



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

P.O. Box 2064, Suite 1804
20 Eglinton Avenue West
Toronto, Ontario M4R 1K8
T. 416.932.9460 F. 416.932.9459
ocsta@ocsta.on.ca www.ocsta.on.ca

Patrick Daly, *President*
Beverley Eckensweiler, *Vice President*
Nick Milanetti, *Executive Director*

December 1, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairpersons and Directors of Education
- All Catholic District School Boards

FROM: Stephen Andrews, Director of Legislative and Political Affairs

SUBJECT: Bill 45 Election Statute Law Amendment Act, 2016

Summary:

On October 19, 2016 the Attorney General introduced Bill 45 the Election Statute Amendment Act, 2016 for First Reading. Second Reading occurred on November 16 and Committee hearings were held on November 28. The purpose of this bill is to implement proposed reforms that will transform Ontario's election system. **One reform directly impacting school boards is the obligation to make schools polling stations under the Election Act and the Municipal Elections Act, 1996.**

The bill is expected to pass prior to the Legislature recessing for the Christmas break.

Key features of the Bill include:

- The date for scheduled provincial elections is changed from the first Thursday in October to the first Thursday in June.
- The Education Act is amended to reflect the obligation of school boards to make schools available as polling places under the Election Act and the Municipal Elections Act, 1996.
- The Chief Electoral Officer is required to create a provisional register of 16 and 17 year olds who request that their names be added to the register. These persons would be transferred to the permanent register of electors when they reach voting age.
- The Chief Electoral Officer may issue a direction requiring the use of vote counting equipment during an election and modifying the usual voting process to permit the use of the equipment.
- Owners of multiple-residence buildings are prohibited from refusing access to candidates and their canvassers. An administrative penalty scheme is created to deal with violations.
- The Chief Electoral Officer is to assign a unique identifier to each eligible voter on the Permanent Register of Electors.

- The Chief Electoral Officer may only share information from the Permanent Register of Electors with political parties that submit a privacy policy that meets the standards set in Elections Ontario's guidelines. In addition, when providing elector information to parties and their candidates, the Chief Electoral Officer may only share the elector's name, unique identifier and address.
- Poll clerks are required to prepare a document at regular intervals that permits the identification of electors who voted during that interval. Political parties will also be able to receive this information after the election.
- Changes are made to the nomination, registration and endorsement processes for candidates under the Election Act and Election Finances Act.
- Political parties and candidates may opt out of receiving products that contain elector information.
- Candidates would be permitted to have the surname they use ordinarily, rather than their legal surname, printed on ballots.
- Changes are made to the rules respecting advance polls.
- Information that is currently required to be provided to candidates by the Chief Electoral Officer would also be provided to parties.
- The Representation Act, 2015 is amended to establish a Far North Electoral Boundaries Commission with a mandate to review the electoral boundaries of Kenora-Rainy River and Timmins-James Bay and make recommendations about the creation of one or two more ridings in that geographic area.