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THE LAW OF CANADIAN MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS

Ian MacFee Rogers Release No. 4, April 2024

Since 1959, The Law of Canadian Municipal Corporations, 2nd Edition, has been the definitive text on all aspects of the law governing municipalities in every province. No other work is quoted with approval so frequently in Canadian judicial decisions. More than 1,700 pages of in-depth commentary keeps you fully informed on this vast subject.

This release features updates to the case law and commentary in 2 (Incorporation), 4 (Election), 5 (Council Members), 14 (Assessment), 17 (Planning and Zoning),18 (Building Construction), 22 (Miscellaneous – Parks), 26 (Corporate Property), 29 (Public Safety), 30 (Municipal Highways), 32 (Actions By and Against Municipalities), 33 (Municipal Wrongs) and 35 (Schools).

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Highlights

Case Law

- Election—Contestation—Frivolous and Vexatious Challenge—Challenges made on unreasonable grounds will be rejected. Hence, where the election of a mayor was challenged on the basis that polling data was used to select candidates who could appear in debates and thus excluded others, the court rejected this on the basis that the municipal elections legislation simply did not regulate this and found the challenge to be frivolous and vexatious: Clarke v. Toronto (City), 2023 CarswellOnt 17808 (Ont.S.C.J.).
- Assessment—Process—Reasons—Where the reasons are intelligible, transparent and justified, as in a case involving assessment of university residences, challenges to the decision will be dismissed: *City of Lethbridge v. University of Lethbridge*, 2024 CarswellAlta 54 (Alta.K.B.).
- **Heritage Designation—Effect on Development**—Demolition and development cannot be stopped by an arbitrary heritage designation where inappropriate procedures were followed and irrelevant matters were considered: *Dalhousie University v. HRM*, 2023 CarswellNS 988 (N.S.S.C.).
- Municipal Wrongs—Extent of Liability—Third Party—Municipalities may be liable as employers under occupational health and safety legislation for the actions or inactions of contractors in respect to incidents which give rise to suits, as for example an incident involving a fatal accident in a construction site: *R. v. Greater Sudbury (City)*, 2023 CarswellOnt 17323, 2023 CarswellOnt 17324, 2023 SCC 28, 2023 CSC 28 (S.C.C.).
- Schools—Premises—Fair Process—Where decisions which have been made to close a school and where they have made in a procedurally fair and reasonable way, challenges to them will be dismissed: Queen Elizabeth Annex (QEA) Parents' Society v. Vancouver School District No. 39, 2023 CarswellBC 3528 (B.C.S.C.).

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