

INFORMATION NOTICE

March 16, 2020

NOTICE FROM THE REGISTRAR

ANNUAL MEETINGS OF MEMBERS IN LIGHT OF THE COVID-19 VIRUS

As of today, seven positive cases of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) been identified in Manitoba. In addition, Manitoba public health officials are recommending that Manitobans should consider taking measures to prevent the spread of this virus, including cancelling or postponing larger scale events, which will help reduce prolonged exposure (more than 10 minutes) and close contact (less than two meters) with other individuals in public.

Many cooperatives have called or will shortly be calling their annual meetings of members, which they are required to do within 15 months of the last annual meeting of members. The rapidly evolving state of the COVID-19 pandemic is a factor the directors of a cooperative need to consider in consultation with their advisors when deciding when to call this meeting.

Given current circumstances the Registrar would not object to a decision of the board of a cooperative to postpone an annual meeting that has already be called, provided that

- (i) the cooperative takes all possible steps to notify members of the postponement, including posting notices on its website and in all branches as well as at the location at the time set for the meeting
- (ii) the cooperative notifies all members of the date of the postponed meeting, in the same manner as notice of an adjournment of a meeting under its bylaws or *The Cooperatives Act*

If the annual meeting has not already been called, the Registrar would not object if the board of a cooperative decides to delay calling the meeting, provided that the board monitors events and calls the meeting as soon as it is reasonable to do so after considering all of the public health information it has available and the advice it solicits from its advisors.

All cooperatives that elect to postpone or delay their annual meetings must notify the Registrar.

For further information, please contact Djemal Halilagic, Deputy Registrar at (204) 945-6111 or at djemal.halilagic@gov.mb.ca .