



## REQUEST FOR A DECISION

Regular City Council – November 14, 2022

**To:** Her Worship Mayor Kate Rogers and Members of City Council

**From:** Jennifer Lawson, City Clerk

**Date:** November 08, 2022

**Title:** Admin Report - Procedural By-law Housekeeping Amendments - Nov 8 2022.docx City of Fredericton Municipal Council – Electronic Meetings

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### **ISSUE:**

On June 10, 2022, Bill 110 – Am Act Respecting Local Governance Reform, 2022 received Royal Assent. Part of the changes relate to electronic meetings which initiated a review by the city of By-law No. A-19 A Procedural By-law for the City of Fredericton Municipal Council with respect to Electronic Meetings.

### **RECOMMENDATION(S):**

#### **A. Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the following resolution be forwarded to City Council for consideration: BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Fredericton hereby authorizes and directs staff of the Legal Division to make amendments to Section 15 of By-law No. A-19 A Procedural By-law for the City of Fredericton Municipal Council to reflect the changes made to the Local Governance Act related to electronic meetings, including but not limited to repealing sections 15.02 and 15.03.

#### **B. Other options:**

Council can choose to give other direction to staff.

### **SITUATION, BACKGROUND & DISCUSSION:**

#### **SITUATION:**

- a. Current (extant) Direction. Electronic Meeting parameters are outlined in section 15 of By-law A-19 - A Procedural Bylaw for the City of Fredericton Municipal Council.
- b. Alignment. Routine Business.
- c. Link to CAO goal or inflight. Not linked to a CAO Goal or Inflight.
- d. Why is this coming to Council and why now? The province made changes to the *Local Governance Act* which the city would like to reflect in the procedural by-law.

#### **BACKGROUND**

On April 29, 2019, City Council gave third reading to By-law A-19 A Procedural Bylaw for the City of Fredericton Municipal Council which allowed for Members of Council to participate in meetings via electronic means. Subsection 69(2) and (3) of the *Local Governance Act* limited the ability to participate remotely to members who were outside of the local government or physically unable to attend the meeting and except for reasons of a disability, a member of council could only participate remotely in 25% or less of the meetings. Recently introduced amendments to the *Local Governance Act* have removed those limitations.

## DISCUSSION

The pandemic forced the city to jump into using electronic communications for all of its Council meetings. This demonstrated to municipalities and the province, that this was a feasible way to run meetings when required. It arguably allows for participation by individuals who were previously disadvantaged due to family commitments. Staff support the changes to the legislation and believe reflecting these changes in the procedural by-law give Council flexibility to participate remotely based on their individual circumstances.

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- **FINANCIAL:** The Department/Division has determined that there are no financial considerations associated with this matter. The City Treasurer was not specifically consulted with respect to this administrative report.
  - **LEGAL:** Changes made to the governing legislation directly effect the procedural by-law. As such, amendments to the said by-law should be adopted by City Council to ensure cohesiveness between the two.
  - **COMMUNICATIONS:** The Department/Division has determined that there is no communication considerations associated with this matter. Neither Corporate nor Strategic Communications was consulted with respect to this administrative report.
  - **CLIMATE LENS:**

**Does this proposal move the City of Fredericton closer to its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets of 50% reduction by 2030 and net-zero by 2050 in line with the City's Corporate Energy & Emissions Plan and/or Community Energy Emission Plan?**

- Moves us towards GHG reduction targets
- No change in GHG emissions
- Moves us away from GHG targets but there are trade-offs with other Council or Municipal Plan priorities (*identify which priorities*)

Allowing Council members to participate remotely will potentially mean less time in vehicles and less emissions.

**Does this proposal improve the City of Fredericton's resilience to the impacts of climate change in line with our Climate Change Adaptation Plan?**

- Moves us towards climate resilience
- No change in resilience
- Moves us away from climate resilience but there are trade-offs with other Council or Municipal Plan priorities (*identify which priorities*)

## **SPOKESPERSON:**

**Prepared by:** *Jennifer Lawson, City Clerk*

**Approved by:** *Jane Blakely, Director Legal, City Clerk and Human Resources*