FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

e-VOTING in the CMA's President-Elect Nominee Elections

What is e-voting?
Generally speaking, electronic voting, or e-voting, refers to both the electronic means of casting a vote and the electronic means of tabulating votes. Although there are several different methods of e-voting, the method the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) has moved to is Internet based and accessible by you, as a CMA member, via your own computer, tablet or mobile device.

What do I need to vote electronically?
All you need is an email address and access to a computer, tablet or mobile device.

How will the e-voting process work?
Instead of receiving a paper ballot and pages of voting information in the mail, you will now receive this information electronically via your email. This email will contain a unique link taking you to the elections page where you will receive your personal identification number (PIN). From this site, you will have access to the secure voting website where you can cast your vote using your unique PIN.

Why has the CMA adopted e-voting?
E-voting is becoming the method of choice among jurisdictions that employ voting procedures. It has many benefits, including the following:

• It provides more convenience and flexibility for members.
• Voter turnout improves as a result of easier access.
• Costs are lower than with paper ballots.
• Spoiled ballots are eliminated.
• Results are available immediately.

How does e-voting protect my privacy and confidentiality?
The CMA works with Scytl Canada, an external elections software provider, to ensure the CMA’s voting process is secure, reliable, accessible and transparent.

The ballot database is fully encrypted and remains anonymous. Each voting member will be assigned a PIN (personal information number). This PIN is not linked to submitted votes at any time.
How do I obtain my PIN?

Every voter will receive an email The email contains a One Time Link (OTL) used to generate a PIN. It also contains the link to the voting portal

In order to use the OTL, the voter will be required to answer a security question

The system will then display a PIN on the screen that the voter will need to cast their vote

If the PIN is forgotten, the voter will have the ability to recover it from the home page of the voting portal.

What if I lose my PIN?

You may retrieve your PIN up to three times by clicking on the “recover my PIN” button on the voting login page (a link to this page is provided in your email). After the third attempt, you will be required to contact the Scytl helpdesk at 1-844-201-9040 (toll free) and after verifying your identity you will be issued a new link that will generate a new PIN. Verification ensures that no one person can obtain multiple PIN numbers and cast multiple votes.

Who do I contact if I have trouble logging into the e-voting site?

Contact Scytl Canada at 1-844-201-9040 (toll free) with any login issues. The helpdesk is available 7 days a week between 6:00 am and 10:00 pm (AST).

What voting process does the CMA use on the e-platform?

The CMA uses a preferential ranked choice ballot, which means each voter is asked to rank the candidates in order of preference, instead of just voting for one candidate.

For example, as a voter, you will be asked to indicate your first choice by typing the number 1 in the box beside the name of your first-choice candidate, and to indicate your second choice by typing 2 in the box beside the name of your second-choice candidate, and so on for your third and fourth choices. Note that you are not required to rank all candidates but must select at least one in order to submit your vote.

Preferential ranked voting: Under the preferential ranked choice ballot method, the number of first choice votes for each candidate will be counted. If one candidate has a majority (50% plus 1 of votes cast), that candidate will be declared elected. If there is no initial winner, the candidate with the fewest votes will be eliminated and the votes cast for that candidate will be redistributed in accordance with the second-choice preferences expressed on those ballots. This process of elimination and transfer of votes continues until one candidate receives more than 50% of the votes cast.
How do I vote if I don’t have access to the Internet?
If you have limited or no access to the Internet, there are some options available. Local libraries have computers that you can use to login and vote, or perhaps you could use a friend or relative’s computer. To participate in the voting process you need to have an email address where you can receive the emails that will provide the links to access your PIN and the voting portal.

Can I modify a vote already cast before the closing of the e-voting session?
No. As with paper ballots, once a vote has been cast, it will be considered final and cannot be modified. Before casting your vote, you will be provided with as many opportunities as you wish to review and modify your choice. Once you have cast your vote, the system will display your voting receipt and acknowledge that your vote has been submitted correctly.

How will the results be made available?
The CMA and the provincial/territorial medical association of the jurisdiction currently eligible to vote, in this case, the New Brunswick Medical Society (NBMS), will provide the results through a variety of communication channels.

What is the CMA doing to ensure that members have all the directions they need to be able to do e-voting properly?
Information on how to vote will be provided through an email sent to your email address.

Can physicians vote by using their smart phones or smart pads?
Members are able to access the voting site from any web browser or smart device.

Where does my vote go once I hit “submit”?
The voting system is housed on the Scytl Canada server. When you make your selections and hit submit, the results will remain encrypted on the Scytl server until the voting session is closed. At this time Scytl Canada will decrypt the data and send the final decrypted results under strict confidentiality to the CMA Vice-president of Legal and Governance.

If I am not a CMA member, can I still vote?
Eligible voters must be members of the NBMS and the CMA by end of day on Friday, Feb. 22, 2019. For more information on becoming a member of the NBMS, please call 1-800-861-2001.

Who can I contact with general questions regarding e-voting?
Please contact CMAelections@cma.ca or call the CMA Member Service Centre at 1-888-855-2555.