



# GUIDE FOR SCRUTINEERS



## Role of Scrutineers

It is important that candidates are familiar with the duties and responsibilities of the scrutineers that observe proceedings and act on your behalf.

Scrutineers may observe election activities on your behalf. Up to two scrutineers per candidate may attend at one station at a time (Note: This could be changed to one scrutineer per polling station due to COVID-19 protective measures) Scrutineers will receive identification badges to wear in the polling place. Political affiliation is not permitted on the badges or elsewhere

The candidate or the official agent must appoint them in writing on the Appointment of Scrutineer forms, which are available from your Returning Officer. They must have a properly completed appointment and take a declaration of secrecy to be authorized to remain in the polling place. Scrutineers must present the Appointment of Scrutineer form to the election officer and complete a declaration of secrecy at each polling station they attend

On the form, you must designate the polling station(s) or registration station(s) they have been appointed to observe. The Elections Act authorizes scrutineers to remain in the polling place while the vote and the ballot count take place.

Scrutineers may observe polling day activities. Election officers are authorized to ask scrutineers to leave if they obstruct the taking of the poll, communicate with an elector who has asked not to be spoken to, disrupt the voting process, or commit any offence against the Elections Act

### Scrutineers may:

- be present at polling stations (managed by deputy returning officers for single polls and information and managed by information and resource officers (poll supervisor) at polls where there are two or more polls) and registration stations (managed by registration officers)
- be present 15 minutes before a poll is opened, and request the counting of ballot papers and inspect the ballot papers, ballot box and any other poll documents
- request the deputy returning officer to have an elector take a declaration of qualification and identity if, in good faith, the elector's eligibility is questioned (only before the elector receives a ballot)
- view the poll book and record information from it at a time that will not interfere with voting
- view the identification provided by an elector
- convey information to another scrutineer or a candidate outside the polling place in a manner that does not interfere with voting
- at the unofficial count, examine any ballot and object to its acceptance or rejection and ensure that the objection is recorded in the poll book
- receive a tally sheet to record the results of the unofficial count
- receive a copy of the Statement of Poll at the conclusion of the unofficial count
- sign the official seals used to seal the envelopes containing ballots and ballot papers

### **Scrutineers may not:**

- record images or take photos inside the polling place
- interfere with the work of election officers
- influence electors to vote or to refrain from voting
- request an elector to complete an oath; all requests must be directed to the election officer
- request an elector to produce documents proving identity
- record any information from the identification documents provided by electors
- attempt to determine how an elector is voting or has voted
- conduct cell phone conversations or take pictures of the bingo sheet, or text results in the polling place
- request a deputy returning officer to reverse a decision to accept or reject a ballot at the ballot count: the deputy returning officer's decision is final

### **Confidentiality**

- Electors are entitled to cast a secret ballot. Every candidate, election officer, scrutineer or other person in attendance at a polling station has an obligation to maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of the voting.
- Electors' votes are confidential.