



Kimberly A. Poffenroth, Municipal Electoral Officer
Elections NB
Sartain MacDonald Building
P. O. Box 6000
Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1

October 12, 2018

Dear Ms. Poffenroth,

I am writing to urge you to immediately reinstate December 3 2018 as the date of the next municipal by-elections.

Municipalities have been informed by Elections NB that scheduled municipal by-elections are being postponed from December 3, 2018 until May 6, 2019 “due to the results of the September 24, 2018, provincial general elections, in order for Elections New Brunswick to be able to plan for any contingency.” This is detrimental to local democracy and contrary to building strong local governments.

Some municipal council seats have been vacant since last April; the proposed delay means some council seats will have been vacant for over a year. The delay denies residents local representation and risks the ability of some municipal councils to operate. We are aware of at least one community currently unable to meet quorum due to council vacancies; with this delay, that community will have to wait half a year for this to be resolved.

We understand Elections NB is facing resource challenges due to the results of the provincial general election and the need to be prepared for a possible provincial vote. We strongly disagree that local democracy should suffer as a result. Elections NB should not be in the position of choosing between levels of government. We call on the provincial government to ensure Elections NB has the resources it needs to meet its full mandate.

We are requesting an immediate meeting to discuss the above. Please contact our office at 506-444-2285 or margot.cragg@umnb.ca to discuss a date.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wayne Sturgeon', is located below the 'Sincerely,' text.

Wayne Sturgeon
President, Union of the Municipalities of New Brunswick

Encl: Resolution U-18-15 (Reinstatement of the Date for Municipal Byelections)



Cc: Hon. Brian Gallant, Premier of New Brunswick
Blaine Higgs, Leader of the Opposition and Leader, Progressive Conservative Party of New Brunswick
David Coon, Leader, Green Party of New Brunswick
Kris Austin, Leader, People's Alliance of New Brunswick