



## The Institute for Public Sector Accountability

*'res ipsa loquitur'*

**Directors:** Marcel Latouche - President, Gerald Chipeur, Kristen Lawson, Cornell Pich

**Advisory Board:** Dr. Frank Atkins, Robert Kulhawy, James Maxim, His Worship Rod Sykes

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November 25, 2020

The Honourable Tracy Allard MLA  
Minister of Municipal Affairs  
132 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB  
T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Allard:

With recent developments in the 2020 Presidential elections in the United States, The Institute has received a number of comments and concerns from citizens regarding the 2021 Calgary Municipal Elections. While IPSA does not believe in conspiracy theories, we are reminded that Calgary has already experienced Municipal Elections problems as reported in our paper Municipal Electoral Reform 2004 <http://www.theipsa.org/articles/MunicipalElectoralReform.pdf>

The 2017 elections had its own problems, but as we explain below there are additional irregularities and concerns that we would be grateful if your Department would look at and take action well before the 2021 elections:

- The vote was marred by ballot shortages, long lines at polling stations and huge delays in the reporting of results.
- When the Election Calgary website crashed on Election Day voters had a great difficulty in locating where they were supposed to vote.
- Many polling stations ran out of ballots on Election Day, and when additional ballots were sent to polling stations( by Uber), they did not arrive before the polling stations closed
- A Councillor's family/and campaign members showed up at a polling station wearing his campaign t-shirts and they remained in the polling station for quite some time. Complaints to the Returning Officer were never followed up and there were no sanctions against the Councilor were ever issued.
- Because of Covid 19, we need strict rules regarding the possibility of mail-in ballots.
- We prefer to have more days of in-person early voting, to accommodate self-distancing due to Covid 19
- We must ensure that a tracking system be established to avoid people from voting twice
- We need to reinstate voting stations in Seniors' homes.



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- There is a need for a Voter's List (requiring government ID) and for voting stations within Senior's homes a list of seniors who reside there only.
- If we have drive-through advance polling station, we must understand that while it may be convenient, it is difficult to identify voting irregularities.
- The City of Calgary needs to have a census taken well before the elections to enable a proper list of voters and a correct count of eligible voters and ensure that the correct number of ballots are available..
- Since no list of eligible voters exists, voter eligibility happens on Election Day when a voter arrives at a polling station and requests a ballot – accreditation on-site is far from rigorous.
- There are inadequate controls to ensure that only legitimate voters cast ballots and the inability to ensure that voters only cast one vote in the election call into question the legitimacy of the results.

These are some of the problems that we may face, once again, if no action is taken early enough to safeguard the legitimacy of the elections. We urge you to examine the current situation and make the necessary changes so that the 2021 Municipal Elections are better ran than 2017. These issues should be addressed early rather than on "Election Day": We are experiencing an increasing citizens' distrust in the system, and it is imperative that we address these issues for the sake of democracy

We look forward to collaborating with you in future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marcel Latouche', written over a horizontal line.

Marcel Latouche

President & CEO

**The Institute for Public Sector Accountability**

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