

December 8, 2025

sent via email

Hon. Paul Calandra
Minister of Education
438 University Ave, 5th Flr,
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2A5
minister.edu@ontario.ca

RE: Follow up to our August letter

Dear Minister Calandra:

AMCTO [wrote to you this past](#) August with a three-fold request:

- 1.) Requesting that you apply an existing professional activity day to local election day through an amendment to R.R.O. 1990, Reg 304;
- 2.) Seeking clarity on when school board governance review changes would be implemented given that changes brought forward now and in 2026 could negatively impact local election planning and implementation which is well underway; and
- 3.) Related to school board governance, requesting that you consider aligning any future changes to school board governance with the anticipated review of the local election process which we hope will commence soon after the conclusion of post-election legislated processes in early 2027.

We have not received a response to that letter, and we have not received responses to our inquiries with your office or your officials.

Given the potential impacts that school board governance changes could have on the election, we are following up on our August letter to ask that you provide an update for our membership on what we can expect out of school board governance and seek timelines for implementing those changes given that a substantial portion of AMCTO members are responsible for running school trustee elections.

There are several legislated timelines that are coming up which would be impacted by these changes and would therefore impact the ability of municipalities to effectively deliver the school board trustee elections.

February 15th	Population of Elector Groups (PEG) Reports: produced by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) for school boards and used to determine the number of trustees and their distribution in an election year
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March 31st	School board deadline to complete the Trustee Determination and Distribution Report
March to April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of Notice for Nominations: Clerks in every municipality are required to provide notice to the public with respect to the opening of nominations and the number of offices to be elected. This is critical information for those wishing to become candidates. This information would have to be provided to news organizations and other publishers <i>weeks ahead</i> of the May 1st (nominations open) legislated timeline • Locally developed guides and materials for candidates and voters: may be delayed because of uncertainty. • Clerks Procedures: legislatively required to be provided to candidates by May 1st which contain information related to school trustee elections. • Provincial Candidate Guides: MMAH produces candidate guides for municipal council and school board elections. These are typically released in March of an election year. Without certainty on school board governance, these candidate guides will be incomplete.
April 7th	Trustee Determination and Distribution reports are submitted to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EDU 2. Election Administrators/clerks for all municipalities within the school board's jurisdiction 3. Secretary of every other board that is wholly or partially within the board's area of jurisdiction.

Moreover, school board general elections are run at no cost to the Province or to the school boards and are instead funded from municipal budgets, so any changes to the current system which impact the local elections will be on the backs of municipal taxpayers.

MPAC and school boards themselves are also required to adhere to these legislated timelines. To have them go through the process of preparing and submitting these reports just to have them discarded, or having to make significant updates or changes due to decisions on school board governance would be a waste of time, staff resources, and money.

As we have communicated to Minister Flack, any legislative or policy changes made from this point forward that would impact municipal or school board elections, including changes to the trustee governance model, will significantly impact the ability of municipalities to deliver effective, accountable, and cost-efficient municipal and school board elections. It will also result in additional costs for municipalities and taxpayers.

Further, it will impact the fairness of the election and result in uncertainty for candidates running for trustee offices and for voters who are making an important democratic decision.



We would respectfully ask that you provide a clear timeline for when a decision is expected to be made, along with an implementation schedule, and inform AMCTO and other interested parties. Doing so will allow AMCTO to support municipal clerks in understanding the implications, updating training and information that is provided through our AMCTO Elections Training Program, with the goal of ensuring that there is as little disruption as possible to the electoral and democratic process.

Sincerely,

[Originally signed by]

Danielle Manton, AOMC
President, AMCTO

CC: Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Patrick Sackville, Chief of Staff, Premier's Office
Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Denise Allyson Cole, Deputy Minister, EDU
Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister, MMAH
Robert Dodd, Chief of Staff, MMAH
Jessica Lippert, Chief of Staff, EDU
Caspar Hall, Assistant Deputy Minister, Local Government Division
Giselle Basanta, Assistant Deputy Minister, Education Equity and Governance Secretariat
Kathleen Woodcock, President, Ontario Public School Boards' Association
Michael Bellmore, President, Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association
Denis Labelle, président, Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario
Robert Demers, président, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques
Nicole McNeill, President and Chief Administrative Officer, MPAC
Robin Jones, President AMO