tool), a new internal review system that will centralize the review of candidate and party returns. This system produces reports to track the filing of returns and reviewing of contributions.

These tools support compliance efforts and make it easier for political entities to comply with legislated financial reporting.

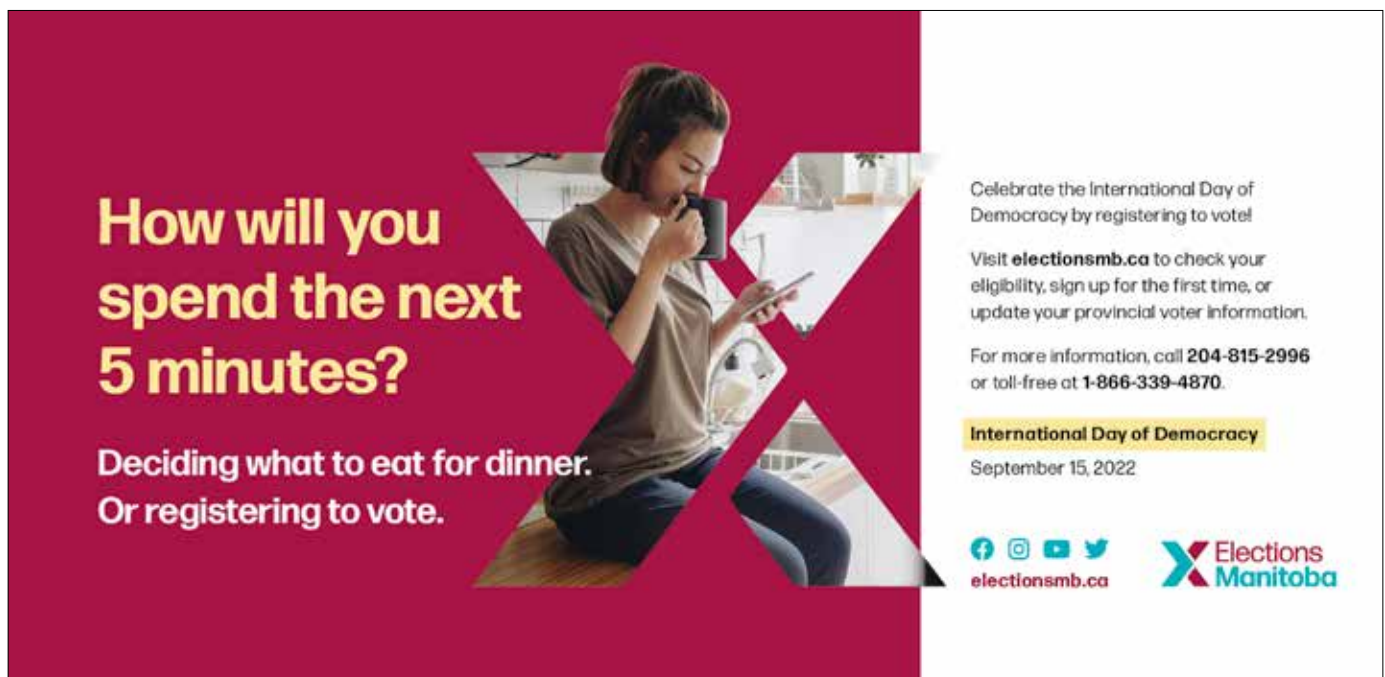
III. Annual Activities

A. MANITOBA VOTER REGISTER ACTIVITIES

Voter Registration Drive

Elections Manitoba conducted its second annual voter registration drive in September, once again timed to coincide with the International Day of Democracy. Efforts consisted of social media outreach and an insert in Manitoba Hydro bills to encourage voters to register to vote or update their voter information.

Manitoba Hydro Insert



The advertisement is a horizontal banner. On the left, a woman is sitting on a wooden floor, holding a black mug and looking at her smartphone. A large, stylized 'X' is overlaid on the image. To the left of the 'X', the text reads: 'How will you spend the next 5 minutes?' in large, bold, yellow font. Below this, in smaller white font, it says: 'Deciding what to eat for dinner. Or registering to vote.' On the right side of the banner, there is white text on a dark background. It says: 'Celebrate the International Day of Democracy by registering to vote! Visit electionsmb.ca to check your eligibility, sign up for the first time, or update your provincial voter information. For more information, call 204-815-2996 or toll-free at 1-866-339-4870.' Below this text is a yellow box with the text: 'International Day of Democracy September 15, 2022'. At the bottom right, there are social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter, followed by the text 'electionsmb.ca' and the Elections Manitoba logo.

How will you spend the next 5 minutes?

Deciding what to eat for dinner.
Or registering to vote.

Celebrate the International Day of Democracy by registering to vote!
Visit electionsmb.ca to check your eligibility, sign up for the first time, or update your provincial voter information.
For more information, call 204-815-2996 or toll-free at 1-866-339-4870.

International Day of Democracy
September 15, 2022

electionsmb.ca Elections Manitoba

Social Media Advertisements



The advertisement is a vertical square. It features a young man with dark hair, wearing a blue shirt, looking at his smartphone. A large, stylized 'X' is overlaid on the image. To the left of the 'X', the text reads: 'How will you spend the next 5 minutes?' in large, bold, white font. Below this, in smaller white font, it says: 'Reading the comments on that next post. Or registering to vote in Manitoba.' At the bottom, there is a yellow box with the text: 'Do something that matters.' followed by the Elections Manitoba logo.

How will you spend the next 5 minutes?

Reading the comments on that next post.
Or registering to vote in Manitoba.

Do something that matters. Elections Manitoba



The advertisement is a vertical square. It features a man with a beard, wearing a grey jacket, looking at his smartphone. A large, stylized 'X' is overlaid on the image. To the left of the 'X', the text reads: 'How will you spend the next 5 minutes?' in large, bold, white font. Below this, in smaller white font, it says: 'Reading the comments on that next post. Or registering to vote in Manitoba.' At the bottom, there is a yellow box with the text: 'Do something that matters.' followed by the Elections Manitoba logo.

How will you spend the next 5 minutes?

Reading the comments on that next post.
Or registering to vote in Manitoba.

Do something that matters. Elections Manitoba



The advertisement is a vertical square. It features a woman with blonde hair, wearing a red sweater, looking at her smartphone. A large, stylized 'X' is overlaid on the image. To the left of the 'X', the text reads: 'How will you spend the next 5 minutes?' in large, bold, white font. Below this, in smaller white font, it says: 'Taking a quiz to find out how Millennial you are? Or registering to vote in Manitoba.' At the bottom, there is a yellow box with the text: 'Do something that matters.' followed by the Elections Manitoba logo.

How will you spend the next 5 minutes?

Taking a quiz to find out how Millennial you are?
Or registering to vote in Manitoba.

Do something that matters. Elections Manitoba

Online Voter Registration Service Statistics – September 2022



■ Total ■ From Online Campaign

Permanent Voters List

In 2018, Elections Manitoba entered into formal data sharing agreements with other public bodies, as set out in legislation. Elections Manitoba regularly receives voter information from third-party sources, including Elections Canada, Manitoba Public Insurance, Manitoba Health, and Vital Statistics. The data received is reviewed and analyzed to keep an up to date list of voters, remove duplicates and clean up address formatting on an ongoing basis.

In 2022, the data sharing agreement with Elections Canada was reviewed and renewed for an additional five years.

Since the inception of the Manitoba Voter Register in 2018, the permanent voters list has continued to mature, becoming more accurate, complete, and current with each election event and data matching cycle.

The annual voters list was available to registered political parties on February 10, 2023. There were 810,209 registered voters in Manitoba on this annual list

B. ACTIVITIES RELATED TO *THE ELECTIONS ACT* (EA)

Working with Advisory Committees

Elections Manitoba consults with representatives from registered parties on matters related to *The Elections Act* (EA) and *The Election Financing Act* (EFA).

The EA Advisory Committee

The EA advisory committee met in June 2022. The committee discussed a number of topics, including:

- Byelections:
 - Conduct of the Fort Whyte and Thompson byelections, including modifications used and amendments implemented
 - Use of the political information portal
 - Outreach and voter turnout
 - Kirkfield Park byelection preparation, including implementation of new legislation
- 43rd general election preparations:
 - Hiring, training, and procurement updates
- Recommendations
 - EA recommendations made by Elections Manitoba in the 2021 annual report
 - Recommendations made by Elections Canada in their report on federal elections

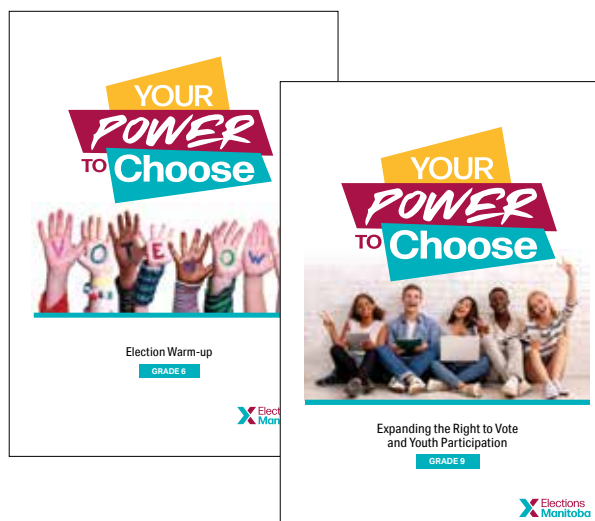
The EA Advisory Committee

Registered Party	Representative
CPC-M Communist Party of Canada – Manitoba	Vacant
GPM Green Party of Manitoba	Dirk Hoeppepner
MLP Manitoba Liberal Party	Sam Dixon
MP The Manitoba Party	Vacant
NDP New Democratic Party of Manitoba	Tim Johnson
PC The Progressive Conservative Party of Manitoba	Michele Halverson

Delivering Public Education Programming

Your Power to Choose (YPTC) workshops returned to an in-class setting, with the easing of pandemic restrictions. YPTC is Election Manitoba's election education program, designed to create life-long learning skills and instill the habit of civic participation among Manitoba youth. YPTC consists of education resources, lessons and activities, and a facilitated, student led in-class workshop available to students of all grade levels.

For the 2022-23 school year, 38 workshops had been booked across 14 different electoral divisions.



Indigenous Outreach

Elections Manitoba has recognized outreach to Indigenous populations as an ongoing priority. Election Manitoba's Indigenous outreach and engagement strategy has three goals:

1. Supporting Indigenous voters
2. Building internal capacity and structures to better service First Nation, Inuit, and Métis peoples
3. Relationship-based engagement with Indigenous leaders, organizations, and communities

Supporting Indigenous voters:

In 2022, Elections Manitoba worked with the Northwest Company to host a voter registration drive in Norway House Cree Nation. For the Thompson byelection, Elections Manitoba operated polling places in every First Nations community. In addition, some informational election materials were translated into Cree.

Building internal capacity and structures:

Elections Manitoba has been working to refine its internal addressing database for First Nations communities to ensure higher accuracy of the Manitoba Voter Registry. A more accurate register means better delivery of voter information cards and a more complete voters list, which in turn makes voting more convenient.



Changes have also been made to voting systems to allow for various address formats used in First Nations communities.

Elections Manitoba is committed to diversity in its hiring practices and works to hire election workers from within communities.

Relationship based engagement:

Elections Manitoba engages regularly and on multiple levels with Indigenous leaders and communities. EM executive leadership met with leaders from Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, plus made presentations to senior election officials in designated Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Communities.

In 2022, Elections Manitoba provided voting supplies and assistance to the Manitoba Métis Federation and Long Plains First Nation for their general elections.

C. ACTIVITIES RELATED TO *THE ELECTION FINANCING ACT* (EFA)

Registered Parties

The Keystone Party (KP) registered as a political party in Manitoba on June 28, 2022. The Keystone Party became registered under *The Election Financing Act* by collecting 2,500 signatures of individuals who were voters in the last general election and filing the required forms and statements.

The Manitoba Party voluntarily de-registered, effective March 3, 2022. A registered party can voluntarily de-register at any time outside of the campaign period of a general election. The application for de-registration must be made to the chief electoral officer in writing and be signed by the party leader, the president, and financial officer

Processing Annual Financial Returns

Registered parties and constituency associations are required to report their annual financial activities to demonstrate compliance and maintain transparency with the public. Candidates must also report on outstanding liabilities and loan status.

Registered Party Filing

The filing deadline for 2021 annual statements was March 31, 2022. In some circumstances, it is possible to have the deadline extended. Statements were filed as follows:

Registered party	Date Filed
Communist Party of Canada – Manitoba (CPC-M)	May 16, 2022
Green Party of Manitoba (GPM)	May 12, 2022
Keystone Party (KP) ¹	-
Manitoba First (MF) ²	February 3, 2022
Manitoba Liberal Party (MLP)	May 2, 2022
The Manitoba Party (MP)	August 25, 2022
New Democratic Party of Manitoba (NDP)	March 31, 2022
The Progressive Conservative Party of Manitoba (PC)	June 23, 2022

1. Keystone Party registered on June 28, 2022 and was therefore not required to file a 2021 annual statement.

2. Voluntarily de-registered, effective March 3, 2022.

Registered party annual financial statements for the calendar year ending December 2021

	CPC-M	GPM	MF	MLP	MP	NDP	PC
Income							
Contributions	600	13,301	745	289,781	1,770	1,137,954	1,423,768
Transfers	-	-	-	4,354	-	26,841	15,676
Other income	-	249	6,200	12,937	-	34,565	200,938
Total income	\$600	\$13,550	\$6,945	\$307,073	\$1,770	\$1,199,360	\$1,640,382
Expenses							
Expenses	77	18,546	249	263,200	1,852	848,060	2,055,700
Surplus (deficit)	\$523	\$(4,996)	\$6,696	\$872	(\$82)	\$351,299	(\$415,318)
Assets and Liabilities							
Assets	2,787	47,113	-	183,325	2,261	740,516	1,186,646
Liabilities	5,957	689	-	35,336	-	33,593	511,746
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$3,170)	\$46,425	\$-	\$147,989	\$2,261	\$706,923	\$674,900

Constituency Associations

Constituency associations must file an unaudited financial statement, including a detailed listing of contributions as part of their annual reporting requirements. An annual contribution to the constituency association totaling \$250 or more is public information.

Contributions of \$250 or more to constituency associations in 2022

Reporting Year	GPM	MLP	NDP	PC
Total Number of Constituency Associations	1	57	57	57
Number Reporting Contributions of \$250 or More	-	-	2	-
Contributions of \$250 or More	-	-	\$845	-

CPC-M and MP did not have constituency associations

Yearly comparison of constituency associations reporting contributions of \$250 or more

Reporting Year	Number of Constituency Associations	Reporting Contributions of \$250 or more	Total Contributions of \$250 or more
2011	171	4	\$1,240
2012	171	3	\$2,513
2013	171	1	\$320
2014	171	0	-
2015	171	4	\$3,461
2016	171	0	-
2017	172	1	\$280
2018	172	1	\$260
2019 (old)	172	0	-
2019 (new)	164	3	\$5,700
2020	164	0	-
2021	172	2	\$845

** Transitioning to new boundaries established by the 2018 Boundaries Commission*

Candidates' Outstanding Liabilities and Loan Balances

Any candidate or leadership contestant who has outstanding liabilities or loans must file a statement with Elections Manitoba every year that the liabilities or loans remain outstanding.

At the end of 2022, the number of candidates and leadership contestants required to file was as follows:

Election/Leadership Contest	Number Required to File	Number Filed
2014/2015 NDP Leadership Contest	1	1
2016 General Election	3	3
2017 NDP Leadership Contest	1	1
2017 MLP Leadership Contest*	1	1
2017 Point Douglas Byelection	1	1
2019 General Election	7	7
2021 PC Leadership Contest*	2	2
2022 Fort Whyte Byelection	4	4
2022 Thompson Byelection	1	1

** Adjustment to 2021 recordings. Two additional returns were filed in 2021.*

Complete details can be found in the returns filed by candidates and leadership contestants, which are available for viewing at Elections Manitoba or on the Elections Manitoba website.

Contributions Received by Registered Parties for 2021

Registered parties must report on the value of all monetary and non-monetary contributions received in their annual statements. The table below shows the total value of contributions made to registered parties in 2021, as reported in 2022.

Contributions to registered parties in 2021

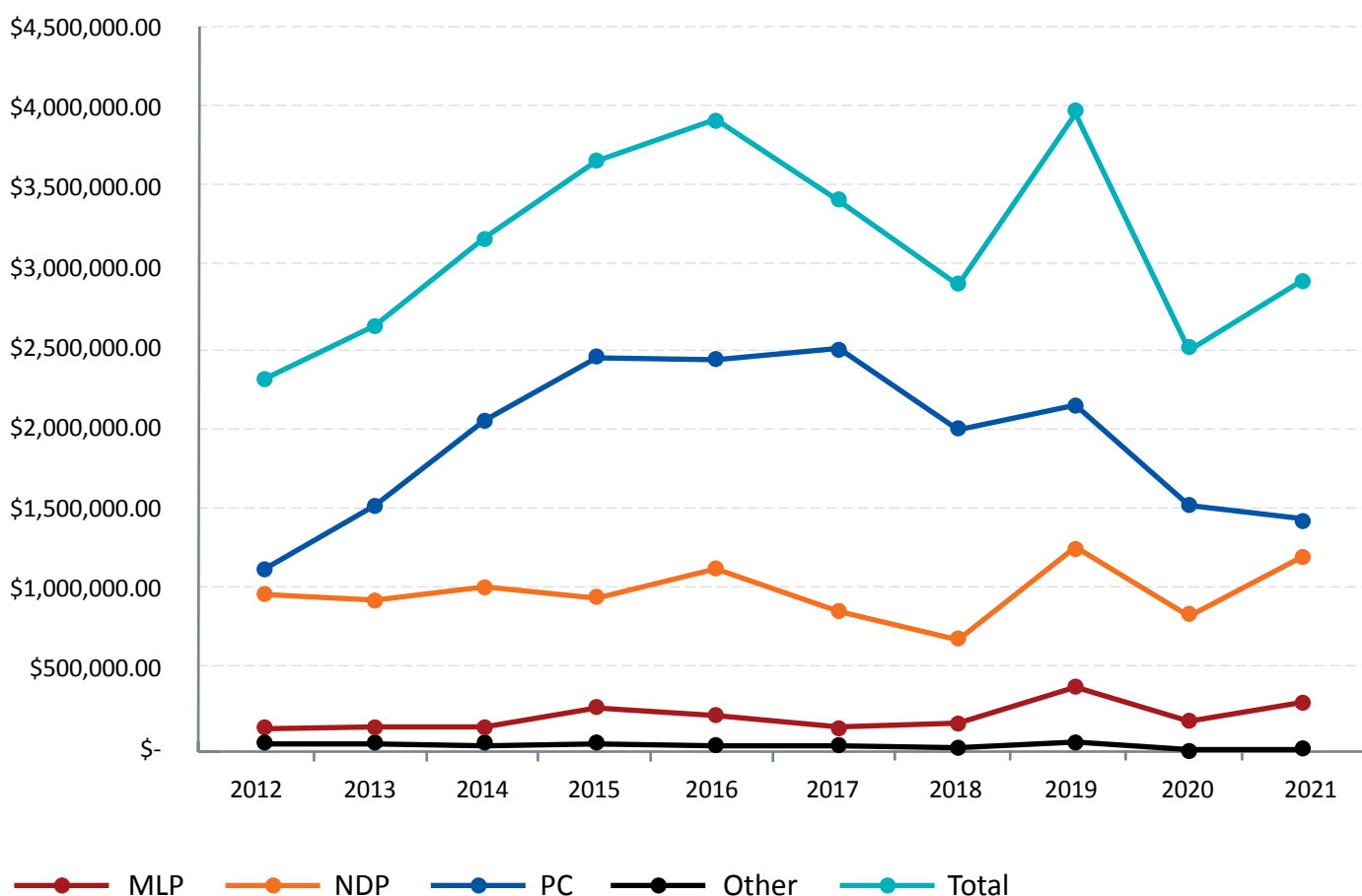
	CPC-M	GPM	MF	MLP	MP	NDP	PC	Totals
\$250 or More	\$600	\$9,385	\$745	\$232,805	\$0	\$843,231	\$861,983	\$1,948,749
Less Than \$250	0	3,916	-	56,976	1,770	294,722	561,785	919,169
Total	\$600	\$13,301	\$745	\$289,781	\$1,770	\$1,137,954	\$1,423,768	\$2,867,918
Less Contributions on Form 921 ¹	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Contributions	\$600	\$13,301	\$745	\$289,781	\$1,770	\$1,137,954	\$1,423,768	\$2,867,918

1. Form 921: Statement of Income, Transfers and Election Expenses of a Registered Party for a Campaign period.

Historical summary of contributions received by registered parties - past 10 years

Reporting Year	MLP	NDP	PC	Other	Total
2012	\$130,258	\$963,237	\$1,160,517	\$10,165	\$2,264,177
2013	132,290	949,700	1,499,192	20,492	2,601,674
2014	123,709	988,786	2,003,850	27,556	3,143,901
2015	254,914	904,518	2,418,236	29,508	3,607,176
2016	207,555	1,152,780	2,414,749	35,852	3,810,936
2017	167,216	778,482	2,459,578	35,363	3,440,639
2018	176,212	627,974	2,000,738	37,306	2,842,230
2019	321,021	1,266,399	2,187,327	45,053	3,819,800
2020	166,570	808,204	1,487,151	20,857	2,482,782
2021	289,781	1,137,954	1,423,768	16,416	2,867,918
Total	\$1,969,526	\$9,578,033	\$19,055,106	\$278,568	\$30,881,233

Total Contributions - 10 Years



Manitoba Tax Credits Claimed for Political Contributions

Only registered candidates and parties may issue tax receipts for contributions. The tax receipts may be used to claim tax credits as per section 4.11(1.) of The Income Tax Act. An individual's political contribution tax credit for a taxation year ending after 2020 is the lesser of \$1,000 and the amount determined according to the following table:

Total Contribution (T)	Political Contribution Credit (PCC)
\$400 or less	$PCC = .75 \times T$
more than \$400 but not more than \$750	$PCC = \$300 + (T - \$400)/2$
more than \$750	$PCC = \$475 + (T - \$750)/3$

The following table shows the dollar value of credits claimed for political contributions for the last 10 years:

Tax year	Total credits claimed \$	Total contributions for registered parties \$
2012	1,158,297	2,264,177
2013	1,338,177	2,601,674
2014	1,022,360	3,143,901
2015	1,819,002	3,607,176
2016	2,237,043	3,810,936
2017	1,624,738	3,440,639
2018	1,453,104	2,842,230
2019	2,224,372	3,819,800
2020	1,287,558	2,482,782
2021	1,375,807	2,867,918
Total	\$15,540,458	\$30,881,233

The EFA Advisory Committee

The EFA Advisory Committee met on October 12, 2022. Topics discussed included:

- Elections
 - Fort Whyte and Thompson byelections: candidate and party returns; and reimbursements and auditor subsidies
 - 43rd general election preparation
 - Third parties
- Compliance and assistance:
 - Process for nominees, endorsements, auditors and official agents for the 43rd general election
 - Annual filing requirements
 - Expense limits
 - Filing tools
 - Info sessions and webinars
- Recommendations:
 - EFA recommendations made by Elections Manitoba in the 2021 annual report

Registered Party		Representative
CPC-M	Communist Party of Canada – Manitoba	Vacant
GPM	Green Party of Manitoba	Dirk Hoeppe
KP	Keystone Party	Charlene Hancox-Senow
MLP	Manitoba Liberal Party	Sam Dixon
MP	The Manitoba Party	Vacant
NDP	New Democratic Party of Manitoba	Kevin Dearing
PC	The Progressive Conservative Party of Manitoba	Darrell Girardin

D. LEADERSHIP CONTESTS

As reported in Elections Manitoba's 2021 annual report, the Progressive Conservative Party held a leadership contest in 2021. The leadership contest period was August 23 to December 30, 2021, with the contest held on October 30, 2021. There were two contestants: Heather Stefanson and Shelly Glover. Heather Stefanson was selected as leader.

The filing deadline was January 31, 2022. In some circumstances, it is possible to have the deadline extended.

Official Contestants	Date Filed
Glover, Shelly	April 22, 2022
Stefanson, Heather	March 21, 2022

Two additional contestants indicated an intent to run but withdrew. They are still required to file a financial return.

Required to Report	Date Filed
Lee, Kenneth	December 15, 2021
Martin, Shannon	March 14, 2022

PC Leadership Contest 2021

	Glover, Shelly	Stefanson, Heather	Lee, Kenneth	Martin, Shannon
Income and Expenses				
Contributions	188,484	576,625	3,000	797
Other Income	-	-	-	-
Total Income	188,484	576,625	3,000	797
Expenses	187,949	561,911	2,590	797
Surplus (Deficit)	\$535	\$14,714	\$410	\$ -
Assets and Liabilities				
Assets	6,316	80,476	25,050	-
Liabilities	5,783	65,762	24,640	-
Net Worth (Deficit)	\$535	\$14,714	\$410	\$ -

E. PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE

The Public Interest Disclosure Act, known as Whistleblower Protection, came into effect in April 2007. No disclosures were received by Elections Manitoba in 2022, although the organization remains fully aware of the Act and is ready to ensure its obligations are met should an employee come forward with a concern.

F. RESTRICTIONS ON GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

Section 92 of *The Election Financing Act* regulates the kind of information a government department or Crown agency can publish or advertise leading up to and during an election. Any person who believes that a violation of section 92 has occurred may file a complaint with the commissioner of elections.

Section 93 of the EFA requires that, if the commissioner of elections finds that a complaint is justified, the commissioner must advise the chief electoral officer of the particulars of the violation, which are then published in the annual report.

The commissioner reviewed a complaint related to budget advertising which ran during the 2022 Thompson byelection. The complaint stated that government was using taxpayer funds to promote a partisan agenda during a byelection, which allegedly violated s. 92 of *The Election Financing Act*. The commissioner determined that there was no violation as the existing legislation allows for advertising about a budget or throne speech during an election period as it relates to matters before the legislative assembly.

About the Commissioner of Elections:

The commissioner of elections is an independent officer who oversees compliance with Manitoba election laws, specifically The Elections Act and The Election Financing Act. The commissioner is responsible for investigations, and where appropriate, prosecution under the legislation.

The commissioner makes public the outcome of their investigations under the EA and EFA in their own reports and online at www.commissionerofelections.mb.ca.

G. DEVELOPING STAFF AND SHARING BEST PRACTICES

Elections Manitoba staff continued to learn and contribute to the knowledge base of best practices for elections over the past year. As an organization, EM participates in a number of collaborative organizations to gather and share information with election management bodies across the country. This contributes to the professionalism of EM staff in researching, developing and implementing improvements to the election process that support efforts to be innovative in providing the best possible service to Manitobans.



Elections Manitoba CEO Shipra Verma moderates a plenary session on diversity, equity, and inclusion at the 2022 COGEL annual conference.

Some of these bodies are:



Secretariat for Electoral Coordination (SEC): Staff participated in a number of working groups and projects looking at issues and services that affect most election management bodies across the country. This included: Deceptive Online Practices, Enhancing Indigenous experiences in Electoral democracy, Voters with a Disability, electoral finance, recruitment and training, working with telecommunications providers, and GIS/mapping initiatives. Shipra Verma, EM CEO, is currently serving on the steering committee for the SEC.



Canadian Election Official Training (CEOT): Staff participated in or led training for election staff across the country including an introductory course on election laws and practices, and another on leadership development with a focus on elections and their unique challenges and opportunities. Shipra Verma serves as program chair.



Canadian Elections Resources Library (CERL): EM supports this online information sharing forum and library for all election management bodies. It is a valuable tool for gathering information on issues affecting various election management bodies such as acceptable ID, dealing with vendors and the effective use of technology in the electoral process.



Conference of Canadian Elections Officials: Chief electoral officers met in-person and virtually on several topics including reconciliation efforts with Indigenous communities, electoral democracy in a polarized society and the future of work. Further conversations around trust in the election process and election bodies and standards for technology will continue over the next few years.



Conference on Government Ethics and Law (COGEL): This annual conference brings people from across the US, Canada and beyond to look at issues around elections, election financing, ethics and the law, privacy and communications, and conflict of interest. This year's program committee was chaired by Shipra Verma, CEO of EM. A particular highlight of the conference was an in-depth discussion of diversity, inclusion and equality during a plenary event. The discussion was chaired by Shipra Verma.

Staff also participated in Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC) events looking at the future of work, diversity and inclusion, reconciliation and disinformation.

H. LOOKING FORWARD TO 2023

43rd General Election

Elections Manitoba is gearing up to deliver the 43rd general election in 2023. Implementation of the new legislation passed in 2021 touches almost all aspects of election preparation.

Recruitment and Training: Over 7,000 election officials are expected to participate in the next election cycle. Historically, many election officials return to work multiple elections. With the introduction of new technology and the accompanying changes to processes, focus is being put on ensuring all training is updated and election officials are hired for appropriate roles.

Procurement: Elections materials and equipment have been procured, including over 600 vote counting machines. Staff are working diligently to ensure the safety and security of Manitoba's election processes by conducting simulations, security audits and system testing.

Internal systems: Internal systems, such as EM's election management system, are being updated and bolstered to ensure smooth implementation of the legislative changes.

Outreach and Engagement: Elections Manitoba plans to continue its efforts to promote voter participation through a variety of outreach activities. Through targeted social media campaigns and strategic partnerships with community groups and Indigenous communities and organizations, Elections Manitoba will be working hard to reach underrepresented communities. Elections Manitoba will also be hosting public events and workshops aimed at providing critical information on voting, the electoral process, and employment opportunities.

As Elections Manitoba staff reflect on the accomplishments of the past year they are also excited about the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. In the coming year, the focus will continue to be on achieving key strategic priorities:

1. Recommending and implementing sound legislation changes to enhance the electoral process and expand support for political participants.
2. Modernizing election technology and procedures to improve operations, increase efficiency, and enhance security.
3. Expanding access to voting by making the process more accessible and convenient for all eligible voters.
4. Strengthening partnerships and improving outreach by collaborating with community groups, civic organizations, and other stakeholders to increase election engagement and promote voter education.
5. Upgrading organizational practices to streamline and improve performance.

Elections Manitoba is committed to achieving these goals and continuing to deliver free, fair, and accessible elections to Manitobans.



RECOMMENDATIONS

The chief electoral officer may recommend amendments to Manitoba's electoral law to improve and/or update the electoral process and better serve voters and political participants. The CEO's recommendations are published in Elections Manitoba's annual reports.

The CEO consults with the advisory committees when drafting recommendations; however, what is ultimately recommended is at the sole discretion of the CEO.

THE ELECTIONS ACT

RECOMMENDATIONS CARRIED FORWARD

1. Election Calendar – Section 56(1) (a) and (b)

Consistent Election Calendar – Nomination deadline

Recommendation: To make the nomination deadline consistent for fixed date general elections, non-fixed date general elections, and byelections.

Background: The election calendar sets out key activities from the day of the writ until election day. The election calendar is usually 29 days but can go up to 35 days. The current election calendar for a fixed date general election is different than the election calendars for a byelection and a non-fixed date general election. For a fixed day election, there are six days from the writ to the close of nominations, which is 11 days before advance voting begins. For other elections, there are 13 days from the time writ is issued to the close of nominations, which is only four days before advance voting begins.

It is recommended that the calendars be made consistent and that nominations close six days after any writ of election is issued. Candidates know when a fixed date election will occur and generally know through public discourse when a non-fixed date election will be called. Byelections must be held within six months of a vacancy of a seat in the Legislative Assembly. As a result, candidates have adequate time to prepare to run as a candidate and can meet a tighter nomination window. This provides for more time for voters to get to know who their candidates are before advance voting begins. It also provides EM more time to prepare ballots and tabulators for advance voting, particularly time for printing ballots, and preparing and shipping tabulators and ballots, especially to remote locations.

	Fixed Date	Other Election
Day 28	Writ Issued	Writ Issued
Day 22	Nominations Close	
Day 15		Nominations Close
Day 10	Advance Voting	Advance Voting
Day 0	Election Day	Election Day

2. Revision period – Section 77(1) and 77(3)

Extend timeframe

Recommendation: Extend the timeframe for revision and allow revision to begin as soon as the writ is issued or as directed by the CEO.

Background: Revision has traditionally started 5-6 days after the writ was issued to allow returning offices to get set up, hire and train clerks and revision agents and prepare to update the voters list. The Manitoba Voter Register is a permanent voters list that is kept current between elections with regular data updates. Using the register, EM delivers voter information cards to voters as soon as the election begins. The register also allows voters to update their information quickly and easily online or by phone with appropriate proof of ID once the writ is issued, instead of waiting for 5-6 days. The additional timeframe for updates is convenient for voters and provides for a more current and complete voters list.

In addition, voters who register or update information will receive a voter information card in the mail providing information about their voting opportunities. The CEO has used the power to adapt in s. 28 to extend revision and it has been beneficial. Section 77(1) would be affected, in particular (b).

It is also recommended that the hours returning offices are required to be open during revision be adjusted and set by the CEO. Voters tend to use online services or the phone to update their information. Keeping the returning office open for 12 hours and serving few, if any voters is not an effective use of resources.

3. Voters List contents – Section 75(1.1)

Unique ID

Recommendation: To allow the unique identifier attached to voters to be shared with all political participants, including candidates.

Background: In August 2021, legislation was passed to provide for consistent content for voting lists provided by EM to political participants. The unique identifier stays with a voter even if they move or change their name. Only one section, s. 75(1.1) prevents candidates from receiving the unique identifier. EM is implementing an online portal for candidates and parties to track voting during advance voting and on election day. Candidates may not be able to access this efficient and time-saving tool if they can't see the unique identifier. The unique identifier does not provide any additional information to candidates than what they already receive on the voters list. The unique identifier is very similar to the consecutive number previously assigned to voters and provided to candidates. The protection of information from privacy perspective is similar. Providing the information consistently through the portal is efficient and allows EM to track when and how information is accessed.

4. Voter Service and Accessibility

Telephone Voting

Recommendation: To introduce a telephone voting option for Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members who are unable to return their ballot by mail in time to be counted while serving outside of Manitoba. This would be a pilot project to test feasibility and security. This recommendation reworks a previous recommendation for broader access to telephone voting.

Background: This would be for CAF members who will be outside the province or away from their voting location during advance voting and election day. CAF members are often serving in very remote or difficult to reach areas around the globe. Given the distance and remote locations, the ability to deliver and return ballots in a timely manner is limited.

The ability to vote by phone would allow CAF members to quickly and easily cast their ballot before the close of voting on election day, with appropriate security and process measures. A pilot of CAF voting would test the feasibility of telephone voting.

5. Leave to Participate in Elections — Elections Office Staff - section 17(1)

Recommendation: That the leave given to office staff and interpreters to work in a returning office be consistent with the leave timelines for registration agents.

Background: Registration agents can begin unpaid leave to work in a returning office 75 days before a fixed date election in order to conduct targeted registration. Currently, leave for office staff and interpreters does not begin until the election is called. As a result, staff are not in place to support registration activity. Aligning the leave of absence for office staff with that of registration agents would improve voter registration efforts that occur before an election is called.

THE ELECTION FINANCING ACT

RECOMMENDATIONS CARRIED FORWARD

1. Party Registration Requirements – Section 6

Use the Manitoba Voter Register as source for eligible voters

Recommendation: To remove the reference to the ‘last general election’ regarding the 2,500 names required to register a party and use the current information in the Manitoba voter Register.

Background: A political party can become a registered party by gathering 2,500 names of eligible voters from the last general election. The reference to the last general election appears to be a legacy provision. The Manitoba Voter Register, a permanent voters list, is maintained on an ongoing basis and has the most current information on eligible voters. It is no longer necessary to use the list from the past election to identify eligible voters. It is recommended that section 6 be amended to say eligible voters and remove the reference to last general election.

2. Reporting by Constituency Association — Section 64

Recommendation: To amend section 64 by changing the date for a constituency association to file their annual financial statement from January 31 to March 31.

Background: Since 2017, constituency associations have filed an unaudited financial statement providing an overview of their financial position at the end of each year and, if requested by the chief electoral officer, any other sources of funding. This supports transparency and allows for the reconciliation of transfers between constituency associations and both candidates and registered parties.

Elections Manitoba has had discussions with advisory committee representatives and financial officers of constituency associations about adjusting the timing of filing the financial statements to be consistent with that of registered parties. This would allow for more accurate information and reduce the need to later amend financial statements that are being prepared and filed at different times. This would make the process more efficient for the constituency associations.

3. Late Filing Fee: Constituency Association — Section 70(2)

Recommendation: To update section 70(2) to reflect the change in filing deadline recommended under section 64.

Background: Under current legislation, a constituency association's financial officer that fails to file a statement required under section 64 by February 28 of each year must pay the chief electoral officer a late filing fee of \$25 for each day the failure continues.

If section 64 were amended as recommended above, the date after which the late filing fee would come into effect would be April 30. This would be a consequential amendment due to changing in reporting of the constituency association.

4. Recoverability of Late Filing Fees — Section 70

Recommendation: To amend section 70 to include a time period for recovery of late filing fees of 30 days of receiving the notice from the chief electoral officer.

Background: A person who fails to file information, a statement, report or record by the filing deadline is subject to a late filing fee. Once the filing deadline has passed, a late filing fee is assessed at \$25 per day for each day the failure continues, to a maximum of 30 days. The person is notified of the amount payable once the information is received or, if the information has not been received, once the deadline has passed.

There is currently no timeframe for payment of late filing fees in the legislation. In practice, however, we request the payment be made in 30 days, which is consistent with other filing requirements. In order to clarify the timeline for payment of late filing fees, it is recommended the section be amended to specify a 30-day period.

Other Recommendation Relevant to the Conduct of Elections

RECOMMENDATIONS CARRIED FORWARD

Establish a Single Address Authority for Manitoba

A permanent voter register must correctly link a voter to an address. Manitoba does not have consistent address conventions, meaning addresses for the same location can be provided in several different formats. This makes it difficult to match the right voter to the right electoral division and poll. It also impacts the accuracy of voter information provided to candidates and parties.

A single address authority would improve efficiency not just for electoral purposes; public safety would also be impacted, as fire, ambulance, and police services would use standardized addresses.

RECOMMANDATIONS

Le directeur général des élections peut recommander de modifier la loi électorale du Manitoba pour améliorer ou mettre à jour le processus électoral et offrir un meilleur service aux électeurs et aux participants politiques. Les recommandations du directeur général sont publiées dans les rapports annuels d'Élections Manitoba.

Le directeur général des élections consulte les comités consultatifs lorsqu'il élabore ses recommandations. Cependant, ce qui est finalement recommandé est laissé à sa seule discrétion.

LOI ÉLECTORALE

RECOMMANDATIONS REPORTÉES

1. Calendrier électoral – Paragraphes 56(1)a) et b)

Calendrier électoral uniforme et clôture des mises en candidature

Recommandation : Uniformiser la date de clôture des mises en candidature entre les élections générales à date fixe, les élections générales à date non fixe et les élections partielles.

Contexte : Le calendrier électoral établit le déroulement des principales activités à compter du jour de la prise du décret jusqu'au jour du scrutin. Le calendrier électoral typique compte 29 jours, mais il peut aller jusqu'à 35 jours. Actuellement, le calendrier d'une élection générale à date fixe diffère de celui d'une élection partielle ou d'une élection générale à date non fixe. Dans le calendrier d'une élection à date fixe, six jours séparent le jour de la prise du décret de la date de clôture des mises en candidature, soit 11 jours avant le début du scrutin par anticipation. Dans le calendrier des autres types d'élections, 13 jours séparent la prise du décret de la clôture des mises en candidature, soit quatre jours seulement avant le début du scrutin par anticipation.

	Élections à date fixe	Autres élections
Jour 28	Prise du décret électoral	Prise du décret électoral
Jour 22	Clôture des mises en candidature	
Jour 15		Clôture des mises en candidature
Jour 10	Scrutin par anticipation	Scrutin par anticipation
Jour 0	Jour du scrutin	Jour du scrutin

On recommande que les calendriers soient uniformisés et que la clôture des mises en candidature ait lieu six jours après la prise d'un décret électoral. Les candidats savent d'avance quand les élections à date fixe auront lieu, et il en est généralement de même pour les élections à date non fixe, dont les dates de déclenchement font l'objet de discussions publiques. Les élections partielles, pour leur part, doivent avoir lieu dans les six mois suivant la vacance d'un siège à l'Assemblée législative. Ce délai donne aux candidats le temps de se préparer, même si la fenêtre de mise en candidature est plus étroite.

Par ailleurs, cette période de six mois donne aux électeurs plus de temps pour apprendre à connaître leurs candidats avant le début du scrutin par anticipation. Elle donne également à Élections Manitoba plus de temps pour préparer les appareils de dépouillement du scrutin et les bulletins de vote (et en particulier pour imprimer ces derniers) en prévision du scrutin par anticipation ainsi que pour expédier le tout en direction des localités éloignées.

2. Période de révision – Paragraphes 77(1) et 77(3)

Prolongation de la période de révision

Recommandation : Prolonger la période de révision des listes électorales et veiller à ce que la révision commence dès la prise du décret électoral ou selon les instructions du directeur général.

Contexte : La révision commence généralement cinq ou six jours après la prise du décret relatif afin de permettre l'installation des bureaux de directeur du scrutin, l'embauche et la formation des commis et des préposés à la révision, et la préparation de la mise à jour des listes électorales. Le registre des électeurs est une liste permanente d'électeurs qui est gardée à jour entre les élections grâce à des mises à jour périodiques des données. Dès le début des élections, Élections Manitoba distribue les cartes d'information aux électeurs en utilisant le registre des électeurs. Ce registre permet aussi aux électeurs de mettre rapidement et facilement leurs renseignements à jour, en ligne ou par téléphone, en utilisant la preuve d'identité appropriée une fois le décret pris, au lieu d'attendre cinq ou six jours. La prolongation de cette période pour les mises à jour est pratique pour les électeurs et permet de disposer d'une liste électorale plus actuelle et plus complète. De plus, les électeurs qui s'inscrivent ou mettent à jour leurs renseignements recevront par la poste une carte d'information sur leurs possibilités de vote. Le directeur général a utilisé le pouvoir d'adaptation de la loi électorale énoncé à l'article 28 pour prolonger la période de révision et cela s'est révélé bénéfique. Cette recommandation aurait une incidence sur le paragraphe 77(1), notamment l'alinéa b).

Il est également recommandé que le directeur général adapte et détermine les heures d'ouverture du bureau du directeur du scrutin pendant la révision des listes électorales. Les électeurs ont tendance à utiliser les services en ligne ou le téléphone pour mettre à jour leurs renseignements. Si le bureau du directeur de scrutin reste ouvert pendant 12 heures et n'offre ses services qu'à un petit nombre d'électeurs, voire à aucun, ce n'est pas une utilisation efficace des ressources.

3. Contenu de la liste électorale – Paragraphe 75(1.1)

Identificateur unique

Recommandation : Communiquer l'identificateur unique attribué aux électeurs à tous les participants politiques, y compris les candidats.

Contexte : En août 2021, le Manitoba a adopté une loi pour garantir l'uniformité du contenu des listes électorales fournies par Élections Manitoba aux participants politiques. L'identificateur unique ne change pas, même si l'électeur déménage ou change de nom. Seul l'article 75(1.1) empêche les candidats de recevoir l'identificateur unique. Élections Manitoba est en train de créer un portail en ligne pour que les candidats et les partis puissent suivre le déroulement du vote pendant la période de scrutin par anticipation et le jour du scrutin. Il se peut que les candidats ne puissent pas accéder à cet outil efficace

qui leur fait gagner du temps s'ils ne peuvent pas voir l'identificateur unique. L'identificateur unique ne leur fournit pas plus de renseignements que ceux qu'ils trouvent déjà sur la liste électorale.

L'identificateur unique est très similaire au numéro consécutif auparavant attribué aux électeurs et fourni aux candidats. La protection des renseignements du point de vue de leur confidentialité est similaire.

Fournir les renseignements de manière cohérente au moyen du portail est efficace et permet à Élections Manitoba de suivre quand et comment l'information est consultée.

4. Services aux électeurs et accessibilité

Vote par téléphone (recommandation mise à jour)

Recommandation : Proposer une option de vote par téléphone destinée aux membres des Forces armées canadiennes qui ne peuvent pas retourner leur bulletin de vote par la poste à temps pour qu'il soit compté, lorsqu'ils sont en service à l'extérieur du Manitoba. Il s'agirait d'un projet pilote visant à vérifier la faisabilité et la sécurité de cette option.

Cette recommandation reprend une recommandation antérieure visant à élargir l'accès au vote par téléphone.

Contexte : Cette recommandation concerne les membres des Forces armées qui seront à l'extérieur de la province ou loin de leur lieu de vote pendant la période de vote par anticipation et le jour du scrutin. Les membres des Forces armées servent souvent dans des régions du monde très éloignées ou difficiles à atteindre. Compte tenu de la distance et de l'éloignement, la capacité de livrer et de retourner les bulletins de vote dans un délai raisonnable est limitée.

La capacité de voter par téléphone permettrait aux membres des Forces armées de voter rapidement et facilement avant la fin du vote le jour du scrutin en appliquant les mesures de sécurité et de traitement appropriées. On pourrait vérifier la faisabilité du vote par téléphone au moyen d'un projet pilote de vote des Forces armées.

5. Congé électoral – Personnel du bureau du directeur de scrutin – paragraphe 17(1)

Recommandation : Que le congé accordé au personnel de bureau et aux interprètes pour travailler à un bureau de directeur du scrutin concorde avec le congé des préposés à l'inscription.

Contexte : Les préposés à l'inscription peuvent prendre un congé sans solde pour travailler dans un bureau de directeur du scrutin 75 jours avant une élection à date fixe afin de procéder à une inscription ciblée. Actuellement, le congé du personnel de bureau et des interprètes ne commence pas avant le déclenchement des élections. Par conséquent, le personnel n'est pas disponible pour soutenir l'activité d'inscription.

En faisant concorder le congé du personnel de bureau avec celui des préposés à l'inscription, on améliorerait le travail d'inscription des électeurs effectué avant le déclenchement d'une élection.

LOI SUR LE FINANCEMENT DES ÉLECTIONS

RECOMMANDATIONS REPORTÉES

1. Exigences relatives à l'inscription des partis – Article 6

Exigences relatives à l'inscription des partis – Article 6

Recommandation : Supprimer la mention « lors des dernières élections générales » relative aux 2 500 noms de personnes exigés pour inscrire un parti et utiliser les renseignements à jour du registre des électeurs du Manitoba.

Contexte : Un parti politique peut devenir un parti inscrit en recueillant 2 500 noms d'électeurs qui étaient admissibles aux dernières élections générales. Le renvoi aux dernières élections générales semble être une disposition héritée du passé. Liste permanente d'électeurs, le registre des électeurs du Manitoba contient les renseignements les plus récents sur les électeurs admissibles et il est maintenu à jour en permanence. Il n'est plus nécessaire d'utiliser la liste des élections précédentes pour déterminer les électeurs admissibles. Il est recommandé de modifier l'article 6 en parlant d'électeurs admissibles et de supprimer le renvoi aux dernières élections générales.

2. Rapport des associations de circonscription — Article 64

Recommandation : Modifier l'article 64 en fixant la date de dépôt des états financiers annuels des associations de circonscription au 31 mars et non plus au 31 janvier.

Contexte : Depuis 2017, les associations de circonscription déposent un état financier non vérifié donnant un aperçu de leur situation financière à la fin de chaque année et, si le directeur général des élections le demande, de toute autre source de financement. Cela favorise la transparence et permet le rapprochement des transferts entre les associations de circonscription et les candidats et les partis inscrits.

Élections Manitoba a tenu des discussions avec les représentants des comités consultatifs et les agents financiers des associations de circonscription concernant la modification du calendrier de dépôt des états financiers pour qu'il concorde avec celui des partis inscrits. Cela permettrait d'obtenir des renseignements plus précis et de réduire la nécessité de modifier plus tard les états financiers qui sont préparés et déposés à des moments différents. De cette façon, le processus serait plus efficace pour les associations de circonscription.

3. Pénalités de retard - Paragraphe 70(2)

Recommandation : Mettre à jour le paragraphe 70(2) afin de rendre compte de la modification de la date limite de dépôt recommandée en vertu de l'article 64.

Contexte : Selon la loi actuelle, l'agent financier d'une association de circonscription qui ne dépose pas les documents visés à l'article 64 avant le 28 février de chaque année doit payer au directeur général des élections une pénalité de 25 \$ par jour de retard.

Si l'article 64 était modifié tel qu'il est recommandé ci-dessus, la date après laquelle la pénalité de retard entrerait en vigueur serait le 30 avril.

Il s'agirait d'une modification consécutive, rendue nécessaire par la modification des exigences de déclaration pour les associations de circonscription.

4. Recouvrement des pénalités de retard — Article 70

Recommandation : Modifier l'article 70 pour inclure une période de recouvrement des pénalités de retard de 30 jours après la réception de l'avis du directeur général des élections.

Contexte : Une personne qui ne dépose pas les renseignements, déclarations, rapports ou dossiers exigés avant l'expiration du délai est passible d'une pénalité de retard. Une fois la date limite de dépôt passée, une pénalité de retard de 25 \$ par jour de retard est imposée pendant une période maximale de 30 jours. La personne est avisée du montant payable une fois que l'information a été reçue ou, si l'information n'est pas reçue, une fois le délai expiré.

La loi ne prévoit actuellement aucun délai pour le paiement des pénalités de retard. Dans la pratique, cependant, nous demandons que le paiement soit effectué dans les 30 jours, conformément aux autres exigences de dépôt. Pour clarifier le délai de paiement des pénalités de retard, il est recommandé de modifier l'article pour préciser qu'il s'agit d'une période de 30 jours.

Autre recommandation relative à la conduite des élections : reportée à plus tard

DÉSIGNER UNE AUTORITÉ UNIQUE EN MATIÈRE D'ADRESSAGE POUR LE MANITOBA

Le registre électoral permanent doit permettre d'établir correctement un lien entre un électeur et une adresse.

Le Manitoba n'a pas de règles d'adressage cohérentes, ce qui signifie que l'adresse d'un même endroit peut être indiquée de diverses façons. Il est donc difficile d'établir une correspondance entre un électeur donné, la bonne circonscription et le bon bureau de vote. Cela a également des répercussions sur l'exactitude des renseignements concernant les électeurs qui sont fournis aux candidats et aux partis.

La détermination d'une autorité unique en matière d'adressage permettrait d'améliorer non seulement l'efficacité du processus électoral, mais aussi la sécurité publique, car les services d'incendie, d'ambulance et de police utiliseraient des adresses normalisées.



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