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City of Guelph Council  
1 Carden Street,  
Guelph, Ontario  
N1H 3A1

**RE: Support for Improved Voting Accessibility in Guelph**

Dear Mayor Guthrie and Councilors,

On behalf of Conestoga Students Inc., the official student association of Conestoga College representing over 2,000 students attending school in the City of Guelph, I would like to express our support for the proposed steps the City of Guelph is considering to make voting more accessible, such as the use of vote tabulators, the use of Vote by Mail and Vote from Home, further investigating to offer voting online, and – in particular, offering free transit and parking on municipal election days.

CSI has advocated before to the City of Guelph on the important role access to transit has in supporting citizens to use their right to vote. For many citizens across Canada, transportation remains a prominent barrier to exercising their fundamental right to vote. This barrier artificially constrains the diversity and breadth of viewpoints expressed through the ballot. By providing free access to public transit services on election days, the City of Guelph not only recognizes these barriers and the disproportional effect they have on youth, racial and cultural minorities, persons with disabilities, and other communities – but also actively seeks to eliminate these barriers.

In addition to municipal election days, CSI would like to encourage the City of Guelph to further expand free transit and parking to provincial and federal election days. Doing so will ensure that all election processes, whether they be municipal, provincial, or federal, are as simple as possible, with consistent messaging for citizens regarding their transit options and encourage equitable access to all citizens.

CSI is in support of the various motions to improve voting accessibility in the City of Guelph, particularly regarding free transit and parking. We further hope to encourage the City of Guelph to investigate expanding this program to provincial and federal election days, promoting equitable access to all elections. We look forward to continuing to work with the City of Guelph and other stakeholders to improve voter accessibility.

Sincerely,

*Nelson Chukwuma*

Nelson Chukwuma  
President