



DATE: February 4, 2022
TO: Administration and Finance Executive Committee
FROM: Municipal Clerk
SUBJECT: For your decision: Use of Corporate Resources For Election Purposes Policy

Issue

For Council to repeal the previously adopted Use of Corporate Resources for Election Purposes.

Facts

- Section 88.8 (4) of the Municipal Elections Act (MEA) prohibits a Municipality from making a contribution towards the promotion of or opposition to the candidacy of a person for elected office in any form. This includes assets, resources, services, and employees.
- Section 88.18 of the Municipal Elections Act requires a municipality to enact a Policy governing the use of municipal resources during the election campaign period.
- The Town of Fort Frances currently has a Policy in place per Consent item 310 (04/18) on 2018-04-23.
- It is proposed that the resolution Consent item 310 (04/18) be replaced (repealed) with the new revised and updated Policy.
- It is important that policies be reviewed to incorporate the modernization of the MEA and of the electronic world we live in.
- The modernization of this existing policy represents a positive step by the municipality in delivering an election process that achieves the following principles
 - The election should be fair and non-biased;
 - The integrity of the process should be maintained throughout the election; and
 - Candidates and Registered Third Party Advertisers should be treated fairly and consistently within a municipality.
 - This revised Policy also enhances section 12 of the Council Code of Conduct pertaining to election campaign work.
- The new draft policy template has been created while incorporating our brand developed by the Information and Technology Manager in consultation with the senior management team.

Analysis

- Various policies and reports from other municipalities were reviewed to incorporate best practices, fair reasonable treatment for all candidates and Third Party Advertisers and protection for both candidates, and the Corporation.
- This revised policy clarifies the expectations to all candidates, with the intent to reduce the possibility that either an individual candidate, Council Member or Staff unintentionally violate the Municipal Elections Act.
- Highlights of some of the proposed changes include the following:
 - The Policy will apply to all candidates and Registered Third Party Advertisers, acclaimed members, or a member not seeking re-election, Council Members and Staff
 - Provides further detail with respect to the requirements to ensure compliance to the MEA
 - The Policy addresses the use of IT resources such as cell phones, tablets and computers
 - The Policy provides new requirements for Social Media use
 - Candidates may not use any municipal logo on any election campaign material

RECOMMENDATION

<p>THAT Council approve and adopt the Use of Corporate Resources For Election Purposes as attached replacing the policy adopted by resolution Consent Item 310 (04/18) on 2018-04-23 .</p>
