
Going virtual

New legislation allows organizations to use technology for meetings and votes

What we've done

Service Alberta has updated the rules for how organizations provide meeting notices, conduct meetings and hold votes. The changes allow organizations to conduct such tasks remotely, using digital technology, if their bylaws do not prohibit it. Because such meetings could involve as few as a half-dozen people or as many as 100, the changes ensure that organizations can make their meeting bylaws work best for their memberships, rather than require a one-size-fits-all policy.

Why we did it

In spring 2020, during the first State of Public Health Emergency in Alberta due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Alberta suspended the requirement for specific organizations to hold in-person meetings in the interest of public safety.

When the suspension of the rules ended in August 2020, many organizations wanted to continue to be able to meet and vote safely without meeting in person, but found their bylaws did not allow it.

Furthermore, Alberta's legislation did not reflect the advent of technology that allows organizations to meet virtually, send electronic meeting notices or conduct votes electronically.



Who this affects

The changes affect any organization with meeting and voting requirements legislated under the *Business Corporations Act*, *Companies Act*, *Societies Act*, *Condominium Property Act* and *Cooperatives Act*.

Examples include businesses, non-profit companies, societies, condominium corporations and cooperatives.

Is this in effect now?

These changes are retroactive to Aug. 15, 2020 (corresponding to the expiration of the *Public Health Act* ministerial order on Aug. 14, 2020).

Is this permanent?

Yes. In an increasingly digital world, these changes allow Alberta organizations to conduct business via modern technologies. The COVID-19 pandemic helped identify the need to modernize these meeting processes.

Will this require bylaw changes?

The changes to provincial legislation allow organizations to send electronic notices for meetings and conduct meetings and votes electronically unless their bylaws prohibit it.

If an organization's bylaws don't specifically prohibit electronic voting and meetings, the bylaws would not need to be changed. However, if an organization does not want to allow electronic meeting processes, the bylaws would need to state this prohibition clearly.

For more information, go to alberta.ca or call 310-0000.

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