

The Social Media and Elections: What are the challenges?

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9:00am – 4:30pm

Electoral Compliance and Enforcement in Canada

1) The Commissioner of Canada Elections (30 minutes)

- Who we are
- What we do
- Operating context

2) Compliance and Enforcement: 21st Century Challenges (60 minutes)

- Canada's current compliance and enforcement tools
- Alternatives to electoral prosecutions: making the best use of our stressed criminal courts
- The “post-truth” era and its impact on Canadian elections
- Strengthening the system: Potential improvements to the regime




3) Voting Booth vs. Photo Booth: The Secrecy of the Vote (60 minutes)

- The secrecy of the vote and the *Canada Elections Act*
- Recommendations from administrators, enforcers and legislators
- Ballot selfies in Canada and elsewhere
- Where do we go from here?

4) Strategic Voting and Third Parties: Is the Playing Field Level? (60 minutes)

- Level playing field in Canadian elections and regulation of third party advertising
- Foreign money
- Unrestricted spending by third parties

5) Fake News, False Voting Information and Voter Manipulation(60 minutes)

- The role of technology
 - Voter manipulation and the limitations of the *Canada Elections Act*
 - Should the State play a role in policing political speech?
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Required Readings

(Topic 3) Where you can (and can't) take ballot selfies:

<http://www.kare11.com/news/politics/where-you-can-and-cant-take-ballot-selfies/348888128>

(Topic 4) Senator Linda Frum: It's time to close Elections Act foreign funding loopholes:

<http://www.torontosun.com/2016/11/30/senator-linda-frum-its-time-to-close-elections-act-foreign-funding-loopholes#>

(Topic 4) HarperPAC, Engage Canada highlight confusion over 3rd-party ads:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/harperpac-engage-canada-highlight-confusion-over-3rd-party-ads-1.3129882>

(Topic 5) Opinion - Canada's government shouldn't be in the business of policing 'fake news':

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/opinion/government-fake-news-1.3993128>

(Topic 5) 2016, the year fake news headlines fooled readers:

<http://www.ctvnews.ca/world/2016-the-year-fake-news-headlines-fooled-readers-1.3201213>

Recommended Readings:

2015-2016 Annual Report:

<https://www.cef-cce.gc.ca/content.asp?section=rep&dir=rep4&document=index&lang=e>

Compliance and Enforcement Policy of the Commissioner of Canada Elections:

<https://www.cef-cce.gc.ca/content.asp?section=abo&dir=bul&document=index&lang=e>

An Electoral Framework for the 21st Century: Recommendations from the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada Following the 42nd General Election

http://www.elections.ca/content.asp?section=res&dir=rep/off/rec_2016&document=index&lang=e

An Interim Report in Response to the Chief Electoral Officer's Recommendations for Legislative Reforms Following the 42nd General Election:

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Language=e&Mode=1&Parl=42&Ses=1&DocId=8794571>

Rideout et al v. Gardner, Secretary of State of New Hampshire, Sept 28, 2016

<http://media.ca1.uscourts.gov/pdf/opinions/15-2021P-01A.pdf>

Fake news: an insidious trend that's fast becoming a global problem:

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2016/dec/02/fake-news-facebook-us-election-around-the-world>

More than two dozen 'third parties' have registered in hopes of influencing federal election:

<http://news.nationalpost.com/news/canada/canadian-politics/more-than-two-dozen-third-parties-have-registered-in-hopes-of-influencing-federal-election>