

Canadian Parliamentary Remote Voting System

20th April 2020

OVERVIEW

The COVID-19 crisis has forced the discussion regarding the ability for Canadian parliamentary members to hold remote sessions and voting procedures.

IMPLEMENTATION OF PARLIAMENTARY REMOTE VOTING

Online voting experts Dr. Nicole Goodman and Dr. Aleksander Essex addressed the opportunity for remote parliamentary voting in Policy Options on March 25th, 2020.

<https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/march-2020/online-voting-entirely-possible-for-mps-during-times-of-crisis/>

The key points are identified as:

- MPs be provided with a properly configured, secure device on which their voting preference can be recorded and transmitted;
- MPs receive proper training about the voting application and how to use it to accurately capture their voting preferences;
- MPs be given training on procedures to ensure they can confirm their voting preferences are correctly recorded, and can reliably identify and report any unexpected modifications (software/human errors, fraud, hacking, for example); and,
- A clear set of parliamentary procedures be developed that can account for, and recover from, cyber incidents and voter errors.

In addition, the opportunity to implement remote sessions and voting systems present unique challenges in the Canadian context. Our government is renowned for transparency and due to the multi party system, must address the concerns of many stakeholders.

SOLUTION SPECIFICATIONS

Neuvote Systems Inc. have developed a Hybrid Mobile Voting System that uses paper ballots to be cast and confirmed using end-to-end encrypted video communication. We verify voters using Facial Authentication supported with full human oversight and have integrated the award winning verifiability of Microsoft's ElectionGuard technology to provide full auditability and verification in an online system.

Neuvote believes that in this time of crisis, whatever solution is implemented must be secure and protect the integrity of our parliamentary system.

Our system can be easily applied to Parliamentary voting and our system supports the unique Canadian context by providing full transparency, verifiability and auditability of every vote cast.

Neuvote also believes that this solution must be custom built for Canada to address the unique challenges and concerns of all stakeholders including the public's trust in the system of representative democracy.

Neuvote would like to submit a proposal to develop a bespoke remote parliamentary system in conjunction with our technical partners for the seamless continuance of the Canadian governance.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

- Hardened devices for maximum security
- End-to-end encrypted video channel
- Multi Factor authentication and robust login security to ensure vote eligibility
- Paper trail recording of each digital vote cast
- Full end-to-end verifiability to ensure every vote is counted accurately
- Network level security

PARTNERS

GTT Communications

GTT operates a Tier 1 IP network, and provides transport and infrastructure; Internet; wide area networking, SD-WAN; managed services; and voice and video services.

Microsoft

ElectionGuard is a set of open source software components that can be used to create and publish end to end verifiable elections as well as create a publishable artifact for ballot comparison audits.

DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Neuvote is a Canadian company with an office in Kitchener, ON. The Neuvote system is compliant with all data residency requirements and all employees are full Canadian citizens with support from the team behind Microsoft's ElectionGuard technology.

This system is designed to streamline security reviews and technical implementation as quickly as possible by using mature technology. This system is also designed to be customizable for future feature requests and design choices.

COST

This solution will be developed at cost only. There are no expectations of additional or recurring revenue for this service.

OVERSIGHT

Neuvote recommends consultation with stakeholders from all parties as well as the House leadership throughout development and implementation . Neuvote also recommends an oversight committee made up of industry experts and government representatives be included in product management.

CONTACT

Please reach out to learn more about our system and how we can help the representatives continue working for Canada.

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www.neuvote.com