

Manitoba Municipal Recall Act

Briefing Summary

This briefing summary outlines the purpose, scope, and key provisions of the Manitoba Municipal Recall Act. It is designed to provide Cabinet and stakeholders with a concise overview of the legislation's objectives, mechanisms, and anticipated impact.

Purpose

To establish a democratic mechanism for the recall of municipal elected officials, thereby strengthening accountability, transparency, and public trust in local governance.

Scope

The Act applies strictly within the jurisdiction of Manitoba's municipalities, covering all municipal elected officials, including ward councilors, and officials elected at-large such as the lead councilor, the reeve, or the mayor

Key Provisions

- Recall petitions require pre-intake interest of at least 5% of eligible electors.
- Valid recall petitions must be signed by at least 15% of eligible electors in the relevant jurisdiction.
- A runoff confirmation vote requires participation of at least 25% of eligible electors to be valid.
- If recall is successful, the official is removed and a by-election is held within 45 days, in which the recalled official may not contest.
- Campaign finance rules, oversight mechanisms, and penalties for misconduct are established to ensure integrity.
- *All costs associated with a recall process shall rest wholly and independently with the municipality invoking the Act, ensuring fiscal responsibility at the local level.*

Comparative Context

The Act aligns Manitoba with recall provisions in other Canadian jurisdictions such as British Columbia and Alberta, which have demonstrated that recall mechanisms are democratizing rather than destabilizing.

Conclusion

The Manitoba Municipal Recall Act is a measured, non-partisan reform that reaffirms the principle that public office is a privilege contingent on public trust. It provides citizens with a democratic safeguard against misconduct and reinforces accountability across Manitoba's municipalities.