

## Opening letter to all election officers from the Returning Officer,

I'm very pleased to welcome all of you to today's training.

I want to thank you on behalf of Elections Canada for coming forward to serve as poll workers in this by-election. And especially I want to thank you for your willingness to assist the people of Toronto Centre to vote under these special circumstances of a pandemic.

Your safety and the safety of the public who come to vote is of the highest priority in this by-election. I can say with confidence, that the health and safety protocols that we are putting in place have been stringently planned and developed. Your training today will include clear instructions about how you will keep yourself safe while you are assisting people to vote safely. Your assistance in strictly implementing these procedures will be key in ensuring a safe polling place for everyone.

At the same time, our fundamental principles of supporting the vote still apply.

### **It is important to Facilitate the Vote.**

We must remove Impediments to voting, not try to create them - at all turns we should be looking for ways to help and explore all alternatives to ensure that people are able to cast their vote. Also its important that despite any new challenges we may face, we must continue to treat everyone in the polling place with respect.

### **And, we must Protect the Integrity of the Vote.**

(trainers, close with the appropriate paragraph)

**AS DROs** - this speaks to how you count the ballots, record the statement of the vote at your poll and when this task is completed, securing the materials as you will be instructed. You will then hand them to your CPS for return to the Returning Office.

or,

**For RegOs and IOs** at the end of the night – this speaks to how you support DROs and CPSs in assisting with the count or closing out the poll.

or,

**As CPSs** at the end of the night

What we expect you to have readily available, i.e., in your hand for the Returning Office staff:

1. The Statement of the Vote, in its white envelope
2. Completed timesheets for all staff that worked at your poll
3. A sealed ballot box or boxes with the ballots, used and unused, sorted appropriately in envelopes and secured inside, along with the bag of counterfoils
4. The Large White bag with all other materials - this includes things like, registrations, certificates, voters lists, etc.

**In closing, I wish each of you success in carrying out your important roles in the by-election. Thank you once again, and please stay safe everyone.**

**RO**