

Advisory Committee on Standards for Voting Technologies

Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

April 6th, 2022, 9:00am – 2:00pm

75 Lower Simcoe St, Toronto, ON M5J 3A6

Committee Attendees:

- Jean-Pierre Kingsley, Committee Chair
- Dr. Mkabi Walcott, Standards Council of Canada Representative
- Dr. Nicole Goodman, Academic Advisor
- Michael Crase, Political Party Appointee - Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario
- Dan Duncan, Political Party Appointee - Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario
- Karla Webber-Gallagher, Political Party Appointee - New Democratic Party of Ontario
- Donald Eady, Political Party Appointee - New Democratic Party of Ontario
- Milton Chan, Political Party Appointee - Ontario Liberal Party
- Christine McMillan, Political Party Appointee - Ontario Liberal Party
- Craig Cantin, Political Party Appointee - Green Party of Ontario
- Fiona Mackintosh, Executive Director of the Advisory Committee
- Amanda Tieber, Research Coordinator for the Advisory Committee
- Marilyn Mills, Administrative Support for the Advisory Committee

Invitees:

- Matthew MacNeil, Director of Standards and Technology, CIO Strategy Council
 - Dr. Aleksander Essex, Associate Professor of Software Engineering, Western University
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Opening Remarks and Chair Comments

- The Chair, Jean-Pierre Kingsley, outlined the agenda for the meeting.
- The February 16th meeting minutes were adopted.

Standards Development Process Update

The Director of Standards and Technology at the CIO Strategy Council (CIO SC), Matthew MacNeil, updated the Advisory Committee on the standards development process.

Discussion on Edits to the Democratic Principles

- The Executive Director, Fiona Mackintosh, reminded the Advisory Committee that public confidence is an outcome that the democratic principles will achieve, if upheld by all participants.
- The Research Coordinator, Amanda Tieber, noted that meaningful scrutiny was incorporated in the principle of transparency. An Advisory Committee Member proposed that “verifiability” be included in this principle noting that a transparent election allows for the verifiability of cast ballots.

- An Advisory Committee Member noted that election results must always remain verifiable regardless of the voting technologies being used.
- The Advisory Committee discussed the importance of voting technologies facilitating the production of meaningful data.
- The Executive Director noted that the Committee Report will provide a rationale on the importance of data to the overall integrity of an election. This will also be reflected within the principles.

[The Committee recessed at 10:00 a.m. and reconvened at 10:15 a.m.].

Presentation on Disinformation & Misinformation on Cyber Security and Voting Technologies

- The Committee Administrators presented on the relationship between disinformation and misinformation and future use voting technologies. The Committee Administrators advised the Advisory Committee to consider the influence of disinformation and misinformation on the principle of trust and the outcome of public confidence.
- The Advisory Committee agreed that administrative efficiency and financial costs should not be the largest driver influencing the use and adoption of voting technologies.

[The Advisory Committee recessed at 12:00 p.m. and reconvened at 12:30 p.m.].

Discussion on Proposed Technical Principles

- The Executive Director referenced the Voluntary Voting System Guideline (VVSG) which has 15 design principles, as it combines both the democratic principles and technical design principles. The Advisory Committee is taking a simplified approach by placing the two types of principles into separate documents and ensuring the language is understandable to any reader.
- The Advisory Committee agreed that the use of technology should maintain or improve all the outlined principles. An Advisory Committee member agreed with this notion and stated that this concern should be an overarching principle. The Chair noted that the Committee Administrators would incorporate this feedback into the next draft.
- The Advisory Committee requested for a glossary of definitions to be included in the technical design principles.

Committee Workplan and Research Agenda

- The Research Coordinator explained that the research agenda will focus on considerations when looking at any potential future use technologies in parallel to the work of the standards on electronic poll books and tabulators. The Advisory Committee discussed topics for potential future use technologies including direct-recording electronic voting machines, electronic ballot printers, ballot marking devices, internet voting and telephone voting.
- The Executive Director acknowledged Committee members concerns about the mandate and scope and indicated that the research and considerations section of any future use technology would be neutral with respect to whether future technologies should be adopted and rather focus on considerations that need to be taken into account when assessing future technologies.

The meeting of the Advisory Committee adjourned at 2:00pm.