

**Workshop Organized by the
Canada-Europe Transatlantic Dialogue
(Strategic Knowledge Cluster)**

Internet Voting: What Can Canada Learn?

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**Carleton University, Ottawa
January 26, 2010**

Introduction

- Good morning / Bonjour.
- A recent EKOS survey found that nearly two-thirds of Canadians would be likely to vote online in a federal election — findings corroborated by studies commissioned by Elections Canada.
- Élections Canada est heureux d'avoir l'occasion de collaborer avec le Réseau stratégique de connaissances *Dialogue transatlantique Canada-Europe*, de l'Université Carleton, pour présenter cet atelier sur le vote par Internet.
- Conformément à son plan stratégique quinquennal, Élections Canada a instauré un projet de vote par Internet qui, sous réserve de l'approbation du Parlement, sera mis à l'essai à petite échelle durant une élection partielle déclenchée après mars 2013.
- Pour nous, à Élections Canada, cet atelier vient donc à point nommé.

Elections Canada's I-voting Pilot Project

- The purpose of Elections Canada's participation in today's workshop is to explore lessons learned for Canada by examining Internet voting trials that have taken place in other jurisdictions, both in Canada and internationally.
- An amendment to the *Canada Elections Act* in 2000 provides Elections Canada with the authority to implement electronic voting methods on a trial basis, with the prior approval of Parliament.
- The Internet voting project has been identified in Elections Canada's five-year strategic plan and supports our objective to continue to increase accessibility to the electoral process.
- Elections Canada's pilot project will test a secure voting process during a by-election by allowing certain electors to vote by Internet.
- The target group to test online voting could include electors with disabilities and/or mobility challenges, overseas electors, or electors who are away from their home electoral districts when voting occurs, such as snowbirds or students.
- Internet voting is designed to offer an alternative and convenient method to vote.

- It can respond to the needs of a busy elector who cannot put time aside at a specific date and time.
- By easing access and providing convenience, it may have a positive effect on encouraging voter turnout.
- A key consideration is the integrity of the electoral process.
 - An Internet voting solution must maintain the level of integrity that Canadians expect from their electoral system.
 - Any new voting method must be secure, accurate, reliable and auditable.
- It's also important to note that Elections Canada is considering Internet voting as an online service only.
 - We do not plan to introduce voting or vote-counting technology in polling stations.
 - We are, however, exploring opportunities to use technology to assist disabled voters to cast their ballots independently.
- Elections Canada is also part of a working group recently established to develop a consistent framework for alternative voting methods involving provincial and territorial electoral agencies. This group is led by Elections Ontario.

Next Steps

- Les activités de recherche et la surveillance des essais technologiques, à l'échelle nationale et internationale, sont des étapes initiales importantes du projet pilote de vote par Internet d'Élections Canada.
- Plusieurs représentants d'Élections Canada, y compris le Directeur général des élections du Canada, Marc Mayrand, ainsi que certains de nos collègues provinciaux, sont ici pour écouter les conférenciers et invités de marque qui participent à l'atelier d'aujourd'hui, et pour bénéficier de leurs connaissances.
- We look forward to a dynamic and productive exchange of experiences and ideas that will provide valuable information as we move forward with the Internet voting pilot project.
- Merci, et bon atelier à tous / Thank you and enjoy the workshop.