



MEMORANDUM

NLTA Electoral Committee

May 25, 2020

TO: All Members

RE: Update System Test for the Electronic Voting for President and Vice-President by Ranked Ballot

Dear NLTA Members:

During BGM 2019 amendments to the NLTA By-Laws and Policies were approved to allow for separate province-wide elections for President and Vice-President using a ranked electronic ballot system.

These changes mean:

- The run-off ballots for President and Vice-President, if necessary, will occur using the original ranked ballots.
- The province-wide election for President will occur during the last five-day school week prior to the end of November. (November 23-27, 2020)
- The province-wide election for Vice-President will occur during the second five-day school week of December. (December 14-18, 2020)
- Unsuccessful Presidential candidates will have an opportunity to declare for the office of Vice-President.

Much work has been done by NLTA staff in preparing for a secure and secret electronic ranked ballot. This will be the first election of President and Vice-President conducted by provincial vote that will not use either a paper ballot system or require ballot counting at the branch level. Branch Presidents received an “Electronic Voting for President and Vice-President” presentation at the December 6, 2019 Joint Council meeting outlining a number of changes that will result from moving to electronic voting and an overview of how the new voting system would work. This was followed by a test of the electronic voting system during the March 6-7, 2020 Joint Council meeting, where all Branch Presidents and Provincial Executive members were given the opportunity to participate in a test of the electronic voting system using ranked ballots.

In order to fully test the system, the Association will conduct a province-wide electronic voting stress test during the week of May 25-29, 2020. We are asking all members in our database to participate in the test and complete a short survey to provide feedback on the voting experience.

Members who participate in the system test and complete the survey will be entered into a random draw for a chance to win one of four \$100 VISA gift cards.

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Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

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In order to participate in the electronic voting system test you will require both your **employee id** (found on your paystub) and your **date of birth**. (Members at the Miawpukek First Nation and Churchill Falls schools registered in the NLTA database and who are not paid through the provincial payroll system will receive further directions via email.) This information is used as part of the voter validation requirement of the electronic voting system. The system will only allow NLTA members in good standing to vote. To ensure a secret ballot, once a vote is cast there will be no identifiable link between the voter information and the voting intention.

Members will be able to vote using a smart phone, tablet or computer. The ability to access the internet using one of the following web browsers (Safari, Chrome, Firefox, or Microsoft Edge) will be necessary. The Association is also working on a backup phone voting system, should internet connectivity become an issue.

The link to access the electronic voting system is www.nlta.nl.ca/vote2020.

Should you have any difficulties during voting please email electionsupport@nlta.nl.ca.

For this test the following name are being used in place of actual candidates:

Winston Churchill
Indira Ghandi
Aristotle
Maria Montessori
Cassie Brown

In order to fully test the ranked ballot system, members in good standing are asked to rank their preferences for all the choices above.

I encourage all members to participate in the upcoming test and to take this opportunity to become more familiar with the new voting procedures. By participating and responding to the short survey section of the test, you will be helping the Association make the new voting procedures as smooth and simple as possible.

At this time I would like to thank the other members of the Electoral Committee for their work and assistance to date: Heidi Williams, St. Francis of Assisi, Outer Cove; Lynette Snook, Goulds Elementary, Goulds; Steve Brooks, NLTA Executive Director.

Sincerely,

Sean Noah
Chair, NLTA Electoral Committee