

Make yourself _____ SCHOOL ELECTIONS known!

Conditions Governing Information Provided on Candidates

Information meant to provide minimum information to electors

Pursuant to section 73.1 of the Act respecting school elections, nomination papers may be accompanied by a text aimed at ensuring that electors receive minimum information on the candidate. This information must be received by the returning officer latest at 5 p.m. on the thirty-fifth day before polling day.

This information is provided based on guidelines established by the Chief Electoral Officer and can include a text provided by the candidate, the candidate's photograph as well as the address and telephone numbers where the candidate can be reached by electors. The candidate is responsible for ensuring that the text provided complies with the law, that it is well written and that the information provided is accurate.

Information provided by the candidate must satisfy the criteria outlined below.

Text provided by the candidate

The text, written in French, in English or in both languages, must be no longer than 1,000 characters for the candidates who are running for the position of commissioner and 2,000 for those who are running to be chair. If the text is too long, the returning officer must reduce it in such a way that it ends at the last complete sentence within the permitted limit.

The text must be limited to the following:

- information concerning the candidate;
- the ticket to which the candidate belongs, if any;
- the candidate's platform;
- the candidate's intentions if elected.

The text must be provided to the returning officer, preferably in electronic format in a Word or rtf file. The electronic document must be accompanied by a hard copy of the text bearing the candidate's signature at the bottom.

The returning officer must not modify the provided text, except to reduce the length to respect the limits of 1,000 or 2,000 characters depending on the case.



The candidate's photograph

The candidate's photograph must respect the following rules:

- the photograph must show a frontal or slightly sideways image of the candidate from the shoulders, with the head uncovered and on a light uniform background;
- the photograph must be submitted:
 - preferably on CD-ROM, on which must be marked the candidate's name in block letters, the name of the recognized ticket to which he belongs, if any, and his signature;
 - either on single weight paper in passport format and bear on the reverse the candidate's name in block letters, the name of the recognized ticket to which he belongs, if any, and his signature.

Publication of the document that is meant to provide minimum information to electors

Pursuant to section 73.1 of the Act respecting school elections, in case of failure to respect the conditions established by the Chief Electoral Officer, the returning officer can refuse to distribute this information with the reminder card as envisaged if, after giving the candidate a reasonable delay to comply, he does not receive the duly modified information latest the nineteenth day before polling day.

If, in the opinion of the returning officer, the information provided by the candidate is frivolous, vexatious, does not respect the conditions outlined above or is otherwise inappropriate for publication, the returning officer shall ask the candidate to provide information that complies with the above conditions within three working days.

If the candidate decides not to provide the information to the returning officer, or if the candidate does not provide the returning officer the duly modified information within the prescribed deadline, the returning officer shall indicate "Information not available" in the document that is published. If the information provided by the candidate is in order but the candidate does not provide a photograph, the returning officer shall indicate "Photograph not available" in the document that is published.

The returning officer does not have to verify the accuracy of the information provided by the candidate. The document published by the returning officer shall contain a cautionary notice to this effect.

The returning officer is not responsible for errors or omissions made in good faith that may appear in the document that he publishes.

