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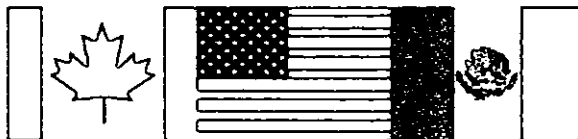
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VOTER REGISTRATION

Balancing Access to Information vs. Individual Right to Privacy

Presented by

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**Elections
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**THIRD ANNUAL
CONFERENCE ON
ELECTORAL SYSTEMS
MEXICO - UNITED STATES - CANADA
8, 9 and 10 May 1996
Washington, DC**

Slide 1



VOTER REGISTRATION

Privacy and Security Issues

Overview of Presentation

- Principles guiding the project
- “Managing the dichotomy”

Overview of Presentation

- **Privacy principles easily supported**
- **Privacy principles requiring a balance**

The Register and information sharing

Principles guiding the Project

- **Existing reliable sources used for updates**
- **Register can be used by other electoral jurisdictions**

The Register and information sharing

Principles guiding the Project

- **Privacy/Confidentiality of elector information protected**

Approach to privacy and security

- **Advisor from Privacy Commission on project**
- **Review pertinent legislation**
 - federal
 - provincial



Approach to privacy & security

- **Examine precedents**
- **Find the right balance**

Principles of Canada's privacy legislation

- **Collection limited to necessary data**
- **Appropriate safeguards for the information**
- **Individuals have access to their information**

Principles of Canada's privacy legislation

- **Limited information**
 - name, address(es), gender
 - date of birth
 - phone number

Principles of Canada's Privacy Legislation

- **Appropriate safeguards**
 - legislative safeguards
 - system safeguards

Principles of Canada's Privacy Legislation

- **Access to information**
 - communication
 - available in system

Principles of Canada's privacy legislation

“Find the balance”

- Consent of individuals - collection, use, and disclosure**
- Information for intended purpose unless consent or prescribed by law**

Finding the Balance

Consent to be on the Register

Active

- every elector signs approval
- costly and impractical

Finding the Balance

Consent to be on the Register

Passive

- proposed approach
- extensive communications
 - national campaign
 - household flyer



Finding the Balance Consent to be on the Register

Passive

- signature from every household
- all new 18 year olds to confirm



Finding the Balance

Disclosure and use of information

Active

- elector signs and approves sharing with others

Finding the Balance

Disclosure and Use of Information

Passive

- every elector can opt out of register
- legislation
 - sharing restricted to electoral purposes
- system safeguards
 - seeding the shared files

Finding the Balance

Disclosure and use of information

Suppliers of Information

Federal

- proposed legislation changes to Income Tax

Finding the Balance

Disclosure and use of information

Provincial

- limited changes to provincial legislation
- Elections Act allows use of other sources

➤ **LIMIT THE INFORMATION SHARED**

**“IT WOULD BE AN
INCONVENIENT RULE IF
NOTHING COULD BE
DONE UNTIL
EVERYTHING CAN BE
DONE”**

Winston Churchill

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