



August 18, 2026

Reference: 192879

Dear Chief Election Officers:

I am writing to share some important informational resources that may help you navigate potential conflicts, harassment situations, or election offences that may arise during the upcoming General Local Elections (GLE).

In the lead-up to GLE, the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs (HMA) and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSSG) have been engaging with local police departments about ways to further support the safety and security of elections for staff, candidates, and others involved.

PSSG and HMA have developed the attached Harassment and Safety Resources document which contains general information, program links, and tips relating to a range of incidents that may occur. The document identifies various resources that, if required, can provide a pathway forward for candidates and election officials. Additional information on how to recognize and report hate crimes and hate incidences is included in the attached Help Prevent Hate Crime: Information for Professionals brochure.

For reference, HMA has also distributed the attached letter to provincial police services to help identify their role during the local election process, including when they may be contacted for elections-related issues.

If you have any questions about these informational resources, or general local elections guidance and resources in general, please contact Ministry staff at:

LGGovernance@gov.bc.ca or 250-387-4020. Local governments may also contact their local police or RCMP departments/detachments for investigation of elections offences or criminal harassment allegations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Faganello".

Tara Faganello
Assistant Deputy Minister
Local Government Division
Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs

Attachment 1: 2026 Harassment and Safety Resources

Attachment 2: Help Prevent Hate Crime: Information for Professionals

Attachment 3: General Local Elections 2026 Police Outreach Letter