

news release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 9, 2018

BILL BOWLES RE-APPOINTED AS MANITOBA'S COMMISSIONER OF ELECTIONS

Chief Electoral Officer Shipra Verma announced today that Bill Bowles has been re-appointed as Manitoba's Commissioner of Elections. His term will continue until June 14, 2023.

The re-appointment was made in consultation with the leaders of all registered political parties represented in the Legislative Assembly.

The role of the Commissioner of Elections is to ensure compliance with Manitoba's election laws, including *The Elections Act* and *The Election Financing Act*.

The Commissioner has the authority to conduct investigations, either as the result of a complaint or on his own initiative. He may also prosecute offences, if he has reasonable grounds to believe an offence has been committed, and if he considers it to be in the public interest to prosecute. The Commissioner also responds to complaints related to government advertising.

Anyone may make a complaint to the Commissioner if they believe that an election offence has taken place. Manitoba's Commissioner of Elections has jurisdiction over provincial election law only; he does not have authority over federal or municipal elections.

Bill Bowles is a lawyer and former partner with Aikins, MacAulay and Thorvaldson, where he practiced for 20 years, primarily in the areas of general commercial litigation and insurance law. His appointment as Commissioner of Elections is effective June 15, 2018.

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