



August 21, 2018

The Honourable Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M5G 2E5

Re: Request for Ministerial Order to Acclaim School Board Candidates for 2018 Municipal Election

Dear Minister Clark:

Haldimand County respectfully requests your consideration concerning a matter related to the administration of the 2018 Municipal Election.

On July 27, 2018 Haldimand County had 3 candidates registered for 2 positions representing Haldimand County on the Grand Erie District School Board as English Language School Board trustees. Based on the information provided by all 3 candidates, they were certified as candidates. The following week, after the deadline to withdraw nominations, one of the three candidates indicated that he wished to withdraw from the election, but in accordance with the legislated deadline, the withdrawal could not be processed. Further, it was determined that the said candidate is not eligible to sit as a school board trustee as he is employed by another school board.

With only 2 candidates left in the election for trustee, you would expect that they would now be elected by acclamation, but in accordance with Section 39 of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, the candidates cannot be acclaimed, and we are obliged to hold a by-election for this position incurring significant cost and causing mass confusion to the local electorate.

We respectfully request that you provide a Ministerial Order allowing Haldimand County to acclaim the two remaining candidates as school board trustees. Attached is a report from our County Solicitor, outlining the facts related to the holding of the by-election. We would appreciate a meeting with you at your earliest convenience to discuss this request.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Eichenbaum
Clerk/Returning Officer

Don Boyle
Chief Administrative Officer

c. Premier Doug Ford
Toby Barrett, MPP Haldimand-Norfolk