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Trustee candidates face stricter rules

All must submit campaign fundraising report

MAGGIE MACINTOSH
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

SCHOOL board candidates have been assigned mandatory post-election math homework for the first time in Manitoba's history.

Regardless of their results, all nominees who ran for trustee in last week's school board elections are required to compile a campaign fundraising report.

"All of them were told they were going to have to find out who I am," Elise Downey said as she described the new marching orders given to 22 people who submitted paperwork at city hall to enter races in the River East Transcona School Division.

The division's secretary-treasurer — along with her counterparts who oversee financial planning in other school board offices — are collecting information about political donations to begin making them public.

As of this election season, new rules dictate who can donate — and how much — to trustee campaigns.

Individual contributions and overall campaign spending have been capped at $1,500 and $7,500, respectively.

There's now a universal ban on donations made by organizations and out-of-province residents. Anonymous contributions are also off limits.

"It aligns all of the political candidates, whether you're running for a municipality or (school board). Mayors and councillors have had this requirement for many, many years and so, I think it makes sense," Downey said.

She hadn't received any paperwork within 24 hours of election polls closing in RETSD, but the secretary-treasurer said she wasn't surprised one bit.

The universal submission deadline is April 30. School boards are expected to post their respective reports on their public websites this spring.

● RULES, CONTINUED ON A2



JOHN WOODS / FREE PRESS

CELEBRATING INDIGENOUS CULTURE

Dancers enter the Manito Ahbee Festival at Canada Life Centre on Sunday. The three-day event, which began Friday, celebrates Indigenous arts, culture and music in Winnipeg. It includes a powwow, events on stage and a marketplace.

Third fire hits troubled Manitoba Housing apartment block

MALAK ABAS

RESIDENTS of a North End Manitoba Housing apartment block with a long history of trouble say they're shaken after the building was hit with its third fire in eight months Friday night.

An apartment complex at 145 Powers St. was evacuated by firefighters after a fire broke out at around 7:45 p.m.

When longtime resident Sharon Markwell heard the fire alarm go off, she chalked it up to a false alarm — kids will get into the building and pull the fire alarm around once or twice a month, she said — until smoke began billowing into the hallway of her fifth-floor apartment.

"Once I realized that I could smell smoke very, very strongly, and the smoke was seeping into my room, into my apartment, I said to myself, 'This is no false alarm. This is the real thing,'" Markwell, 64, told the *Free Press* Sunday.

She snatched her dog and cat, barely able to see, and screamed for help from her window. A firefighter was able to get Markwell and her two pets out of the building safely.

The City of Winnipeg's Emergency Social Services team was at the scene and a bus was brought out for displaced residents, including Markwell, to wait in. She said that tenants of one floor of the building had to find other accommodations, but she was able to go back inside after the fire was over. One person received medical attention at the scene, according to a news release from the city.

It's the latest in a long list of woes that have beleaguered the 12-storey high-rise in recent years, including two other fires in the building in April and May.

The property gained a reputation for being a hot spot for drug use and crime until the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority paused its home-care services inside the building, citing safety concerns for its staff, in March.

● FIRE, CONTINUED ON A2

Carney says he had 'good conversation' with Trump

CATHERINE MORRISON

OTTAWA — U.S. President Donald Trump says Canada and the United States have "the concept of a very good deal."

Speaking to reporters in Iowa on Sunday, Trump said the countries were "very close" to reaching a trade deal.

"We've been losing money for many years with Canada," he said. "We have the concept of a deal that's going to be great for our farmers, great for our country and it'll be fine for Canada too."

Prime Minister Mark Carney said on social media Sunday that he had a "good conversation" with Trump on the future of trade between the two countries.

A spokesperson for the Prime Minister's Office said the conversation between the leaders took place on Saturday.

Carney said the conversation builds on previous ones they have had about what a mutually beneficial trade deal looks like. He said such a deal would create jobs for workers, improve affordability for families, and respect Canada's languages, culture and sovereignty.

"Our teams will now be working in the coming weeks to deliver that outcome," he said.

The conversation comes ahead of Tuesday's midterm elections in the United States, where the ongoing Canada-U.S. trade dispute has emerged as a key issue among some candidates.

Trump told reporters on Sunday the Keystone XL pipeline project was part of the negotiations, adding that Canada would pay for "all of it."

"We're going to give them the route, and it's largely been determined but they'll build the Keystone pipeline," said Trump.

Trump boasted in August about reviving the Keystone XL pipeline project, touting it as a win in trade negotiations with Canada. At the time, Trump posted on his Truth Social platform that Canada and the U.S. "have a DEAL!"

A subsequent post showed a rendering of the president yanking a pipeline out of the ground beside a tombstone labelled "buried by Biden" and alongside another sign reading "Keystone Pipeline. Completely Free. Energy. Jobs. America First."

Keystone XL, which could bring more than 800,000 barrels of additional oil from Alberta to the U.S., was proposed almost 20 years ago. But after years of challenges from U.S. landowners, Indigenous leaders in both countries, and environmental groups, former U.S. president Joe Biden killed it by revoking a key U.S. permit in 2021.

Almost a year ago, Carney raised with Trump the prospect of reviving the project, as part of a larger pitch to link energy co-operation and support for Canada's steel and aluminum sectors. Trump signed an executive order in April to approve a new pipeline which would utilize existing portions of the abandoned Keystone project.

At a press conference Sunday, Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre encouraged Carney to "get a great deal." He said everyday Canadians can't afford to wait for a trade deal with the U.S.

"The prime minister promised in the last election he would get an even better deal than we had before. He's broken that promise so far," he said. "It's time for Mr. Carney to put the big talk in the past and deliver real results."

Tuesday's midterm election brings high stakes for both Republicans and Democrats.

● CARNEY, CONTINUED ON A2

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