

## **One member, one vote**

Each and every RNAO member has the chance every year, to shape the future of their professional organization through the One member, one vote system. Members will be eligible to vote on issues that relate to governance of the organization, which includes the election of members to the board of directors, and to board committees. We've prepared a list of questions and answers to provide you with all the information you need about One member, one vote.

### **Question: What's all this about?**

Answer: As a result of Ontario's *Not-for-Profit Corporations Act* (ONCA), RNAO implemented a One member, one vote system. ONCA requires individual members to have a direct say on governance issues that affect their organization.

### **Question: What does this mean?**

Answer: It means eligible members will be able to vote on things such as the election of board members, committee members, the appointment of auditors, bylaws amendments, and other changes such as fee increases or fee decreases.

### **Question: Do I have to vote?**

Answer: You are not required to vote, but we strongly encourage eligible members to do so. Why would you NOT?

### **Question: When does voting happen?**

Answer: Voting will begin at 12 noon (EST) on March 31, 2015 and continue until 12 noon on April 15, 2015 (EST). The results will be announced at the association's Annual General Meeting on April 17, 2015.

### **Question: How do I vote?**

Answer: Voting will take place electronically via RNAO's website. Every eligible member will receive voting instructions about the location of the voting website and any password necessary to cast their vote. Members must create an account at MyRNAO.ca in order to vote.

### **Question: Will anyone at RNAO know how I voted?**

Answer: No. Although you will need your RNAO identification information to log on to the voting site, how you voted will be completely anonymous. The process we are using is similar to Elections Canada or Elections Ontario, where you need to present identification so officials can check your name with those on the list of eligible voters. However, once you have a ballot "in hand," how you mark your ballot is private and known only to you. Even though you will need your RNAO information to log on to RNAO's website to cast your vote, the results will be tabulated with no identifiers to track how you actually voted.

**Question: Can I vote more than once?**

Answer: No. When you submit your vote, the system will record that you have voted and will store how you have voted in a separate, anonymous database.

**Question: I am a nursing student. Am I eligible to vote?**

Answer: No, undergraduate nursing students, Associates and Friends of RNAO are not eligible to vote.

**Question: I am retired. Am I eligible to vote?**

Answer: Yes, retired nurses who are members of RNAO are eligible to vote.

**Question: I used to attend RNAO's Annual General Meeting as a voting delegate. Will voting delegates still be required to attend the AGM?**

Answer: Resolutions that members would like to bring forward as policy priorities for the association will be handled in the same way they always have. The only difference is that Members who attend the AGM on behalf of their chapter or interest group are now called "consultation representatives" instead of "voting delegates."

**Question: Will individual voting occur every year?**

Answer: Yes. Every year, prior to the Annual General Meeting, issues to be brought forward for a vote by individual members will be posted via RNAO's website.

**Question: I don't own a computer. How can I vote?**

Answer: There are lots of ways to vote even if you do not own a computer. You can go to your local library or community centre. All you need is your RNAO identification.

**Question: Is voting by proxy allowed?**

Answer: We encourage everyone to vote online, but the current legislation allows voting by proxy. Proxies must be received in proper form 48 hours in advance of the AGM. For details, speak with Sarah Pendlebury at 416-408-5601. Members who vote by electronic means waive the right to vote by proxy.

**Question: I still have questions. Who can answer them at RNAO?**

Answer: RNAO staff will be available to answer any and all questions about the voting process, during regular business hours. Just call our toll free number and speak to a staff member in our membership department. The toll-free number is 1-800-268-7199, if you live outside Toronto or 416-599-1925 if you are calling within the city.

**Question: What happens if I run into a problem while I am in the middle of voting?**

You can vote at any time of the day, however, please note that technical support will be available during regular business hours only – from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Please note that technical support will not be available on Friday, April 2 due to the Good Friday Easter holiday.

Again, the toll-free number is 1-800-268-7199, if you live outside of Toronto. Dial 416-599-1925 if you are calling within the city of Toronto.