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January 12, 2018

Dear Mr. Conacher,

Thank you for your letter to Chief Electoral Officer, Greg Essensa, dated January 8, 2018, regarding Elections Ontario's public communications about voters' rights. I am pleased to respond on Mr. Essensa's behalf. We also acknowledge receipt of your previous correspondence on this matter, to which we responded in 2014.

Our primary role is to ensure the integrity, security, and transparency of the democratic process and to protect the democratic rights of voters in the province. We work to ensure that all voters get the information and services they need for provincial elections.

To that end, we regularly refresh our communications content—on our website, in outreach and advertising materials, in media releases, and on social media—to ensure that information is up-to-date, helpful and easy to access.

As we move towards the 2018 General Election, we expect to make further updates to our communications tools to better inform voters on the many days and many ways to vote. Some recent updates to Elections Ontario's website, which may be of interest to you, include content about declining your ballot and can be found on the How to Vote page, at the top of the Official Election Results page, on the Frequently Asked Questions page, and in the Glossary.

There may be a variety of reasons why Ontarians choose to vote or not to vote in any given election. Informing the public is an important endeavour and a shared responsibility. We will continue to prioritize removing barriers to voting and making voting easy for those who choose to participate in the electoral process. We encourage you to continue to do your part to inform Ontario voters about their democratic rights.

Thank you for your comments.

Sincerely,

Kate Ward

Director, Communications and Strategic Services

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