

**Rural Municipality of Thompson**  
**By-law No. 5-2026**

**WHEREAS** The Municipal Act provides that a council must pass a by-law establishing rules and procedures for the use of municipal resources during the 42-day period before a general election or a by-election.

**NOW THEREFORE** the Council of the Rural Municipality of Thompson enacts as follows:

**TITLE**

1. This by-law may be known as the "Use of Municipal Resources in an Election By-Law".

**DEFINITIONS**

2. In this by-law,

**"Candidate"** means an individual who has been registered under section 93.3 of The Municipal Act.

**"Restricted Period"** means the period beginning 42 days before a municipal general election or by-election, and ending after polls close on the date of the municipal general election or by-election.

**"Municipal Resources"** means:

- a. any resource owned or controlled by the Municipality, including but not limited to:
  - i. property, facilities, infrastructure and equipment,
  - ii. websites, social media accounts and other communication tools or media,
- b. employees or volunteers in the course of their employment or volunteer service, including any full-time, part-time, casual or contract employees, and volunteers, whether or not the volunteer receives reasonable compensation or expense money from the municipality for their voluntary service,
- c. events or functions organized by the Municipality,
- d. the municipal logo, seal, or other identifying marks associated with the Municipality,
- e. any information collected or controlled by the Municipality that is not available to the general public.

**"Municipality"** means the Rural Municipality of Thompson.

**RESTRICTIONS ON CANDIDATES' USE OF MUNICIPAL RESOURCES**

3. Subject to section 4, during the Restricted Period, a Candidate or a person acting on their behalf may only use a Municipal Resource for an election-related purpose if:
  - a. The Municipal Resource is normally made available to the general public without the general public needing to seek permission or authorization for its use; and
  - b. The Candidate's use of the Municipal Resource does not unreasonably interfere with use of the Municipal Resource by other members of the public.

## RESTRICTIONS ON MUNICIPAL ACTIVITIES

Subject to section 4, during the Restricted Period, the Municipality and any person acting on its behalf is restricted from using:

- c. Municipal Resources in communicating information about the Municipality's programs or services, if the communication may reasonably be seen as providing an electoral advantage to a Candidate; and
- d. The name, voice or image of a member of council in municipal communications.

## EXCEPTIONS

4. Restrictions in section 3 do not apply:
  - a. To any use of Municipal Resources that may be necessary in respect of an emergency or dangers to property or health;
  - b. To any event where all Candidates are invited and provided equivalent opportunities with respect to any election-related purpose;
  - c. To any use of Municipal Resources by the Municipality to educate and inform the public about the election process, as long as no Candidate is promoted, supported or opposed;
  - d. To the preparation of any document, notice or communication that is required by legislation, and any subsequent distribution that is normally made by the Municipality, such as posting council meeting minutes online;
  - e. To the preparation of any documents or communications of a strictly administrative nature required for the usual functioning of the Municipality, such as members of council signing payments;
  - f. To any method of providing public access to council meetings;
  - g. To any Candidate declared elected by acclamation during the Restricted Period, after such declaration is made.

## INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

5. Any person appointed or designated to enforce the Municipality's by-laws may determine compliance with and enforce this by-law, and in the course of this activity may request access to records and make any inspection they deem necessary.
6. Any person who contravenes this By-law may be subject to:
  - a) Disciplinary measures (in the case of employees);
  - b) Sanctions consistent with Council's Code of Conduct (for Council Members);
  - c) Recovery of improperly used funds or costs;
  - d) Prosecution as permitted under The Municipal Act.

**DONE AND PASSED**, in Manitoba this 24th day of April 2026.

  
Reeve

  
Chief Administrative Officer

The seal is circular with a double-line border. The outer ring contains the text "RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF THOMPSON" in uppercase letters. In the center of the seal, the word "SEAL" is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font.

Read a first time this 16th day of April 2026  
Read a second time this 16th day of April 2026  
Read a third time this 24th day of April 2026