



June 26, 2009

## MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

### NOMINATION PERIOD AND MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SESSION IN OCTOBER

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Bill 33, which amends Québec's Municipal Elections and Referendums Act (*Loi modifiant la Loi sur les élections et les référendums dans les municipalités et d'autres dispositions législatives*) and which received Royal Assent on June 1, 2009, makes important changes to the rules that will govern the next municipal elections.

#### Nomination period

One of these changes concerns the length of the nomination period for mayors and municipal councillors, which is shortened from 22 to 15 days. As a result, for the elections on November 1, 2009, **the nomination period will begin on September 18 and will close at 4:30 PM on October 2.**

This change in the law should allow substantial savings for many municipalities, since the returning officers will be able to wait until the end of the nomination period to issue the official electoral lists to the voters. This means that in municipalities where positions would have been filled by acclamation after the nomination period closed, the issuance of these official lists will not be necessary.

#### Municipal council sessions in October

This change will also have an impact on municipal council sessions that begin in October.

In order to respect the Municipal Elections and Referendums Act, under which municipal councils may not sit after the end of nomination periods, except in circumstances beyond their control, and the Cities and Towns Act and the Municipal Code, which require a municipal council to hold a regular

session at least once a month, **municipal councils must sit on October 1 or before 4:30 PM on October 2.** The law allows councils to modify their schedule of sessions accordingly.

You can read the text of Bill 33 online at the National Assembly website address: <http://www2.publicationsduquebec.gouv.qc.ca/dynamicSearch/telecharge.php?type=5&file=2009C11F.PDF>.

***If you have any questions about this issue, please feel free to contact UMQ legal advisor Diane Simard at 514-282-7700, extension 235, or email [dsimard@umq.qc.ca](mailto:dsimard@umq.qc.ca).***

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