



August 30, 2021

Stéphane Perrault  
Chief Electoral Officer  
Elections Canada  
Business Center (room 1-A-001)  
30 Victoria, Gatineau, Quebec  
K1A 0M6

Dear Mr. Perrault,

I am writing to you on behalf of the approximately 30,000 PSAC members who work for and also attend a post-secondary institution in nine provinces and all territories.

Our members are teaching assistants, research assistants, research associates, post-doctoral fellows, graduate students, instructors, residence advisors, floor fellows, invigilators, and administrators. Some of them will be voting for the first time during this 44<sup>th</sup> general election. Many live on the campus where they work during the school year, or year-round. Many have never voted anywhere but on campus.

It is, therefore, with concern, that we read that Elections Canada has no plans for on-campus voting this autumn. We were surprised to read that the reasons for this are a) the minority government and b) the “snap” election.

Whether this was a minority or majority parliament or a snap election, Elections Canada has a mandate to [“be prepared to conduct a federal general election, by-election or referendum”](#) at all times. The Prime Minister could have sought an election at any time, regardless of fixed election date legislation and there was a common understanding among those involved in political work, including the media, political parties, unions, and others, that we would see a snap election in 2021.

Indeed, Mr. Perrault, you indicated several months ago that “Elections Canada was ready to conduct a pandemic election should one be called at any time.”

Elections Canada lists among its values:

- responsiveness to the needs of Canadians involved in the electoral process
- cohesiveness and consistency in administering the Canada Elections Act
- continuously earning and maintaining the public's trust

Post-secondary workers and students are in a period of change. Many are returning to their campuses after an extended period away, facing uncertainty on restrictions on activities, concerns about health and safety in their workplaces, and wondering whether they will continue working on campus or need to return to remote work and learning again.

Many are leaving their home electoral districts expecting to be able to vote on campus as in past elections. Many will not be comfortable leaving the relative security of their campuses to seek out a polling station in a community, especially in a community that will not be familiar to them.

I strongly encourage you to reinstate voting options on campuses across the country for this federal election. It is essential that Elections Canada continue to earn and maintain public trust in the election process, including consistency in administering the Elections Act and a commitment to accessible voting for all Canadians, including young people pursuing higher education.

I look forward to an early and positive response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Aylward', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Chris Aylward  
PSAC National President

c.c. Commissioner of Canada Elections [info@cef-cce.ca](mailto:info@cef-cce.ca)