

Bulletin #2021-35

MUNICIPAL RELATIONS

Important Notice to All Elected Officials and Chief Administrative Officers

Changes to processes for Public Hearings, Council Meetings, Public Notices and Council Members' Codes of Conduct

Bill 53, *The Municipal Statutes Amendment Act (2)* was passed by the Legislative Assembly on May 20, 2021 and is now in force.

The following is a summary of the legislative amendments:

Public Hearings, Council Meetings, and Public Notices

- *The Municipal Act, The Municipal Board Act, The Planning Act and The City of Winnipeg Charter* were amended to allow for public hearings to be conducted partially or entirely using electronic or other communication technology.
- Formally confirming in legislation that municipalities have the option to hold council meetings using electronic communication technology, and that council members may participate in meetings remotely.
- Municipalities and planning districts have now increased flexibility to post public notices.
 - Municipalities and planning districts may now choose to post public notices in the print or online version of a newspaper, or in other publication having general circulation in the municipality.
 - If there is no newspaper or other publication having general circulation in the municipality, public notices must be posted at the municipal office and at least two other public places in the municipality.

Council Members' Codes of Conduct

- The municipal council code of conduct resolution process will allow a council with fewer than seven members to approve sanctions with a simple majority vote, as opposed to a majority plus one vote. This change will allow both parties to a code of conduct complaint to recuse themselves from the vote to sanction, thereby maintaining procedural fairness throughout the resolution process.

All councils with seven or more members will continue to be required to achieve the majority plus one vote threshold to approve sanctions.

The attached questions and answers document provides more detailed information about these legislative amendments. A copy of the bill is also attached for your reference and can be found at: <https://web2.gov.mb.ca/bills/42-3/pdf/b053.pdf>.

Should you require additional information, please contact Municipal Relations at (204) 945-2572 or email mrmaas@gov.mb.ca.