

# Looking Forward: 2017 and Beyond

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# What has the last year looked like?

- Debriefing FLT on experiences during the 28th GE
- Reviewing candidate and party election returns
- Beginning to build the next Field Leadership Team by hiring Supervisory Returning Officers
- Publishing poll by poll results and other statistical info in Statement of Votes, Volume I in report on 28th GE
- Working on three other post-election reports

# What has the last year looked like?

- Meewasin by-election
- Ensuring by-election readiness for the rest of the electoral cycle
- Examining options to replace ESPREE, our election management software
- Carrying out legislatively-required destruction of election materials at our warehouse (one year after election)
- Developing Intranet to better communicate with our FLT



## FLT Intranet Home

### External Links

 Elections Saskatchewan Site	 Email
 ESPREE	 Contact Support
 Voter View	 Poll Open

### Message From The CEO

[View Archive](#)



#### FTL Writ Period

This FLT Writ Period Bulletin includes important information related to a package of documents that will be couriered to you in advance of the Return to the Writ.

- A Note from the Chief Electoral Officer;
- Detailed Instructions on the Return to the Writ;
- Return to the Writ Checklist; and
- Taking and Sending Pictures with Your Cell Phone through Text Message.

#### A Note from the Chief Electoral Officer – Return to the Writ

Coming at the end of the election calendar, the importance of the Return to the Writ can get lost in the busyness of packing your office and the general tiredness that you feel after a long election period. That being said, it is important to remember exactly what this process represents and the effect it has on our province. Update.

### SRO News

[View Archive](#)

This is a test news feed.

This is a sample SRO news item that only the SRO users will see.

### FLT News Feed

[View Archive](#)

You have no unread news items.

# What has the last year looked like?

- Meeting with stakeholders including provincial Chiefs of Police, First Nations, key vendors, etc.
- Observing local elections with municipal partners
- Working on organizational Strategic Plan to guide ESK through the next five years
- Preparing to host national conference of Chief Electoral Officers

# Conference of Canadian Election Officials

- ESK hosting national conference July 16 to 19, 2017
- Twin themes of “modernization” and “collaboration”
- Representatives from across the country
- Topics include
  - A look at process modernization by VP at Canadian Border Services
  - Collaboration in the EMB context by former federal CEO Marc Mayrand
  - Election hacking by representative from federal Communications Security Establishment

# What does the next year look like?

- Completing close-out of 28th GE and pivoting to a complete focus on preparing for the 29th
- What does this mean?
  - Review all forms used during the electoral process
  - Look at how we train election workers and members of the FLT
  - Review branding, messaging and advertising campaigns

# Legislative Reform Recommendations

- CEO will offer comprehensive recommendations for legislative change that will set the framework of the next three to four electoral cycles
- Following release of the report containing recommendations for legislative change, CEO Assessments will be released on:
  - Boundary delineation;
  - Saskatchewan's legal framework for referenda and plebiscites
  - Political finance
- Focus will be on modernizing the province's electoral system



# What does the next year look like?

- Advertise for, interview and hire 61 returning officers
- Complete close out of Meewasin by-election and publishing combined Statement of Votes/Financial report in February 2018
- Review internal privacy program and expand to meet changing needs
- Complete development of Permanent Register of Voters and transition to ongoing program
- Increase transparency to the public

# Increasing transparency

- Provide CSV of election results to interested parties (RPPs, media, bloggers, etc.)
- Publish financial information contained in Statement of Expenses report in CSV (total donations, expenses by category, reimbursement info, etc.)
- Donation information from 2016 annual RPP returns will be published to website in easily searchable format
- Public and media expect this kind of transparency and service

# Impact of the Permanent Register of Voters

- First annual update to RPPs (that have signed ISAs) will happen this fall
- Updates will be available to MLAs this fall as well
  - To date, 20 MLAs have signed ISAs requesting this data for their constituency
- A few numbers as of early June:
  - Made 72,676 additions or updates following the April 4, 2016 election
  - 33,459 updates have been made in preparation for the next election and future by-elections
  - 751,069 active voters

# When will the 29th election be held?

- Municipal and provincial elections legislatively scheduled to be just five days apart in 2020 (October 28 and November 2)
- CEO wrote and distributed discussion paper on this topic last month
  - Recommended extending current government term to April 2021
  - Report did not take political issues into consideration
  - Based on discussions with municipal election administrators and benefits in scheduling future fixed date elections

# Can elections be held simultaneously?

- In 2003, municipal elections were held on October 22 and the provincial was held on November 5
  - No major concerns or administrative issues have been noted
  - Two full weeks apart with no overlap of advance or election day voting
- Some jurisdictions (e.g., United States) regularly hold multiple elections on the same day
- Not part of Saskatchewan's (or Canada's) "electoral culture"
- Introduces many risks to the electoral process

# Risks of Simultaneous/Overlapping Elections

- If Simultaneous:
  - ESK would need to coordinate with more than 700 municipalities
  - Different systems and different rules across the board
  - Simply not possible without significant legislative change and planning
- If Overlapping:
  - Voter fatigue and potential for confusion
  - Municipal candidates and issues get “drowned out”
  - Competition for workers and voting locations

# Why April 2021?

- October 2019 – federal election
- October 2020 – local government elections for cities, towns, reeves and odd-numbered RMs
- April 2021 – provincial election
- October 2022 – local government elections in even-numbered RMs
- October 2023 – federal election
- October 2024 – local government elections for cities, towns, reeves and odd-numbered RMs
- **November 2025 – provincial election**  
And so on....

## Next Steps

- Ultimately, legislators will decide when next elections are held at all levels of government
- Decision should be made sooner to provide clarity to municipalities and ensure efficient use of public funds
- ESK will prepare for November 2, 2020 until legislative clarity exists



Questions?