

# Guidance for Conducting By-elections and Assent Voting During COVID-19

## Introduction

B.C. is currently in Phase 3 of the safe restart plan. [B.C.'s Restart Plan](#) sets out a careful, four-phase approach to restarting the province. Working in concert with public health monitoring from the Provincial Health Officer (PHO), the plan gradually allows for more social and economic activity. The reopening of local governments, businesses and other organizations must comply with public health and safety guidance from the PHO and WorkSafeBC.

While the decisions about when and how to hold an election are up to local governments, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Ministry) recognizes the importance of holding by-elections and assent votes as local governments continue to re-open their communities, take steps to fill vacancies on their councils and boards, and engage their citizens over significant projects and/or borrowing.

This document provides guidance for those local governments considering holding by-elections and assent votes in their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Local governments can use the information provided, in conjunction with the *Local Government Act* (LGA) and their election procedure bylaw, to establish clear processes and procedures for these events that incorporate the recommended PHO health and safety measures (including physical distancing) and those set out by WorkSafeBC.

## Next Steps for Local Governments

- Assess the procedures and processes for a local government by-election or assent vote to create a plan that considers the health and safety recommendations of the PHO and WorkSafeBC.
- As an employer, local governments will need to develop a [COVID-19 Safety Plan using the six step process outlined by WorkSafeBC](#) and post it at the voting place.
- Local governments may wish to check in with the local Medical Health Officer to confirm plans to proceed with a by-election or assent vote.
- Examine the local governments election bylaw to determine whether amendments are needed to assist with safety plans and meeting PHO health and safety guidelines.
- Consider the timing of the by-election or assent vote.
- Appoint the local Chief Election Officer (CEO) after a plan has been developed so there is adequate time for the local CEO to prepare for the by-election or assent vote.
- Review the election bylaw to determine any legislative challenges or barriers that may pose a challenge to mitigate potential COVID-19 risks.

*A checklist is provided in the Appendix to assist local governments with planning for local government by-elections and assent votes.*

## Holding By-Elections and Assent Votes During COVID-19

In response to COVID-19, the Ministry has provided some guidance and highlighted some key resources below that may assist local governments to develop a plan to hold a by-election or assent vote during the COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery.

The nature of by-elections and assent votes traditionally requires many in-person “high touch point” – interactions that can increase the transmission risks of COVID-19 and put electors and election officials at some level of risk. The [BC COVID-19 Go-Forward Management Strategy](#) prepared by the Office of the PHO demonstrates how the risk of transmission from social interaction in public institutions is a function of two variables:

1. What is the contact intensity in the setting – the type of contact (close/distant) and duration of contact (brief/prolonged)?
2. What is the number of contacts in the setting – the number of people present in the setting at the same time?

By reducing these variables and other variables (e.g. challenges maintaining physical distance, contact with high-touch surfaces) local governments can help keep people safe, particularly the more vulnerable electors, during the by-election and assent vote processes.

For instance, local governments will likely need to consider how to mitigate the potential risks associated with the following traditionally high-touch points:

- nomination documents;
- solemn declarations;
- official agent appointments;
- scrutineer applications;
- voting books and ballots;
- use of masks if physical distancing isn’t always an option;
- high touch surfaces at the voting place (e.g. doors, tables and voting booths); and,
- voting machines.

## Key Resources

- The [PHO](#) has issued Public Health Orders and developed guidance materials for different sectors, which local governments must consider as they develop their plans.
- The [BCCDC](#) is the primary source for COVID-19 health information, including prevention and risk information and commonly asked questions
- [WorkSafeBC](#) has developed industry specific safety information including a general guide to reducing risk that may be useful for local governments developing plans for by-election or assent votes.
- The [WorkSafeBC COVID-19 Safety Plan template](#) may serve as a useful starting point for local governments to develop plans for a holding a by-election or assent vote.

Local circumstances and the local government’s election bylaw will in part dictate the different approaches individual local governments may take in holding a by-election or an assent vote to ensure that electors can exercise their right to vote safely.

## Legislative Considerations: Provincial Legislation & Election Bylaws

The LGA and *Community Charter* (Charter) provide the legislative framework for local government by-elections and assent votes. The LGA, Part 4 – Assent Voting specifies that unless otherwise provided, the provisions for elections also apply to assent voting.

Within the LGA, local governments can tailor certain aspects of their local election bylaw including considerations for:

- allowing public access to nomination documents;
- setting additional general, advance or special voting opportunities;
- conducting voter registration;
- using voting machines;
- providing for curb-side voting;
- using mail-ballots and ballot marking pens; and,
- establishing requirements related to scrutineers.

Reviewing the local election bylaw as part of their by-election or assent vote planning process will allow local governments to determine whether changes may be needed to the bylaw (e.g. providing for the use of voting machines) that would help reduce the transmission of COVID-19 during “high touch points” in the electoral process.

Possible areas of legislative challenge include voter registration, mail-ballot voting, and setting additional voting opportunities. After reviewing the local government’s election process, if there is a concern with these legislative requirements, please discuss the concerns with Ministry staff to determine what options may be available.

## **Considerations for Developing a By-election or Assent Vote Plan**

A local government plan for a by-election or assent vote can consider the following questions to assess their procedures and processes and inform their decision-making:

- What changes can be made to the processes and procedures to assist the local CEO to administer safer proceedings for election staff and the public?
- What specific health and safety measures may help mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission during the elections process and for local circumstances?
- What records can be developed for tracking the time, identity, and contact information of voters and communicating with the public and election staff about any outbreak that might occur at a voting place?
- Is physical distancing possible in the voting place?
- If physical distancing cannot be maintained, then has the local governments considered a multi-barrier approach including physical distancing, [engineering and administrative controls](#) such as physical barriers (e.g. plexiglass), directional arrows, occupancy posters, instructional posters and personal protective equipment (PPE)?
- How can the voting places be set up to meet the physical distancing recommendations and health and safety measures of the PHO and WorkSafe BC?
- Is there sufficient PPE including masks for staff and voters?
- Are election staff or volunteers trained in the use of PPE and aware of health and safety precautions for voting places?

The sections below provide some suggestions for health and safety measures local governments may consider as they develop their by-election or assent vote plan.

## **Notifications**

By-elections and assent votes are administered similarly to general local elections and there are several required notifications (e.g. notice of nomination period, notice of advance voting) that must occur during the process.

Given the specific timing of these notifications, local governments may need to account for the timing of the statutory requirements and have a plan in place that considers the COVID-19 pandemic in the broader context prior to appointing the local CEO. The by-election or assent vote must take place within 80 days following the appointment of the local CEO.

## **Electronic Transactions**

The *Electronic Transactions Act* (ETA) applies broadly to most provincial legislation, including Parts 3 and 4 of the LGA. Where there is a requirement to provide information “in writing” the ETA may allow that requirement to be met by submitting the information electronically in a format that can be accessed in the future (e.g. email, pdf or by entering the information into a website administered by a local government). Under the ETA, statutory requirements for signatures may be met using an “electronic signature.” This allows certain formal documents, such as those requiring the signature of a witness, to be signed remotely and submitted electronically.

These applications of the ETA may assist local governments when considering procedures for securing nominations, accepting nomination documents, elector registration, official agent or financial agent appointment and scrutineer applications. Local governments that have questions around the application of the ETA may wish to seek legal counsel.

## **Solemn Declarations Before Voting Day**

Candidates, official agents and scrutineers are required to make a solemn declaration. The local CEO can develop procedures for taking in-person solemn declarations safely at the municipal or board offices. The application of the ETA does not apply to solemn declarations.

- Use of face masks by staff and public;
- Consider requesting that individuals make an appointment to meet with the local CEO to give a solemn declaration;
- Practice physical distancing when taking a solemn declaration;
- Consider using a plexiglass barrier or other PPE when taking solemn declarations; and,
- Practice hand hygiene when handling solemn declaration papers and candidate nomination packages.

## **Mail-Ballot Voting**

Consider offering mail-ballot voting to reduce in-person contact and an option for people who may be in self-isolation or in quarantine.

- Discuss with Ministry staff if expanded access to mail-ballot voting could be an option for the local government.

## **Hiring Election Officials**

The local CEO is responsible for hiring election officials for advance, special and general voting opportunities. Local CEO's may need to develop different strategies to ensure they can hire enough election officials during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Review number of electors for previous by-elections, assent votes, and general local elections at each voting place to help determine the number of election officials that will be required;
- Consider hiring additional election officials to reduce line-ups, help direct electors and reduce contact intensity;
- Procure hand hygiene supplies and PPE that may be needed for election officials and volunteers;
- Ensure that election staff or volunteers are trained in the use of PPE and are aware of health and safety precautions for voting places. Former election officials that are seniors or have compromised immune systems may not be comfortable working during an election while COVID-19 continues to pose a health risk. Applicants must be 15 years or older, be legally entitled to work in Canada and have a valid Social Insurance Number;
- Develop a COVID-19 safety plan for the voting place and post it at the voting place so it is available to those entering (e.g. election staff, volunteers, public);
- Consider also sharing the COVID-19 safety plan for the voting place on the local government website and public notice posting place; and,
- Include a list of the health and safety precautions or the safety plan in recruitment advertising or provide a link to a webpage with the information.

## **Training Election Officials**

- Provide safety measures in accordance with WorkSafeBC guidelines when election officials make their solemn declaration;
- All election officials must be familiar with the election procedures and health and safety measures (e.g., two metres physical distancing, hand hygiene, using face masks where physical distancing is not practical) in place;
- Where possible hold training in the voting place to familiarize the election officials with the layout and directional flow. Consider facilities that are large enough to allow for physical distancing and, if possible, locations with HVAC systems or that provide for fresh air exchange;
- Provide enough PPE for staff;
- Outline guidelines for safe handling of materials (e.g., verifying ID, handling voting books and handing out ballots, counting ballots); and,
- Practice the steps for verifying ID, signing of voting books, handing out ballots, and the ballot count while physically distant.

## **Voter Registration**

The local CEO can determine how best to reduce high-touch interactions for voter registration depending on the type of voter registration used by the local government.

- Consider which method of registration and voters list has the least amount of contact and may reduce line-ups. For example, electors aren't required to show identification if they are on the Provincial voters list or local government register of electors, which reduces a potential high touch point;

- Communicate to the public how to register in advance for general voting day (if available) to reduce the length of time at the voting place and potential for line-ups and recommend use of masks when voting;
- If advance registration applies, create a process that considers physical distancing, use of masks and safe handling of materials;
- If an elector is required to show identification have them place it on the table for the election official to do a visual identification check rather than touching it; and,
- Allow enough space for the elector and election official to remain two metres apart while checking identification and provide for the use of face masks if physical distancing cannot be maintained.

### **Communication Plan for Electors**

Prepare a communication plan early in the local election process that considers COVID-19 and widely promotes health and safety measures. As part of the process for fair and transparent elections consideration needs to be given to how to support public participation in the democratic process during COVID-19.

A proactive communication plan may assist electors to understand the measures that are being taken at voting opportunities to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and available options to take part in the by-election or assent vote.

- Encourage electors to participate in advance voting or to vote at off-peak times at advance, special voting opportunities and on general voting day. For example, if in previous events there have been generally fewer electors in the mid-afternoon, advertise that in advance to the community;
- If mail-ballot voting is an option, encourage eligible electors to vote by mail-ballot to reduce in-person contact and as an option for individuals that are ill, in self-isolation or quarantine and clearly describe the mail-ballot process and eligibility requirements;
- Outline the health and safety measures in place for advance and general voting day;
- Encourage electors to wear a mask if they have concerns about their own health and safety or require assistance to vote from an election official; and,
- Encourage electors to leave the voting place without delay, once they have completed voting.

### **Advance Voting Opportunities**

An advance voting opportunity must be held 10 days prior to general voting day. This required advance voting day allows eligible electors who may not otherwise be able to vote on general voting day to cast their ballots. Local governments with populations greater than 5,000 are required to hold at least two advance voting opportunities.

Local governments may set out in their election bylaws whether additional advance voting opportunities will be offered to help reduce the number of people at the voting place.

- Consider offering additional advance voting opportunities to reduce line-ups and the number of contacts at each voting opportunity;
- Consider how to communicate the use of masks at voting places;
- Discuss with Ministry staff if there are concerns around the number of voting opportunities offered; and,

- The local government may wish to amend their election bylaw to offer additional advance voting opportunities, or in communities of less than 5,000, where the required additional advance voting opportunity was waived, change this decision in the bylaw.

### **Special Voting Opportunities**

Special voting opportunities may be held in any location to provide eligible electors who may not otherwise be able to attend a voting place an opportunity to cast their ballots during a local election. Special voting opportunities are generally held in hospitals, long-term care facilities or other locations where electors' mobility may be impaired. In the COVID-19 context some facilities may not want to host a special voting opportunity or may have specific health and safety measures in place that local governments will need to consider.

Local governments may set out the specific dates, times and locations where special voting will take place during an election in their election bylaws. If special voting opportunities are offered, identify how best to safely hold these events.

- Limit the number of candidate representatives to one and outline precautions they must take (e.g. wearing a face mask) for the safety of residents at the voting place;
- Check with the location where the special voting opportunity is to take place to find out about any required safety protocols; and,
- If available, suggest mail-ballot voting to those who would normally be served by a special voting opportunity.

### **Curbside Voting**

Local governments are required to make voting places as accessible as reasonably possible. If an eligible elector travels to a voting place and cannot easily access the building or room in which voting is taking place, an election official may bring them a ballot.

- Consider a process for bringing an elector a ballot if accessibility is a concern;
- Consider how an election official may safely receive and deposit ballots in ballot boxes if curbside voting is used; and,
- Discuss with Ministry staff if there are concerns around curbside voting.

## **Preparing the Voting Place**

### **Choosing a Voting Place**

Local governments may have to choose a different venue for their by-election or assent vote if the location used previously does not meet the requirements for physical distancing during COVID-19. The legislation allows the local chief election officer to consider voting places outside the boundary or electoral area if there is at least one voting place within the boundary.

- Consider whether previously used voting places have the necessary space requirements for physical distancing;
- Consider whether the location has an HVAC system in the voting place or provides for fresh air exchange (e.g. open windows/doors);
- Determine whether the voting place is available (some facilities may not be allowing outside rentals); and,
- Post the COVID-19 safety plan at the voting place (consider also posting it at the public notice posting place and local government website).

### **Ballot Box and Ballot Preparation (Materials Handling)**

The LGA sets out the form of ballots and ballot boxes. The local government can consider best practices for safe handling of these materials before, during and after the vote.

- Practice proper hand hygiene when setting up ballot boxes and ballots at the voting place;
- Create a process for spoiled ballot that minimizes handling (e.g., a container that Presiding Election Official (PEO) can slide the spoiled ballot into after they mark it as spoiled); and,
- Instead of the election official directly handing the ballot to the elector, place it on the table for elector to pick up.

### **Solemn Declarations at the Voting Place**

Solemn declarations are required for certain circumstances during voting proceedings (e.g. elector registration or if an elector has someone other than an election official assist them mark their ballot or translate). Establish a process for election officials to follow when solemn declarations are required including:

- Ensure proper physical distancing between the elector and the presiding election official or delegated election official during solemn declarations or use of a face mask or protective barrier if physical distancing cannot be maintained;
- Determine frequency to clean pens used to sign a solemn declaration; and,
- Regular washing or sanitizing of hands during the voting proceedings by election officials.

### **Voting Place Setup**

Ensure PHO safety protocols are followed at each voting place. Set-up the voting place to meet physical distancing requirements to reduce high-touch interactions as much as possible. This may include:

- If practical, increase number of voting places for general voting day or advance voting opportunities;
- Arrange the voting place to maintain required physical distance between electors, election officials, and scrutineers during the proceedings;
- Have a greeter at the entrance to request that electors follow safety protocols, including hand washing or sanitization, physical distancing, use of masks if recommended and directional arrows:
  - consider screening questions for electors as they enter (e.g. Do you have any signs or symptoms of COVID-19? Have you been ordered to self isolate by a healthcare professional? Have you been out of the country in the past 14 days?), and,
  - if they answer yes to any of these questions, then there may be a need to provide the elector with an alternative form to vote (e.g. mail-ballot).
- Provide an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol for use before entering the voting place. Consider placing alcohol-based hand sanitizer in other visible, frequently used locations such as registration desks, voting booth, entrance and exits;
- Prominently display posters to promote hand washing, use of masks, physical distancing, and reminding people to avoid touching their faces;
  - BC Centre for Disease Control:
    - [Physical Distancing](#)



- [Hand washing and Alcohol-based Rub](#)
- Post occupancy limits for the voting place and limit the number of people in the space (based on five square metres of unencumbered space per person);
- Allow more time for safe set-up of the voting place including:
  - setting up voting booths;
  - tables and chairs for election officials that follow health and safety measures (e.g., double-wide tables for election officials handling ballots and voting books or installing barriers and providing face masks); and,
  - marking floors with tape or cones for electors to follow (e.g., directional arrows and physical distancing spots using tape for standing in line, picking up ballot and submitting ballot to election official or into a voting machine);
- Have separate entrance and exit points to control the flow of people through the voting place;
- Have the voting booths an appropriate distance apart, so individuals can walk while remaining two metres apart;
- Consider the frequency of sanitizing voting booths after each elector; and,
- Ensure bathrooms are supplied with soap, water and drying materials so visitors and election officials can wash their hands. Limit the number of people at a time in public washrooms and establish cleaning and disinfection frequency

### **Voting Books**

Voting books may be a high touch point with multiple people (electors, election officials) touching it to check elector eligibility or have electors sign it.

- Discuss the risk of voting books with Ministry staff and determine if additional measures are needed to mitigate the risk of voting books;
- Assign one election official to be responsible for handling the voting book (verify elector eligibility and have elector sign the voting book);
- Encourage election officials handling voting books to wear a face mask if they are unable to maintain physical distance and practice regular hand hygiene; and,
- Encourage electors to bring their own pen to sign the voting book or if local governments' pens are used, determine the frequency to sanitize the pens.

### **Automated Voting Machines**

If the local government uses voting machines, consideration may need to be given to cleaning procedures for the equipment or pens needed to fill out the ballots.

- Sanitize voting machines after each use. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products;
- Determine the frequency to sanitize pens;
- Ensure election officials and electors are practicing hand hygiene before touching pens;
- Ensure physical distancing between election officials and electors using the voting machine and encourage election officials to use a face mask where physical distancing cannot be maintained; and,
- Consider renting additional voting machines to reduce the potential for line-ups.

### **Voting Assistance**

In some circumstances, electors may require assistance to vote. Election officials should be suitably outfitted with PPE if they are required to assist an elector.

- Encourage those electors who require assistance to be accompanied by a close contact to vote and to consider the use of face masks;
- If it is not possible to be physically distant when an election official assists an elector to mark their ballot, consider the use of a face mask and practice hand hygiene; and,
- Follow procedures for solemn declarations when required at the voting place (e.g. for those assisting to mark a ballot or translate) (see section on Solemn Declarations at the Voting place).

### **Ballot Count**

Ballot counting begins after voting places close at 8 p.m. local time. Candidates are entitled to be present during the ballot count and may assign one representative (scrutineer or official agent) to each location where ballot counting takes place. The safety plan for the voting place can consider how to meet the need for physical distancing for those present at the ballot count.

- Encourage election officials handling ballots to practice hand hygiene frequently and to refrain from touching their face;
- Ensure there is space at the ballot count for those observing (e.g., candidates and scrutineers) to be physically distant and if this is not possible encourage those present to wear face masks;
- Place marks on the floor where observers may stand and still reasonably view the marks on the ballot while maintaining physical distancing (if this is not possible consider the use of face masks);
- Consider using a portable plexiglass barrier between presiding officer and the observers; and,
- Election officials conducting the count (PEO or other election official under the supervision of the PEO) may wish to consider wearing a mask if they are not able to maintain physical distance and practice frequent hand hygiene while handling ballots.

For questions related to conducting local government by-elections or assent votes contact the Ministry's Governance and Structure Branch at: [lggovernance@gov.bc.ca](mailto:lggovernance@gov.bc.ca).

### **Additional Resources**

[Learn more about Local Governments and COVID-19](#)

[Learn more about Local Government Elections](#)

### **WorkSafeBC Guidelines and Resources**

- [Municipalities and COVID-19 safety](#)
- [COVID-19 and returning to safe operation – Phases 2 & 3](#)
- [Arts and Culture: Protocol for return to operations](#)
- [Retail: Protocols for returning to operations](#)
- [Selecting and using masks info sheet](#)
- [How to use a mask poster](#)
- [Designing effective barriers resource](#)
- [Cleaning and disinfecting info sheet](#)
- [Handwashing poster](#)
- [Occupancy limit poster](#)
- [Entry check for visitors poster](#)
- [Entry check for workers poster](#)

**Local Medical Health Officer Contact Information:**

- Fraser Health: 1-866-990-9941 or [CDPHNs@fraserhealth.ca](mailto:CDPHNs@fraserhealth.ca)
- Interior Health: <https://www.interiorhealth.ca/AboutUs/Leadership/MHO/Pages/default.aspx>
- Island Health: <https://www.islandhealth.ca/about-us/medical-health-officers>
- Northern Health: <https://www.northernhealth.ca/about-us/leadership/medical-health-officers>
- Vancouver Coastal Health: <http://www.vch.ca/about-us/contact-us/medical-health-officers>

**Province of B.C.**

- B.C.'s COVID-19 website has many resources available at [www.gov.bc.ca/covid19](http://www.gov.bc.ca/covid19).

**BC Centre for Disease Control**

- The BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) website also has many resources for British Columbians who want more information about COVID-19, at: <http://covid-19.bccdc.ca/>

**WorkSafeBC**

- WorkSafeBC, provides information for employers and workers:  
<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates>

# COVID-19 CHECKLIST:

## Planning for Local Government By-Elections and Assent Votes in British Columbia

### A. PLANNING THE BY-ELECTION OR ASSENT VOTE:

- Have you assessed internal processes and procedures and does your election bylaw require any amendments?
- Have you developed a [COVID Safety Plan](#) for employees, staff and the public for election day?
- Is your plan and processes aligned with health and safety recommendations of the [Provincial Health Officer](#) and [WorkSafeBC](#) (e.g. physical distancing, voting place considerations and related “high touch” interactions)?
- Have you considered contacting the local [Medical Health Officer](#) about proceeding with a by-election/assent vote?
- Have you considered the timing of the by-election or assent vote in relation to broader circumstances (e.g. holidays or back to school)?
- Have you considered community needs in case there is a future spike in COVID-19 cases?
- Have you identified any legislative barriers that challenge your ability to plan or mitigate COVID-19 risks (e.g. relating to nominations, voting, or voter registration)? (See C. below for Provincial supports that may be available).

### B. OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR REDUCING HIGH TOUCH POINTS *(General tips that election officials could consider)*

Have you considered...	How this might reduce high touch points or in-person interactions
<input type="checkbox"/> Using electronic signatures	Under the <i>Electronic Transmissions Act</i> , certain formal documents that require the signature of a witness may be signed remotely and submitted electronically. Local CEO's can develop procedures for the electronic submission of nomination or appointment documents (official agents and scrutineers), among others.
<input type="checkbox"/> Taking solemn declarations in advance	Developing procedures for taking in-person solemn declarations before voting day at the municipal or board offices (e.g. by making appointment and following physical distancing) may assist with managing in-person interactions.
<input type="checkbox"/> Hiring additional election officials	Hiring additional election officials may reduce line-ups, help direct electors, and reduce contact intensity during voting.
<input type="checkbox"/> Increasing the number of voting places	Having a greater number of voting places available for voting day (or advance voting, if practical) may reduce the number of voters in one location at any given time.
<input type="checkbox"/> Nominations documents	Consider expanding public access to nomination documents (electronically or online) to reduce in-person viewing at local government offices.

### C. PROVINCIAL SUPPORTS *(Possible legislative adjustments to overcome identified barriers to election planning)*

Discussion areas	How a Ministerial Order organized through the Ministry may assist
<input type="checkbox"/> Using the Provincial voters list for registration	Consider which method of registration and voters list may reduce the amount of contact between electors and election officials and reduce line-ups on voting day.
<input type="checkbox"/> Advance voting	Consider increasing the number of advanced voting opportunities that are available or currently provided for in the election bylaw to better distribute voting opportunities for electors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Mail ballot voting	Consider providing for or expanding eligibility for mail ballot voting opportunities beyond what is currently available in the election bylaw to reduce the number of electors voting in-person and increase accessibility to the voting process.
<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate nominations	Consider reducing the minimum number of nominators that a candidate is required to secure in the election bylaw to two (2) if 10 or 25 are currently required.
<input type="checkbox"/> Special voting opportunities	Consider limiting the number and/or places of special voting opportunities, if any, required in the election bylaw to protect vulnerable electors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Curbside voting	Consider how curbside voting opportunities can be managed to support health and safety.
<input type="checkbox"/> Voting books	Consider additional measures to manage the handling of voting books.
<input type="checkbox"/> Automated voting machines	Consider providing for the use of automated voting machines if not authorized in the election bylaw.

➔ Contact the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to discuss at: [lggovernance@gov.bc.ca](mailto:lggovernance@gov.bc.ca) or at 250 387-4020.