

# RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF FRENCHMAN BUTTE NO. 501

## BYLAW NO 2020-10

### A BYLAW TO ESTABLISH A MAIL-IN BALLOT VOTING SYSTEM

The Council of the R.M. of Frenchman Butte No. 501 in the Province of Saskatchewan enacts as follows:

1. This bylaw shall be referred to as the "Mail-in Ballot Bylaw".
2. In this bylaw:
  - a) "Act" means *The Local Government Election Act, 2015*;
  - b) "Administrator" shall mean the administrator of the municipality;
  - c) "Municipality" shall mean the R.M. of Frenchman Butte No. 501;
  - d) "Regulations" means *The Local Government Election Regulations, 2015*;
  - e) "Returning Officer" means
    - i. the administrator for the [full name of municipality];
    - ii. a person appointed by the council of the [full name of municipality] pursuant to section 47 of *The Local Government Election Act, 2015*; or
    - iii. a person appointed by the Minister pursuant to section 62 of *The Municipalities Act*; and
  - f) "voter's registration form" means the Voter's Registration Form and Poll Book, Form R of the Regulations, modified as provided for within this bylaw;

#### APPLICATION PROCESS

3. A voter who desires to vote by mail shall apply for a mail-in ballot kit, by filling out:
  - a) a voter's registration form, Form R, Schedule A appended hereto and forming a part of this bylaw; and
  - b) the Declaration of Person Requesting Mail-in Ballot, Form C, Schedule B, appended hereto and forming a part of this bylaw.
4. Schedule A and Schedule B may be witnessed by either:
  - a) The returning officer;
  - b) The deputy returning officer;
  - c) The enumerator;
  - d) A Commissioner of Oaths;
  - e) A Notary Public;
  - f) A Lawyer; or
  - g) A Municipal Administrator
5. A voter who desires to vote by mail shall apply in person, electronically or by mail no later than 4:00 p.m. on the last business day immediately preceding Election Day.
6. Upon receiving the voter's application, Schedule A and Schedule B, for a mail-in ballot, the returning officer shall note the date of approval in the appropriate area of schedule A.

#### PROVIDING BALLOT TO ELECTORS

7. Notwithstanding Section 41 of the Regulations, the returning officer may authorize the use of blank ballots if, in his/her opinion, the expected delivery date of printed ballots will adversely affect the ability of electors to vote by mail.
8. The blank ballot form pursuant to Section 7 of this bylaw is set out in Schedule E, appended hereto and forming a part of this bylaw.
9. All ballots issued to persons voting by mail shall be identical.
10. A ballot kit shall consist of:
  - a) A copy of this bylaw;
  - b) the ballots to which the elector is entitled;
  - c) a ballot security envelope, bearing the information described in Schedule "C", appended hereto and forming a part of this bylaw;
  - d) a voter confirmation envelope, bearing the information described in Schedule "D", appended hereto and forming a part of this bylaw;
  - e) an outer envelope, addressed to the returning officer, bearing the words "Mail-in Ballot" on its face;
  - f) appropriate directions to voters; and
  - g) a list of candidates who are seeking election if a blank ballot is used.

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11. The returning officer shall:
  - a) ensure the outer envelope is addressed to the returning officer at the correct postal address; and
  - b) on the voter confirmation envelope, Schedule D:
    - i. print the name of the voter;
    - ii. print the division number in which the voter is entitled to vote as indicated on the voter registration form;
    - iii. identify the ballots provided to the voter;
  - c) on a ballot for the office of councillor, indicate the maximum number of candidates for whom a voter can vote in figures and in words if a blank ballot is used;
  - d) on a ballot for the office of councillor, indicate the division number in which the voter is entitled to vote; and
  - e) place his or her initials in the box on the reverse side of the ballot or ballots provided to the voter.
12. The returning officer shall provide a ballot kit in person or by regular mail to a voter who has completed and submitted Schedule A and Schedule B in accordance with section 5 of this bylaw:
  - a) A ballot kit will not be provided until the Notice of Poll is issued.
  - b) The returning officer shall make the following entries to the poll book upon providing a ballot kit to a voter:
    - i. those required pursuant to Section 107 of the Act; and
    - ii. the date on which the ballot kit was provided to the voter.
  - c) After the returning officer provides a ballot kit to the voter, the voter is deemed to have voted and is not entitled to vote at any other poll.

#### RECEIVING BALLOTS FROM VOTERS

13. Voters are required to:
  - a) insert marked ballots into the ballot security envelope;
  - b) seal the ballot security envelope and insert it into the voter confirmation envelope;
  - c) date and sign the voter confirmation envelope; and
  - d) seal the voter confirmation envelope and insert it into the outer envelope; and
  - e) return the ballot in its original form to the returning officer by regular mail, registered mail, courier, in person or by any other means.
14. The returning officer shall ensure there is a ballot box which shall contain only mail-in ballots from the time ballots are received until the close of polls on Election Day.
15. Upon receipt of an outer envelope containing a voter's ballot on or before the close of poll on Election Day, the returning officer shall:
  - a) ensure the voter confirmation envelope is signed by the voter;
  - b) record in the poll book the date on which the envelope was received; and
  - c) deposit the voter confirmation envelope in a ballot box.
16. Ballots received after the close of polls on Election Day:
  - a) are deemed to be spoiled;
  - b) will remain unopened in the voter confirmation envelope; and
  - c) are given to the municipal administrator, consistent with Sections 137 and 142 of the Act.
17. The returning officer shall designate at least one deputy returning officer who will receive mail-in ballots prior to the close of polls on Election Day.
18. Prior to the close of polls on Election Day, the returning officer shall deliver the following materials to the deputy returning officer designated pursuant to Section 19 of this bylaw:
  - a) the ballot box containing all ballots received by mail;
  - b) the application kits from all voters who applied to vote by mail; and
  - c) any ballots received by mail after the above materials have been delivered to the deputy returning officer.

#### OBJECTIONS BY CANDIDATES / AGENTS

19. On Election Day, any candidate or candidate's agent may examine the application package filed by a person who applied for a mail-in ballot.
20. A candidate or a candidate's agent retains the right to object to a person's entitlement to vote if that person votes by mail.
21. On the objection of a candidate or an agent to the entitlement of a person voting by mail, the returning officer shall make necessary entries in the poll book consistent with sub-clause 112(1)(b)(c) and (d) of the Act.

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## COUNTING BALLOTS

22. Mail-in ballots will be counted after the close of polls on Election Day.
23. Where the returning officer is of the opinion that the number of voters who voted by mail is small and as a result it may be possible to determine for which candidate any of the voters voted, the returning officer may direct the deputy returning officer to include the mail-in ballots in the same ballot box used for polling on Election Day.
24. The deputy returning officer:
  - a) shall open the mail-in ballot box in the presence of persons authorized to be in the polling place pursuant to section 134 of the Act;
  - b) examine each voter confirmation envelope in the ballot box and shall allow each other person in attendance at the polling place to view the voter's certification on the voter confirmation envelope; and
  - c) may reject a voter confirmation envelope if the signature of the voter is missing.
25. If the voter confirmation envelope is accepted, the deputy returning officer shall extract the ballot security envelope and examine it for any tears or unauthorized markings.
26. If the ballot security envelope:
  - a) contains any tears or unauthorized markings, the deputy returning officer shall reject the ballot security envelope; or
  - b) is accepted by the deputy returning officer, he/she shall deposit the ballot security envelope into a container or another ballot box.
27. After all ballot security envelopes have been dealt with pursuant to section 26 of this bylaw, the deputy returning officer shall then extract the ballots from the ballot security envelopes and proceed to count the ballots in accordance with sections 129 to 132 of the Act.
28. The deputy returning officer shall deem spoiled those ballots which were sent to voters by the returning officer but were not returned to the returning officer prior to the close of polls on election day and shall, pursuant to subsection 118(2) of the Act, reference this fact in the report of the count of the votes.
29. The mail-in ballots and any forms used in conjunction with voting by mail, including the voter confirmation envelopes opened by the deputy returning officer pursuant to section 26 of this bylaw are placed in packets in the same manner as other ballots pursuant to section 136 of the Act.
30. The deputy returning officer will place the packets described in section 29 of this bylaw along with the poll book and any other forms used in conjunction with voting by mail in the ballot box.
31. Ballots and other forms used in conjunction with voting by mail shall be retained with other election materials pursuant to section 142 of the Act.
32. Upon receipt of a ballot described in section 17 of this bylaw, the returning officer or the municipal administrator shall:
  - a) write "deemed spoiled" on the outer envelope;
  - b) record the date said ballot came into his or her possession;
  - c) initial the entry; and
  - d) retain it with, but not in, the ballot box described in section 142 of the Act, unless said ballot can be deposited in the ballot box without unsealing the ballot box.
33. Bylaw 2014-27 is hereby repealed.

*Bm*

Read a third time and adopted  
this 14th day of October, 2020



Bonnie Bridges Reeve  
Allison Roschke Chief Administrative Officer

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