



October 8, 2021

Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
5th Floor, 438 University Avenue
Toronto, ON M7A 2A5
Via email: minister.edu@ontario.ca

Dear Minister Lecce:

**Resolution from City of Niagara Falls – Regarding School Board Professional
Development Day Request – Monday, October 24, 2022**

Please be advised that the City of Niagara Falls' City Council at its meeting of October 5, 2021 adopted the following motion:

ORDERED on the motion of Councillor Mike Strange, Seconded by Councillor Chris Dabrowski that the resolution from the City Clerk of Niagara Falls regarding a request to ask school boards in Niagara to schedule a Professional Development Day on October 24, 2022, Municipal And School Board Election Day, be approved.

Moved by: Councillor Mike Strange

Seconded by: Councillor Chris Dabrowski

WHEREAS Monday, October 24 2022 is Municipal and School Board election day, and municipal clerks who administer Municipal and School Board elections are in the middle of planning for this important democratic event.

WHEREAS municipalities have statutory authority to use schools as polling places under section 45 of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996.

WHEREAS schools are often the largest, most centrally located and accessible facility in communities which make them ideal locations to host polling stations.

WHEREAS many school boards across the Province already work with municipalities to schedule a Professional Development Days (PD Days) on municipal election day every four years.

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Clerks
Ext 4342 Fax 905-356-9083
billmatson@niagarafalls.ca

WHEREAS the City Clerk runs the school board elections for the District School Board of Niagara (English Public), Niagara Catholic School Board (English Separate), Conseil Scolaire Viamonde (French Public) and the Conseil Scolaire Catholique MonAvenir (French Separate).

WHEREAS in 2018, approximately 25% of school boards agreed to make Municipal and School Board Election Day a PD Day. Approximately another 60% had PD days in October already. Almost 30% of had days within a week of municipal election day and there are a number of school boards that schedule PD Days on Mondays already. And therefore, it is possible to make arrangements for a PD Day to fall on Municipal and School Board Election Day.

WHEREAS school boards and municipalities can work together, to increase these rates and make it easier for local voters to cast their ballots while ensuring student safety.

WHEREAS partnering with municipalities once every four years to ensure that municipal and school board elections fall on a PD Day has a number of benefits to School boards, schools and the broader community including:

- Easing the facilitation of Election Day so that Clerks can ensure a smooth democratic process which elects school board trustees as well as local council members.
- Ensuring public health promotion and protection through more adequate physical distancing in these larger venues.
- Enhancing the principles of safe schools for both students and teachers by reducing the number of people in the school.
- Providing voters with a large, accessible location to cast their votes for their school board and municipal representatives.

WHEREAS school boards are entering into deliberations about the 2022-2023 School year calendar in order to submit their proposed calendars to the Ministry of Education by May 2022.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Niagara Falls request that the District School Board of Niagara (English Public), Niagara Catholic School Board (English Separate), Conseil Scolaire Viamonde (French Public) and the Conseil Scolaire Catholique MonAvenir (French Separate) schedule a Professional Development Day on Municipal and School Board Election Day, Monday October 24th 2022.

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Hon. Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education, the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks & Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

AND The Seal of the Corporation be hereto affixed. Carried Unanimously

Attached is the signed resolution that was passed at the City Council Meeting on October 5, 2021.

I trust that this information will be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Bill Matson

Bill Matson
City Clerk

cc.

Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, steve.clark@pc.ola.org

Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks & Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO), amcto@amcto.com

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), amo@amo.on.ca

District School Board of Niagara (English Public), flyers@dsbn.org;

Niagara Catholic School Board (English Separate), info@ncdsb.com

Conseil Scolaire Viamonde (French Public), pioffetm@csviamonde.ca

Conseil Scolaire Catholique Mon Avenir (French Separate), ablais@cscmonavenir.ca

Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk, ann-marie.norio@niagararegion.ca

Local Niagara Municipalities