Campaign and Election Guidelines

CMA President-Elect nominee Elections Candidate Information

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) respects the principle of ensuring the fair, transparent, effective and expeditious management of all elections including the election process for the CMA President Elect Nominee. To assist with implementing this principle, the CMA engages a third-party expert in election procedures (Everyone Counts Canada) to assist in managing the CMA President-Elect elections process. The CMA is also in close communication with the associated Provincial Territorial Medical Association (PTMA)

The following information aligns with suggested election practices.

CMA President-Elect Nominee Campaign Guidelines

Equal promotion of all candidates- examples include:
- Candidates for CMA President-Elect Nominee, once accepted, are asked to submit a one-page message of intention and a one-page résumé, using the template provided. This includes providing a high resolution passport-type photograph.
- These documents will be posted on the CMA’s website as part of the voting information package available to all members of the PTMA and CMA.
- Candidates must not include the CMA logo on any election campaign materials
- CMA will not share membership lists with candidates
- CMA and PTMA may not demonstrate preference or bias of one candidate over another.
- PTMAs may wish to organize an open forum(s) that will provide an equal opportunity for candidates to highlight their platforms and respond to members’ questions.
- Voting best practice guidelines provide that it is appropriate to permit individual candidates to raise reasonable funds for election campaigns. However, it is not recommended that the PTMA provide separate individual funding to candidates for campaign related activities
- The election period is publicly announced in the CMA’s Call for Nominations for nominees for the CMA President-Elect position and candidates must respect the timeframe announced within the election period for carrying-out their campaign activities
- With respect to campaigning at the time of General Council, regulations related to this practice are provided in the CMA’s Operating Rules and Procedures.

Member Voting

Where there are more than two candidates seeking election as the nominee for CMA President-Elect, the voting for President-Elect is conducted by preferential ranked choice ballot, which means that each voter is asked to rank the candidates in order of preference, instead of just voting for one candidate. In casting a vote, the voter indicates his/her first preference by entering “1” in the box beside that person’s name, “2” beside their second choice, and so on. The voter is not required to rank all of the candidates. Using the same number more than once invalidates the ballot.

Individuals will be asked to vote electronically via a secure website:

Voting electronically via a secure website:

To vote electronically, you will be provided an email containing instructions and a unique voting PIN number. The voter logs onto the voting website and follows the instructions to access the electronic voting area. In summary, on the electronic ballot page, the voter clicks in the spaces beside each of the candidate’s names in order of preference to rank the candidates. Once completed, the user is prompted to confirm their ballot and the vote is then recorded. Individuals
can vote using the electronic system anytime during the assigned voting period.

**Election Day**

On the day following the close of voting, electronic votes are tallied via a third party expert (Everyone Counts Canada) to ensure standard levels of accuracy and compliance with generally acceptable electoral processes. As well, following the elections, a third-party expert (Everyone Counts Canada) will conduct a post-vote audit of the elections within 15 business days of the election and will provide the CMA with an e-report of the audit.

**Other**
- Information outlining the guidelines for remuneration and expenses for the position of CMA President-Elect are available by contacting the CMA

Voting procedures at General Council are under the purview of the Past President who chairs elections.