

## **On International Day of Democracy, Elections Ontario reflects on its 100-year anniversary**

TORONTO, September 15, 2020 – In recognition of the United Nations' International Day of Democracy, Elections Ontario today participated in the Canadian Vote Summit, a virtual event hosted by Ryerson University's Democratic Engagement Exchange.

Ontario's Chief Electoral Officer, Greg Essensa, delivered remarks on the importance of electoral management bodies like Elections Ontario in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure free and fair elections while maintaining voter health and safety. The Chief Electoral Officer also reflected on Ontario's electoral history as Elections Ontario marks its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

Joining the event was Professor Laura Stephenson, co-director of the Consortium on Electoral Democracy, who provided attendees with an analysis of the 2019 Canadian Elections Study Report.

### **Quote**

"One hundred years ago, the position of Ontario's Chief Electoral Officer was made permanent to administer elections and uphold the integrity of the vote. This year's International Day of Democracy reminds us that, now more than ever, we must continue to work together to ensure that voting remains safe and accessible for all."

- Greg Essensa, Ontario's Chief Electoral Officer

### **Quick Facts**

- The United Nations established the [International Day of Democracy](#) on November 8, 2007. This year's theme focuses on the COVID-19 pandemic, encouraging people to build a more equal, inclusive and sustainable world, with full respect for human rights.
- The Canadian Vote Summit is a series of free online workshops, panels and keynotes that cover cross-sectoral insights and experiences from elections in Canada. The Summit takes place from September to October 2020.
- Elections Ontario is a contributor to the [Consortium on Electoral Democracy](#).

Elections Ontario is the non-partisan agency responsible for administering provincial elections, by-elections and referenda. For more information, visit [elections.on.ca](http://elections.on.ca) or call 1-888-668-8683 (TTY: 1-888-292-2312).

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