



Progressive Conservative Party of Newfoundland and Labrador

PO Box 8551 ♦ St. Johns, NL ♦ A1B 3P2

February 16, 2021

Mr. Bruce Chaulk, Chief Electoral Officer
Office of the Chief Electoral Officer (OCEO (ELECTIONS NL))
39 Hallett Crescent, St. John's, NL A1B 4C4
Email: brucechaulk@gov.nl.ca

Dear Mr. Chaulk:

I write to request that you convene an urgent meeting of the Advisory Committee established under Part IV of the *Elections Act, 1991*.

Under section 336 of the Act, you have the power as chair of the Advisory Committee to convene a meeting. I ask that you exercise this power by commissioning a meeting forthwith.

The Advisory Committee appointed following the election in 2019 continues to exist until 15 days following the commencement of the 1st session of the Legislature following the 2021 general election. Its purpose – as clearly defined in Sections 332 and 337 of the Act – is to provide advice “on the political process,” and in particular to advise the Chief Electoral Officer on the “functioning” of the *Elections Act, 1991*. The fact that the Advisory Committee continues to exist and serve during the election period is proof that the committee is intended to advise on the application of the Act during the election period when this is necessary.

The requirement that you consult this committee is not discretionary. Under Subsection 337(2) of the Act, the Chief Electoral Officer “shall” consult the advisory committee periodically with regard to the application of this Act. The circumstances of this election are extraordinary. The Act is being applied in unprecedented ways. There was never a time when the Advisory Committee’s advice was needed more than now.

I look forward to your response by 2:00 pm today.

Sincerely,

Shawn Skinner
Campaign Chair 2021
Progressive Conservative Party of Newfoundland and Labrador