

ORDER No.	CEO ORDER 2022-003
Date	July 15, 2022
Date Revised	N/App
Subject	Elimination of Poll Clerk position
Reference	Section 5.1 of <i>The Election Act, 1996</i>
Provisions of <i>The Election Act, 1996</i> and <i>The Election Regulations</i> Impacted	Sections 63, 66, 71, 72, 77, 78, 81, 82, and 85 of <i>The Election Act, 1996</i>
Intent	To pilot the implementation of a Voting Record in place of the voters' list and poll book during the Saskatoon Meewasin by-election

The Chief Electoral Officer has the authority, under section 5.1 of *The Election Act, 1996* (the Act) to direct the use of an alternate procedure, equipment or technology during a by-election. These directives are made through CEO Orders.

For the pending constituency of Saskatoon Meewasin by-election, which must be held, in accordance with *The Legislative Assembly Act, 2007* subsection 46(1) by December 31, 2022, the Chief Electoral Officer hereby directs that an alternate voting procedure be piloted whereby the Poll Clerk position is eliminated. In accordance with subsection 5.1(4), this alternate procedure will be implemented should the by-election be called at least four weeks after the date of this CEO Order.

The legislated duties of the poll clerk shall be performed by the deputy returning officer. This change will be possible due to the implementation of the Voting Record and /or the Electronic Poll Book under CEO Order 2022-002, as well as modifications to the advance voting procedures authorized under section 135.1 of the Act should the Chief Electoral Officer be instructed to issue the writ of election at least four weeks after the submission of this CEO Order.

The purpose of this pilot is to continue to learn about how the administration of voting can be improved in advance of the next general election in October 2024. A secondary purpose is to determine what efficiencies could be introduced to the administration of the voting process because of the implementation of technology.

CEO Order – Piloting Directive

The Chief Electoral Officer hereby directs that the duties assigned to a “poll clerk” under sections 63, 66, 71, 72, 77, 78, 82, and 85 shall be assigned to the deputy returning officer with necessary modifications. The duty under section 81, to have the poll clerk remain with the “unused ballot paper and the ballot box” while the deputy returning officer conducts curbside voting, shall be performed by a second election official inside of the voting location such as a supervisory deputy returning officer or an information officer.

While Section 141 of the Act does not specifically refer to the role of the poll clerk during the counting of votes, the position has typically observed the count and assisted with recording data. During this by-election, the deputy returning officer counting ballots will always be assisted by a second election official (e.g., information officer, supervisory deputy returning officer, etc.).

Should the Chief Electoral Officer be instructed to issue a writ of election before four weeks have passed since the submission of this CEO Order, advance poll voting will be conducted in the manner described in *The Election Act, 1996*, which includes the traditional deputy returning officer and poll clerk team of election workers. For further clarity, references in the Act to a “poll clerk” not included above, including during other voting opportunities such as Homebound voting, Hospital/Remand centre voting and personal care facility voting are not impacted by this CEO Order.

This order is in effect for the constituency of Saskatoon Meewasin by-election, scheduled to be held before December 31, 2022.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Michael D. Boda'.

DR. MICHAEL BODA
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER
PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN
JULY 15, 2022