



November 30, 2023

The Honourable Randy Weekes  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly  
Chair, Board of Internal Economy  
Room 129, Legislative Drive  
Regina, SK S4S 0B3

Dear Mr. Speaker:

On October 16, 2023, I submitted a series of CEO Directives to the Board of Internal Economy for its consideration. On November 29, 2023, I received an email from the Government House Leader indicating that he would like to see a revised version of CEO Directive 2023-010 Polling Period with voting hours on the last day of voting of 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. The enclosed document, saved as version 2.0 or (v2.0) includes that change – with voting on the first five days taking place from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. as proposed in the previous Directive, but from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on the last day. I understand that the Board will consider this version alongside the original one (which had the hours of voting on all days being from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.).

As the Board enters into discussion, I want to be clear about the important reasoning behind selecting the hours as originally proposed (10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on all days). First, having consistent voting hours is important for electors as they become accustomed to the new Voting Week approach. Based on legislation and agreement among political parties, we are moving away from having “advance voting” and “election day voting” (these will no longer exist) to a “voting week” during which electors will have a total of 54 hours of voting, already 3 more hours than in 2020. All of Elections Saskatchewan’s public messaging would emphasize consistency across the six days of voting. Changing the hours on the last day of voting from the first five days of voting will create confusion for voters.

Second, and more importantly, following the decision to eliminate vote counting equipment from the suite of technology to be used, the operational team at Elections Saskatchewan spent weeks determining how an increased number of ballots placed in manual ballot boxes (due to an increased number of voters being served by electronic poll books) can be counted within the time allotted for counting once voting locations close. A key solution to this challenge has been to close voting locations at 7 p.m. as opposed to 8 p.m. I am very concerned that, if vote counting does not begin until 8 p.m., results will not be received until very late and, in some instances, the count may need to be delayed until the next day. This would have a serious impact on how the public perceives election results. With this understanding in hand, I would ask that the Board approve the CEO Directive put forward on October 16 which had consistent voting hours of 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on all days of voting.

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#### ELECTIONS SASKATCHEWAN

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My last round of CEO Directives included new text in red font while deletions were struck out. To reflect the relatively minimal changes found in this updated version, I have included new text in blue font while the removed text has been struck out using a double line.

I look forward to hearing from the Board as to its decision on this suite of CEO Directives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'M' being particularly large and stylized.

Dr. Michael Boda  
Chief Electoral Officer  
Province of Saskatchewan

Enclosure

cc: The Honourable Jeremy Harrison, Government House Leader  
Ms. Nicole Sarauer, Opposition House Leader  
Members of the Board of Internal Economy

