

MOTION

No: 128

Extending voting rights to permanent residents in municipal and school board elections

Peter Bevan-Baker gives notice that he will move, seconded by Stephen Howard, the following Motion:

WHEREAS the population of Prince Edward Island has been rapidly growing primarily through immigration, with a rich diversity of new Islanders living in every corner of the province;

AND WHEREAS it is critical that we act to recognize and value the contributions of this increasingly diverse population, their lived experiences, and their hopes and dreams for the future;

AND WHEREAS many immigrants cannot participate in our democracy through voting, as they are not yet Canadian citizens;

AND WHEREAS immigrants pay taxes, are subject to our laws, and contribute substantially in many meaningful ways to our society and our economy;

AND WHEREAS providing an opportunity to better understand and be able to participate in civics will help with retention of immigrants to the province by ensuring that their voices are heard;

AND WHEREAS municipal and school board representation is often the first step to political engagement;

AND WHEREAS the *Municipal Government Act* and the *Education Act* are within provincial legislative jurisdiction;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislature supports extending voting rights to all permanent residents for municipal elections and school board elections in Prince Edward Island;

AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature urge government to consult with affected communities and stakeholders and bring forward the legislative changes required to expand voting rights to permanent residents of Prince Edward Island.

Signed by: Peter Bevan-Baker

Signed by: Stephen Howard

Date: 9 November 2022