



WARDEN ELECTED BY UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE



A GOOD INVESTMENT



Why

- A **full-time** Warden
- A **regional vision** of development for Pontiac
- A strong, motivational **regional leadership**

A WARDEN ELECTED BY UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE...

...is elected by the entire population instead of being designated by his peers *

- The warden is elected for four years.
- MRC Council decisions remain in the hands of councillors.
- Once this method is adopted, the decision is irreversible.

(*) What is a warden designated by his peers?

This is how the MRC Pontiac's warden is currently designated.

- The population elects their mayors and councillors every four years;
- The mayors form the MRC Council and designate one of the mayors warden;
- The designated warden has a two-year mandate;
- The designated warden must split his time between his municipal and regional responsibilities.

OUR MUNICIPAL LANDSCAPE IS CHANGING

MRC responsibilities are increasing

The new responsibilities for regional economic development and regional governance require the MRCs to be more efficient:

- Greater **efficiency** of MRC resources;
- Better **accountability**;
- Better **communications**;
- Increased citizen **participation**.

THE STATUS QUO IS NO LONGER AN OPTION

The stakes are higher than ever in the Pontiac. Therefore, the status quo is no longer an option. As mayors and MRC councilors, we have an obligation to adopt a strategy for greater efficiency, better accountability and communications, and increased citizen participation.

Such a strategy, favored in other MRCs and which proved profitable, is of a warden elected by universal suffrage. Given the Pontiac's current economic landscape, we have studied the pros and cons of this approach, and it is now time to make a choice.

As elected officials, we have a responsibility to explain our decision, just as we would have the responsibility to say why, and how we will effectively discharge our new regional responsibilities, if we reject the strategy of warden elected by universal suffrage.

A WARDEN ELECTED BY UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE: AN INVESTMENT ...

1 **IN TIME –**

The warden elected by universal suffrage works full time.

The Pontiac has great challenges

The elected warden defends Pontiac issues, which are urgent and numerous. The solutions are complex.

He spends a lot of time preparing, assessing issues and mobilizing resources.

Laws and regulations change regularly

The elected warden looks out for legal and regulatory changes.

He examines the documentation on issues affecting municipalities.

The elected warden receives necessary training.

The elected warden is present in all forums

The elected warden represents the population of the Pontiac and travels to all forums, both inside and outside the territory.

The elected warden mediates local disagreements

The elected warden ensures that the Pontiac speaks in a unique and united voice.

According to the mayor of Baie-Comeau and current warden of the MRC of Manicouagan, in 2017, an elected official can no longer support the work loads of mayor and warden.

A WARDEN ELECTED BY UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE: AN INVESTMENT ...

2 **IN QUALITY CANDIDATES** – **Attract strong leaders...**

**...with a regional
vision**



The election by universal suffrage helps find candidates with a regional vision that wish to serve at a regional level.

**...able to communicate
and motivate**



A candidate to the prefecture must be able to express himself clearly and communicate well with the population. He must be able to explain his plan and garner public support.

**...who possess a
sound and informed
judgment**



To be a fine negotiator and achieve the best possible agreements with partners and other decision-makers, the warden must possess a sound and informed judgment.

**...free of all specific
interests linking them
to a local municipality
or issue**



The candidate mobilises the population behind regional issues. He doesn't promote local division.

Diane Lebouthillier became warden of the MRC de Rocher-Percé with no mayoral experience.

Today, she is the Minister responsible for national revenue in the Canadian government.

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3 **IN THE SEARCH FOR PARTNERS –** **Ability to sell projects to potential partners**

Representation — The elected warden **represents the entire Pontiac territory** and only the **Pontiac territory**.

Proactivity — The elected warden is always **in action** and **focused on results**.

Development — The elected warden acts as **development officer**, meeting with potential partners.

Networking — The elected warden maintains a network of contacts useful to the development of Pontiac projects.

**Internal MRC
Resource Mobilisation** — The elected warden can mobilise internal resources and ensure the feedback necessary to quickly advance priority files.

The elected warden of the MRC of Témiscouata has greatly facilitated representations to other political bodies and economic partners for regional projects of wind farms. He is sometimes regarded as a political development agent.

THE COST OF A WARDEN ELECTED BY UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE

The warden's salary

Minor impact compared to the 2016 fiscal year (warden and pro-warden salaries).

MRC Council determines the warden's salary.

MRC Council adjusts the warden's salary according to set criteria they may determine important.

The cost of election

At approximately \$ 80 000 per election, the cost of election is approximately **\$ 20 000 per year**, or **\$ 1,50** per person per year.

The return on investment

The election of the warden is an **investissement** that will allow the MRC to achieve the development objectives set by the Pontiac population.

Since the warden of Témiscamingue's election by universal suffrage in 2009, the value of their development projects amounts to more than \$ 500 M.



FOR THE FUTURE OF PONTIAC

The warden elected by universal suffrage is, for the MRC Pontiac, an investment into our resources, in our population, and in our ability to take charge of our future.

The majority of MRCs that have made the choice of warden elected by universal suffrage report that they would not return to the previous situation. The benefits clearly outweigh the costs at all levels, politically, socially, and economically.

** In this document, the masculine form includes the feminine, and is used only to simplify the text.*