



# CEO Order

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| <b>ORDER No.</b>    | <b>CEO ORDER 2022-008</b>  |
| <b>Date</b>         | January 21, 2022   |
| <b>Date Revised</b> | N/App  |
| <b>Subject</b>      | Absentee Voting (Vote by Mail) and Homebound Voting                              |
| <b>Reference</b>    | Sections 86 – 89.3 of <i>The Election Act, 1996</i>                              |
| <b>Intent</b>       | To adjust the Absentee Voter Procedures to Enable Greater Access to Vote by Mail |

The Chief Electoral Officer has the authority, under section 7 of *The Election Act, 1996* (the *Act*) and section 2 of *The Election Act Regulations* (the *Regulations*) to declare that an emergency exists and that the *Act* does not provide adequate provision to respond to the emergency. These declarations are made through CEO Orders.

The Chief Electoral Officer hereby declares that pursuant to section 7 of the *Act* and paragraphs 2(2)(b) and (c) of the *Regulations* an emergency exists due to the COVID-19 pandemic for which no adequate provision is made by the *Act* and, in the opinion of the Chief Electoral Officer, it is necessary and advisable to do the things mentioned in section 7 of the *Act* to safely prepare for and conduct an election.

The Chief Electoral Officer further declares that pursuant to paragraph 7(1)(c) of the *Act* and paragraph 2(2)(a) of the *Regulations*, the current necessity for physical distancing, small public gatherings, and self-isolation in some circumstances, will result in greatly increased numbers of persons wishing to use absentee Vote by Mail provisions as a result of the public health emergency. This is a circumstance for which no adequate provision is made by the *Act* to centralize the absentee Vote by Mail procedures and make absentee voting available for any voter during the Athabasca by-election. The Chief Electoral Officer thereby invokes the emergency powers pursuant to section 7 of the *Act* to respond to the circumstance.

The Chief Electoral Officer hereby declares that pursuant to paragraph 7(1)(c) of the *Act* and subparagraph 2(2)(a)(ii) of the *Regulations* an emergency exists for which no adequate provision is made by the *Act* to adapt the absentee and homebound voting provisions under sections 86, 87, 88, 89, 89.1, 89.2 and 89.3 of the *Act* as set out in Appendix "A" to this Order. In the opinion of the Chief Electoral Officer, these adaptations will achieve the purposes of the respective sections and the *Act* because they will ensure Saskatchewan voters have greater access to Vote by Mail absentee ballots, maintains the integrity of the



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absentee voting procedure, preserves the integrity of the electoral process, allows for the efficient conduct of an election and assists in ensuring all eligible voters have the opportunity to vote while helping ensure the health and safety of voters and the Saskatchewan public as a whole.

Therefore, the Chief Electoral Officer hereby orders that measures be taken to implement the adaptations to the Vote by Mail absentee voting procedures in the manner set out in Appendix "A".

This order is in effect for the constituency of Athabasca by-election, scheduled to be held on February 15, 2022.

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

DR. MICHAEL BODA  
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER  
PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN  
JANUARY 21, 2022