

## Orders of the CEO – 42<sup>nd</sup> Provincial General Election

<b>Voting in the voting place</b>		
<b>Change enacted by Order</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Reduce number of election officials required for a voting opportunity or option	Increased physical distancing	Permit physical distancing and reduce the potential for the transmission of COVID-19. <sup>1</sup>
Remove advance voting certificate	Reduced contact intensity	Reduce risks to public health by minimizing the requirements for election officials and voters to exchange materials and interact in close proximity. <sup>1</sup>
Add an additional day of advance voting (7 days total, up from 6)	Increased physical distancing	Provide additional opportunities for voting and spread voting activity across more days to maintain physical distancing.
Remove requirement for voters to sign the voting book	Reduced contact intensity	Reduce risks to public health by minimizing the requirements for election officials and voters to use shared materials and interact in close proximity. <sup>1</sup>
Replace written declarations with oral declarations	Reduced contact intensity	Reduce risks to public health by minimizing the requirements for election officials and voters to exchange materials and interact in close proximity. <sup>1</sup>
Voters to remove counterfoil from ballot	Reduced contact intensity	Reduce risks to public health by minimizing the requirements for election officials and voters to use shared materials and interact in close proximity. <sup>1</sup>
Broaden capacity for individuals to vouch for more than one voter in long-term care and acute care facilities	Reduced contact intensity	Reduce contact intensity and protect sensitive populations of voters.
<b>Alternative absentee voting with voting package/mail-in voting</b>		
<b>Change enacted by Order</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Revised voting package materials for vote by mail	Respond to exceptional circumstances	<p>The demand for vote by mail packages is anticipated to increase dramatically due to the pandemic.</p> <p>Vote by mail packages will use larger write-in ballots, and ordinary ballots following the close of nominations, to permit assembling and distributing high volumes of vote by mail packages.<sup>1</sup> To assist in processing received packages, the secrecy envelope will also be replaced with a secrecy sleeve.<sup>2</sup></p>

		To encourage physical distancing by voters the witness signature requirement on certification envelopes for vote by mail will be replaced with a space for voters to record their date of birth, which will act as a shared secret to confirm the voter's identity. <sup>2</sup>
Remove eligibility requirements for alternative absentee voting	Increased physical distancing	Provide additional flexibility for voters to request vote by mail packages and vote at the office of the District Electoral Officer throughout the voting period. This will promote physical distancing. <sup>1</sup>
Replace vote by mail requirements with mail-in voting requirements based on the <i>Election Amendment Act, 2019</i>	Respond to exceptional circumstances	The provisions of the <i>Election Amendment Act, 2019</i> provide greater flexibility to the administration of vote by mail. This includes the capacity for voters to request replacement packages, return completed packages to locations specified by the CEO, permit the use of ordinary ballots following the close of nominations and allow voters to be assisted when completing vote by mail packages. <sup>1</sup>
Allow completed packages to be returned to locations specified by the CEO and permit the receiving steps for completed packages to continue during preparations for final count	Respond to exceptional circumstances	Provide greater flexibility for voters while also encouraging physical distancing. <sup>1,2</sup>  For completed vote by mail packages <u>returned prior to the close of voting</u> , permitting the receiving steps required by the <i>Election Act</i> to continue during the preparations for final count will provide greater flexibility to address the expected volumes. <sup>3</sup>
Vote by mail certification envelope screening may begin prior to the close of voting	Respond to exceptional circumstances	Respond to the volume of vote by mail packages expected to be processed due to the restrictions of voting under pandemic conditions. <sup>1,2</sup>
Provide voter participation information to candidates for vote by mail package requests and returns	Respond to exceptional circumstances	Allows campaigns to respond to the anticipated increase in vote by mail voting while maintaining physical distancing.
<b>Candidates, candidate representatives and scrutineers</b>		
<b>Change enacted by Order</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Reduce the number of candidate representatives in the voting place	Increased physical distancing	Ensure public safety and support physical distancing. In addition, permit the more efficient use of space in the voting place to alleviate the constraints of securing voting places under pandemic conditions.

Permit nominators to make oral declarations instead of signing nomination documents	Reduced contact intensity	Provide a safe alternative to signing nominator document for prospective candidates. Candidates or their political parties are required to retain contact information for nominators that completed an oral declaration until the next election.
<b>Campaign financing</b>		
<b>Change enacted by Order</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Non-branded personal protective equipment and other preventative measures not subject to spending limit	Respond to exceptional circumstances	<p>Promote safe campaigning. This change is intended to preserve public health and protect campaign staff, volunteers and members of the public from COVID-19.</p> <p>These changes will not encompass any branded personal protective equipment or materials.</p>
<p><sup>1</sup> Proposed requirements are consistent with the provisions of the <i>Election Amendment Act, 2019</i> that are not currently in force</p> <p><sup>2</sup> Proposed requirements are consistent with the provisions of the Electoral Reform Referendum 2018 Regulation</p> <p><sup>3</sup> Vote by mail packages must be delivered to a location specified by the CEO by the close of voting to be considered returned.</p>		