

By-Election Confirmed Following Resignation of Wetaskiwin Councillor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 13, 2019

(Wetaskiwin, Alberta) – Wetaskiwin City Council called for a municipal by-election after formally receiving notice that Patricia MacQuarrie had resigned from her position as councillor with the City of Wetaskiwin at their regular May 13 Council meeting.

As the halfway point in MacQuarrie's four-year term had not yet been reached, the MGA dictates that City Council must call for a by-election to occur within 90 days of the notice of resignation in order to fill the vacancy. The by-election is currently scheduled for July 24, 2019—exactly 90 days after the City Manager received MacQuarrie's resignation on April 25, 2019. Administration is seeking an extension from the Minister of Municipal Affairs to hold the election later owing to many community members usually being away over the summer.

"It has been a privilege to work with Patricia over the past five and a half years. She was a tremendous help when I was first elected as a councillor in 2013 and continued to offer her support after I was elected to my first term as Mayor," said Mayor Tyler Gandam. "Patricia's experience, hard work, and overall knowledge of the City and policy will be missed and leaves big shoes to fill. I wish Patricia and her family all the best and thank her for her time and dedication to the City of Wetaskiwin."

Wetaskiwin City Council will continue to function effectively with no gaps in representation given that Wetaskiwin councillors are elected at-large.

Patricia MacQuarrie was first elected to Wetaskiwin City Council in October 2010 and served continuously as a municipal councillor since then.

More information on the by-election will be published at www.wetaskiwin.ca as it becomes available.

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For more information please contact:

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BACKGROUNDER:

According to the MGA, a by-election must be held within 90 days of a councillor resigning if they have not yet reached the halfway point of their term. City Manager Peter Tarnawsky received Patricia MacQuarrie's resignation the morning of April 25, which means that July 24 is the 90-day point—and scheduled day of the by-election.

City Council called for the by-election to be held on Wednesday, July 24 after receiving official notice of MacQuarrie's resignation from City Council at their regular May 13 Council meeting. City Council also authorized Administration to request an extension from municipal affairs in order to hold the election later in the summer, but Administration will continue planning to hold the by-election on July 24 until provided an answer.

The timeline of events for the 2019 City of Wetaskiwin By-Election is as follows:

- Nominations open May 14 and close June 12 at Noon.
- Candidate Information Sessions to be held June 3 and June 5.
- Advertisement for election workers will begin May 14. Hiring will begin soon after nominations close on June 12.
- The advance vote will be held July 20 (hours to be determined).
- Election day will be July 24 from 10 am until 8 pm (unless an extension is granted).
- The unofficial election results will be posted to www.wetaskiwin.ca as soon as possible following the election.
- Official election results will be communicated in a press release on July 29.