

October 19, 2012

Mr. Simon Farbrother, City Manager  
City of Edmonton  
3 Floor City Hall  
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square  
Edmonton, AB T5J 2R7

Mr. Patrick Draper, City Manager  
City of St. Albert  
5 St. Anne Street  
St. Albert, AB T8N 3Z9

Mr. Kevin Glebe  
Interim Chief Commissioner  
Strathcona County  
2001 Sherwood Drive  
Sherwood Park, AB T8A 3W7

Dear Mr. Farbrother, Mr. Draper, and Mr. Glebe:

Further to the Minister's letter of August 21, 2012 which approved funding for the Proof of Concept Phase of the Joint Internet Voting Pilot, I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with some indication of the ministry's expectations regarding the following phases of this project and the supporting legislative and bylaw framework.

If the proof of concept testing is successful and your respective councils wish to proceed with the remaining phases of the internet voting pilot through the Regional Collaboration Program, I would request an updated version of the Internet Voting Pilot Proposal for 2013 Municipal Election document that was submitted to the department in February 2012 that reflects the results of the proof of concept testing phase and any impacts that the testing will have on the following phases of the project.

My department's support of the pilot project for use in an election under the *Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA)* will be based on the results of the proof of concept testing, and on the adequacy with which the go forward proposal meets the fundamental principles of voting systems. Many of these principles were addressed in your original submission, but for purposes of ensuring a common understanding, the department will need to establish that the proposed process will:

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- Maintain or enhance accessibility of voting opportunities;
- Ensure only eligible electors can vote;
- Ensure eligible electors can vote only once;
- Ensure that voters will have the opportunity to vote in private;
- Ensure that each voter's choices cannot be associated with the individual voter;
- Ensure that reasonable measures are in place to protect the security of votes and the voting system;
- Ensure that the process is subject to adequate audit verification; and
- Identify measures to be taken to promote transparency and reliability, including the use of communication or education programs to make voters familiar with the process and safeguards, or through the use of audit procedures and the publication of audit results.

Furthermore, the proposal should address desirable supporting features and activities such as:

- Public information and education programs;
- Maintenance of existing voting channels;
- Analysis of political, administrative and public support for the process;
- Analysis of administrative capacity to implement an internet voting project;
- Research undertaken on other municipal internet votes;
- Research undertaken on the system provider, including an evaluation of previous internet voting projects and reference checks;
- Process for publishing audit reports and findings; and
- Post-implementation evaluation process.

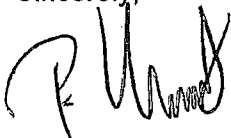
It is anticipated that legislative support for the internet voting pilot will be provided through section 160 of the *LAEA*, which states that the Lieutenant Governor in council may make regulations prescribing a system for the conduct and procedure of an election or vote that is not provided for in the *LAEA* or that is a modification of a system under the *LAEA*, and that the Minister may authorize the elected authority to pass a bylaw adopting the prescribed system.

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We are proposing that the regulation will prescribe, in general terms, a system for conduct and procedure of internet voting during an advanced voting period. It is also proposed that any authorization provided by the Minister under section 160 of the *LAEA* to allow your municipalities to pass a bylaw adopting the system would include conditions regarding processes and procedures that the bylaw must address. Over the next months, ministry staff will be in contact with your offices to ensure that the development of the draft regulation, draft Minister's authorization, and draft municipal bylaws will be co-ordinated.

Internet voting opens new opportunities and new challenges. I appreciate the initiative, vision, and expertise that you bring to this work. As you have indicated in your proposal, there are many advantages and benefits that can be gained from the implementation of internet voting. However, any progress to be made in this direction must be built on the Alberta legacy of public confidence in a trustworthy voting system. With the due care and attention that you are demonstrating in this project, I believe this can be accomplished.

Sincerely,



Paul Whittaker  
Deputy Minister

copy: Laura M. Kennedy, Director, Elections and Corporate Records, City of Edmonton  
Christopher Belke, Chief Legislative Officer, City of St. Albert  
Jaqueline Roblin, Legislative Services Manager, Strathcona County