

Street Address 7037 Mumford Road | Suite 6 | Halifax | NS | B3L 2J1
Mailing Address PO Box 2246 | Halifax | NS | B3J 3C8

Phone (902) 424-8584 | Toll free in NS 1-800-565-1504
TTY for the hearing impaired (902) 424-7475

Fax (902) 424-6622

Email elections@gov.ns.ca

■ www.electionsnovascotia.ns.ca

Elections Nova Scotia's Websites Now "talk"

Elections Nova Scotia has added assistive technology to its websites to ensure that visitors can easily access information online.

Halifax – Tuesday, February 01, 2011

Elections Nova Scotia is committed to making voting and voting information as accessible as possible to all electors. As part of this continuing effort, Elections Nova Scotia today added assistive technology to its websites.

Called *BrowseAloud*, the new feature will improve online accessibility for those who have difficulty reading information online. It works by reading website content aloud and highlighting each word as it is spoken. The audio-visual reinforcement helps users to track words as they are spoken, improving comprehension and word recognition. It works equally well whether reading English or French information on the Elections Nova Scotia website.

"Adding the *BrowseAloud* feature to our websites is reflective of our commitment to accessibility in every aspect of Nova Scotia elections, particularly for those persons and groups most likely to experience difficulty in exercising their democratic rights," said Christine McCulloch, Chief Electoral Officer for Nova Scotia.

In addition to its core functionality, *BrowseAloud* also provides visitors to the Elections Nova Scotia website with special tools such as a translator, screen marking, a talking dictionary, text magnification, and to have Microsoft *WORD* documents and PDF documents and forms read aloud.

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For more information, contact:
Dana Phillip Doiron
Director, Policy and Communications
902.424.3275
doirondp@gov.ns.ca

