



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
TERRITOIRES DU NORD-OUEST
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE

MEETING **RP 09-19-20**

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RULES AND PROCEDURES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2020
VIDEO/TELE-CONFERENCE
10:30 AM

AGENDA

1. Prayer
2. Review and Adoption of Agenda
3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest
4. Public Matters
 - a) Review of the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the Administration of the 2019 General Election – Public Hearing with Dr. Nicole Goodman.
5. In Camera Matters
 - a) Wrap-Up Discussion
6. Date and Time of Next Meeting: At the Call of the Chair.
7. New Business
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)
8. Adjournment

Online Voting: An Overview

Dr. Nicole Goodman, Brock University

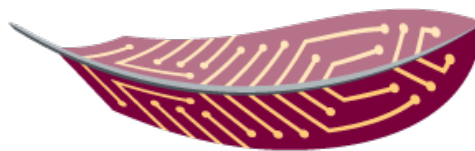
Presentation to the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures,
September 9, 2020

Electoral modernization

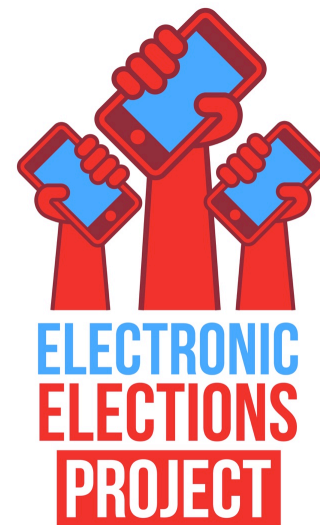
- Trend occurring worldwide
- Jurisdictions using digital technology in the election process for:
 - Poll worker training
 - Compilation of voters' lists
 - Casting of ballots
 - Counting of ballots
- Online voting is one part of this modernization

Canadian voting technology projects

● INTERNET
● VOTING
⊗ PROJECT



FN Digital
Democracy



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada

Landscape of online voting

What is online voting?

Polling place



Kiosk



Remote



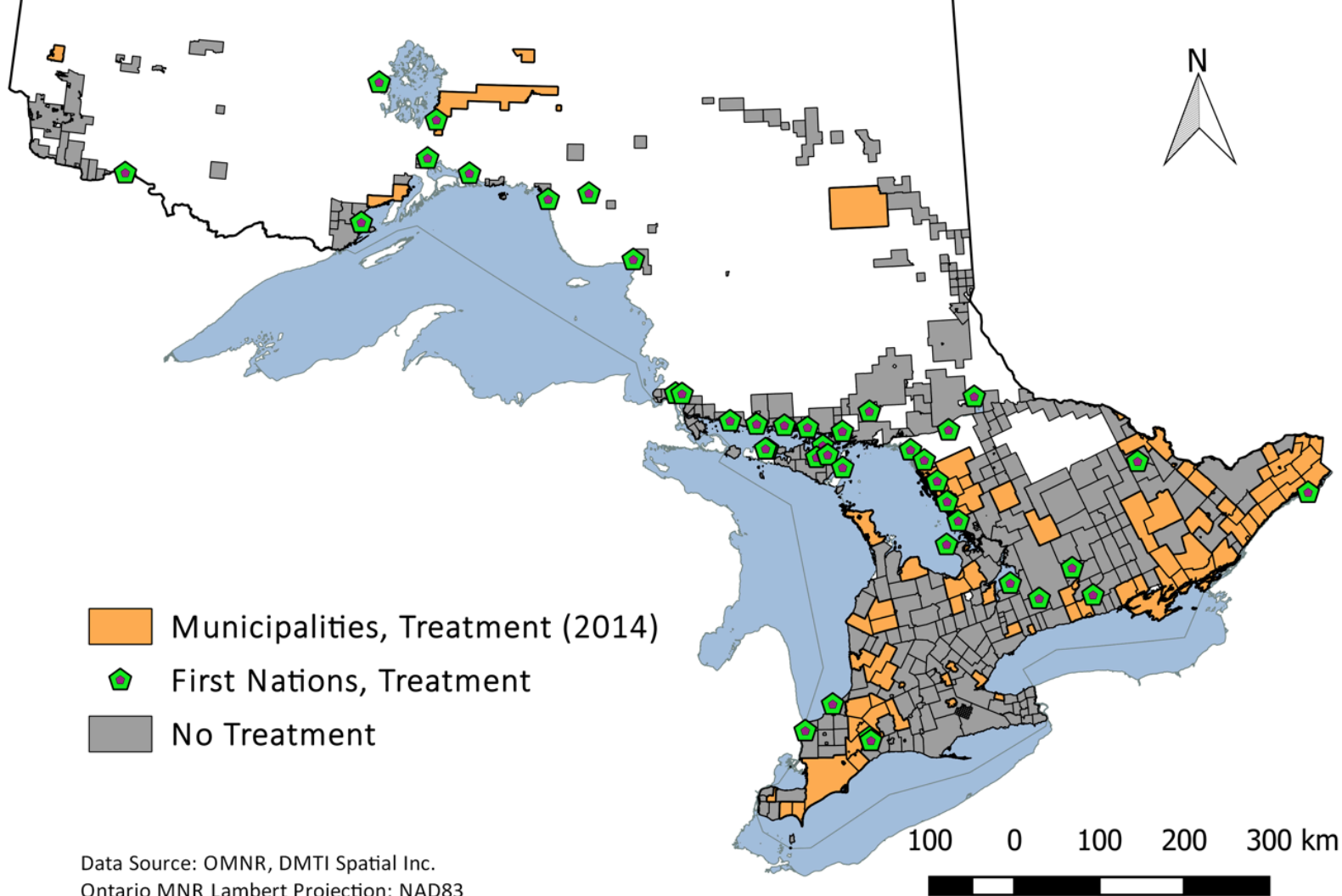
International Context

- **Online voting:** Armenia, Azerbaijan, Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Estonia, France, Mexico, Norway, Switzerland, UK, USA
- **E-voting:** Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Costa Rica, Germany, India, Namibia, Netherlands, Panama, Spain, Russia, USA



Online voting in Canada

- Municipal level (Ontario & Nova Scotia)
 - 200+ binding municipal elections
 - BC (Vancouver, Nanaimo), Alberta (Grand Prairie, St. Albert)
- Indigenous communities
- Provincial level
 - Elections PEI
 - Elections NWT for absentee voters
- Federal level
 - Special Committee on Electoral Reform
 - Elections Canada 2008-2013 Strategic Plan



Data Source: OMNR, DMTI Spatial Inc.
Ontario MNR Lambert Projection; NAD83

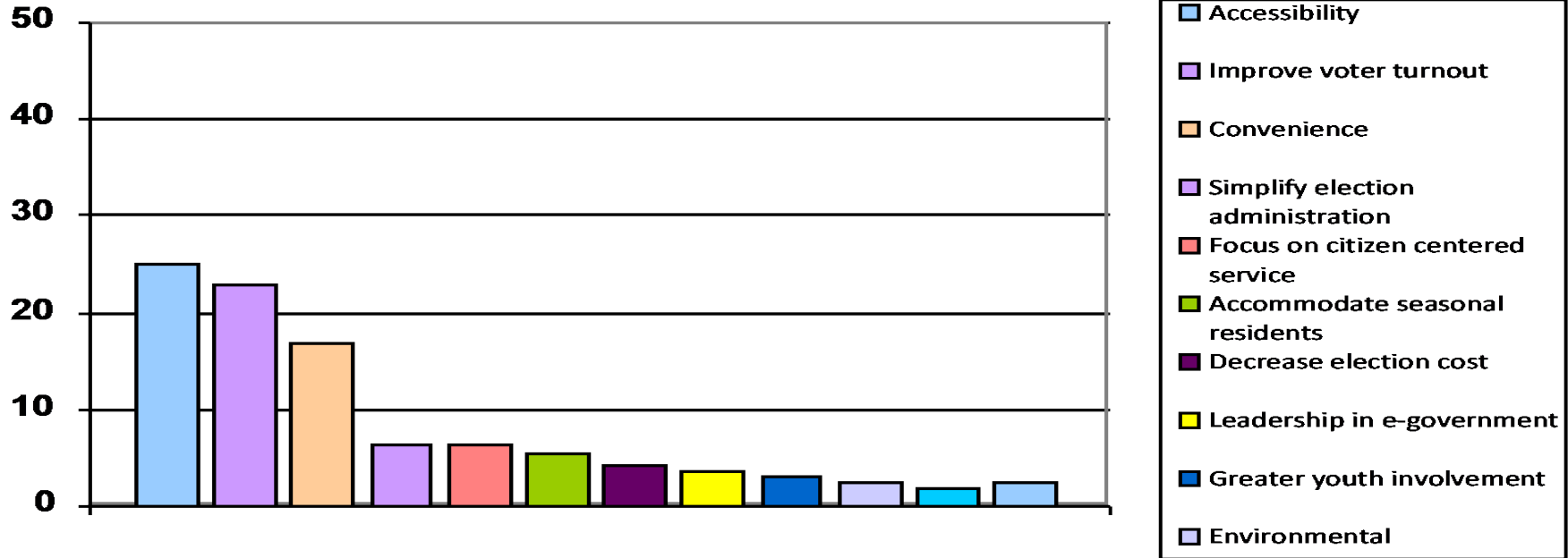
Policy learning

- Federal state presents many laboratories for testing & trials
- Municipal autonomy means there are multiple approaches
 - Patchwork of development
- Not great for consistency, but important for learning

Canadian adoption

Why municipalities adopt it?

Top reasons Ontario municipalities adopt Internet voting



How do they adopt it?

Online voting period	Advance voting period only <i>Dates can vary</i>		Full election <i>(advance period + election day)</i>		
Voting process	1-step voting <i>Combination of: PIN only (59%) <u>OR</u> PIN & DOB (29%)</i>		2-step voting <i>Includes online registration and all of: PIN DOB (12%)</i>		
Ballot types	Ivote remote	Ivote at poll	Telephone	Paper ballot	Mail-in

Most smaller municipalities >25,000

Online voting period	Advance voting period only		Full election (advance period + election day)	
Voting process	1-step voting		2-step voting Includes online registration	
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Most larger municipalities: 100,000+

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Voters: Who votes online & why?

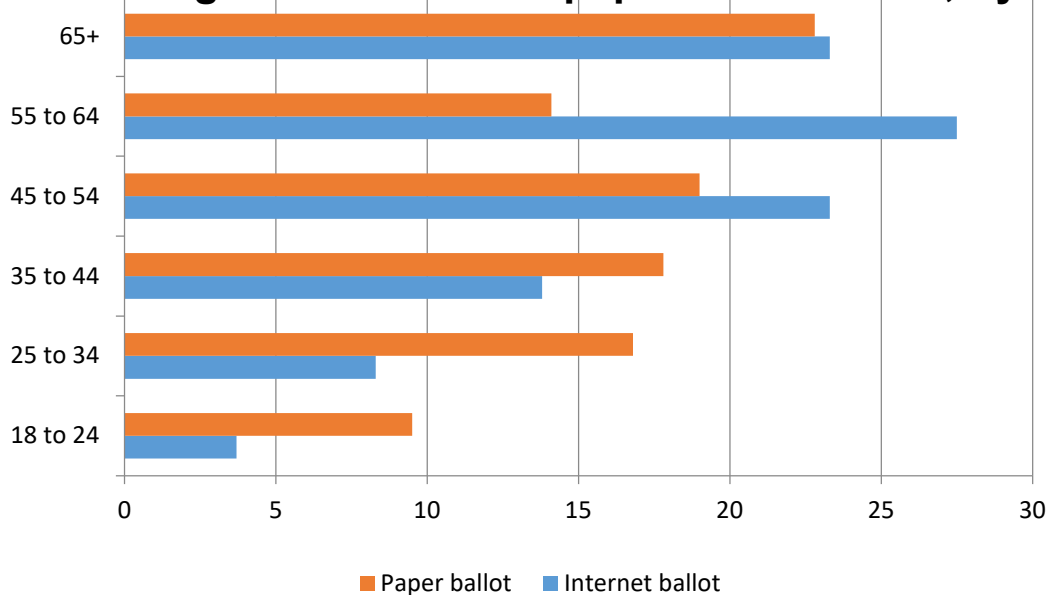
Who votes online?

Socio-demographic characteristic	Internet voter	Paper ballot voter
Age	53 years	44 years
Education	Some university	Completed technical, community college
Annual household income	\$80,000 - \$99,000	\$60,000 - \$79,000
Marital status	Married	Married
Community density	Suburban	Urban
Voting history	Frequent	Very frequent

Who votes online?

- Young people more inclined to vote by paper
- Older voters gravitate toward Internet voting

Percentage of Internet and paper ballot voters, by age



Reasons for not voting, 2010 municipal election

Category	Internet voter	Paper voter
Everyday life issues (access)	57.8%	34.1%
Political issues (lack of interest)	31.7%	35.8%
Administrative issues	10.5%	30.2%
Internet N=3125 Paper N=179		

Why people vote online?

- Convenience
- Improve voter access
 - Everyday life or health issues, mobility, travel, weather, illness
 - Survey of paper voters
 - **47% in special circumstances**, 30% no matter what, 16% not at all
- Special groups of electors
 - Persons with disabilities, seniors, members of Indigenous communities, young people away at post-secondary school

Voters: Implications for engagement


Turnout

- Markham
 - 300 percent increase in 2003
 - 43 percent increase in 2006
 - No change in 2010 (less than 1 percent decrease)
- Truro
 - 140 percent increase in 2012
- Ontario municipal elections, 2000-2014
 - 171 elections in 98 municipalities across 5 election time periods
 - Increase of 3.5 percentage points
 - 7 percentage points if voting by mail not in place beforehand
 - **LARGER THAN ELECTORAL SYSTEM CHANGE!**

Bringing in voters and leaving others out

- Evidence that it engages less frequent voters

Another Digital Divide? Evidence That Elimination of Paper Voting Could Lead to Digital Disenfranchisement

Nicole Goodman , Michael McGregor, Jérôme Couture, and Sandra Breux

Internet voting is currently used in binding elections in 10 countries, and is being considered in many others. In almost all instances where it has been implemented, it is offered as a complementary method of voting; often with the aim to make voting easier and thereby improve turnout. In many municipalities in Canada, however, the adoption of online voting has meant the simultaneous elimination of paper ballots. Drawing on data from a large survey of paper and Internet voters in the 2014 municipal elections in the province of Ontario, Canada, this article examines the effects of eliminating paper ballots on electors based on their digital literacy. We show that digital access and literacy are strongly related to voting method when paper ballots are an option. When paper ballots are unavailable, however, the voting population is made up of more technologically savvy electors, though this effect is delayed and does not occur in the first election without paper ballots. We interpret this finding to indicate that the elimination of paper ballots can disenfranchise those on the wrong side of the digital divide.

KEY WORDS: digital divide, digital literacy, Internet voting, voter behavior, voter turnout

What does this mean for local elections?

- Not a silver bullet solution, but could be best structural reform
- Should not be discounted as marginal
 - Increases effective voting population by 7%
 - Potentially changing the results in 10% of mayoral races (if internet voter preferences differ)
- Can affect election outcomes when there is a close race between candidates
- Outcomes could be different at higher levels of government

Considerations for policy design

- When there is no **registration requirement** 35% more people vote by internet
- 9% less people use it when available in **advance voting only**
- When **paper voting is eliminated** there is still an increase of 2% (though I am not advocating this approach)
- Evidence of **disenfranchisement based on digital literacy**

Candidates

Implications for Candidates

- Evidence that front-end of the campaign can become more crucial if offered in advanced polls
- Candidates don't seem to have a good sense of who votes online
- Candidates embrace online voting, however, because of its convenience

Regulation

Switzerland: shared, top-down approach

Conformity with security requirements	Limits	
	Cantonal electorate	Federal electorate
No formal certification	30%	10%
Individual verifiability certified	50%	30%
Complete verifiability certified	100%	100%

Swiss Federal Chancellery, 4th October 2018
Oliver Spycher

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Council of Europe: broad-based approach

Electoral assistance newsroom

Council of Europe adopts new Recommendation on Standards for E-Voting

STRASBOURG, FRANCE | 14 JUNE 2017



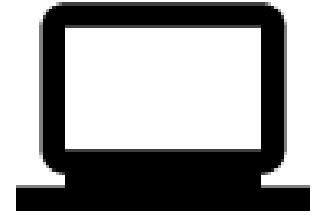
Table 2: An E-voting Regulation Approach for Canada

	Prescriptive approach	Top-down, shared approach	Top-down, locally administered	Broad-based approach
Country/ organization	United States	Switzerland	Canada	Council of Europe
Mandatory or voluntary	Voluntary standards	Mandatory based on different levels of use	Mandatory technical standards, voluntary procurement and operational guidelines, a renewed legal framework	Voluntary standards
Primary focus	Certification, voting standards (hardware)	Certification, voting standards (software)	Standards and a legal framework	Recommendations of standards
Characterized by	Very specific and prescriptive	Specific technical standards to ensure the reliability and safety of online voting	Broad focus on electronic voting with specific technical standards and latitude on operational items	A broad to approach for wide applicability to member and non-member nations

Regulation

- No regulation in Canada
- **A patchwork of development**
- Could go a long way to boost technical knowledge & capacity in communities
- Enhance electoral integrity & empower communities
- Know how to vet vendors, which questions to ask, build public trust in elections

Implications for Electoral Democracy



Legitimacy & electoral integrity

- Increased pressure as use becomes widespread
 - Public favouritism likely to continue unless there is a documented case where an election is declared illegitimate
- Election authorities have to walk a delicate balance
 - Be seen using latest technology to act in public interest
 - Maintain integrity of elections
- Need research into online voting and other election technologies
- Slow testing, consultation and evaluation of electoral modernization (including guidelines)

Implications for electoral democracy

- Retaining current voters important
 - If not retained an equal portion of new ones must be recruited
 - *Is technology a necessary tool to maintain current voting levels?*
- Institutional change is important but is not sole solution to engage voters
 - Even new technology
- Has a modest, positive effect on local turnout
 - Unclear if this is just at the community level

Conclusions

- Online voting not a replacement for paper voting (digital literacy)
- Development of policy and baseline standards
- People are frustrated with electoral institutions
- **Technology is a tool; the solution is with the people**

Thank you & questions

