

Sheralee Mitchell-MacEwan

Subject: FW: Invitation for the 2024 Nova Scotia Internet Voting Study

From: Nicole Goodman

Sent: June 27, 2024 3:39 PM

To: Kim Ramsay

Subject: Invitation for the 2024 Nova Scotia Internet Voting Study

Dear Kim ,

I am writing to invite you to participate in an Internet Voting Study of the 2024 municipal elections in Nova Scotia.

I have led studies to examine the effects of online voting on local elections in Ontario in over 100 municipalities which included the collection of data from 33,000 voters in 2014, 50,000 voters in 2018, and more than 26,000 voters in 2022. As part of this, I worked with Ontario municipalities of all sizes and urbanity to collect data from voters. I also created reports for participating communities who requested them as well as a broader report that synthesized aggregate findings. I have also conducted similar studies with Elections Yukon and Elections Northwest Territories - who have also offered online voting in some of their elections.

The Internet Voting Study in Ontario has generated valuable data for municipalities that has informed their future election efforts. In fact, a couple of weeks ago I was at the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario annual conference sharing some of the data to help clerks with their 2026 election planning. Continuing this work in Nova Scotia will bring important insights for individual municipalities, the broader municipal community, other levels of government domestically and internationally, and to academic research.

With your permission, I would work with Intelivote or your chosen vendor to integrate unique links on the Voter Information Letters, which would invite voters to take a survey about their online voting experience. The short survey would be open for the voting period in your municipality and all survey responses will be anonymous. I have spoken with Dean Smith about the proposed project and have worked with him many times over the past decade to collect data for Ontario municipalities. If you are not using internet voting, or also wish to survey paper voters, this has also been a component of our studies and could also be done.

Each participating municipality would receive the anonymous data collected from their voters, and we could discuss high level reports or more detailed reporting if there is interest. I'm happy to share a sample of the short reports that have come out of the Ontario data as examples. You can view some of the longer reports that synthesized findings across municipalities in Ontario [here](#) and [here](#).

If you're interested in taking part or learning more I can be reached by email n.g@brocku.ca (905) 815-2874. **Your participation would need to be confirmed by August 23rd, 2024.**

I'm excited about the prospect of expanding this important work to Nova Scotia and continuing to contribute to municipal knowledge by building on this rare history of municipal voter experiences. I hope you will decide to take part.

Sincerely,

Nicole Goodman, PhD
Chancellor's Chair for Research Excellence
Associate Professor, Brock University

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