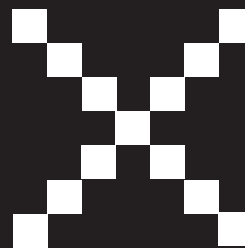


GENERAL ELECTION
October 1, 2018



Investigation concerning the counting of votes in the Gaspé electoral division

Report of the Chief Electoral Officer

Summary

The Chief Electoral Officer conducted an investigation in the Gaspé electoral division in the fall of 2018. This investigation was aimed at reviewing the steps in the initial counting of the votes on October 1, 2018 with a view to explaining the adjustments made to the election results following the judicial recount. The investigation was also designed to shed light on other irregularities that were observed in this electoral division, but that had no impact on the election outcome. In addition, the investigation sought to determine whether any criminal offences had been committed in connection with the initial counting of the votes, primarily in polling subdivision BVO-61. We carefully reviewed the results of this polling subdivision.

The investigation demonstrates that there was no type of fraud or falsification of documents, nor was there any intention to mislead or deceive by anyone in polling subdivision BVO-61. The error committed and the subsequent adjustment of the results compiled on the statement of votes stemmed from the polling officers' misunderstanding of the tasks they were required to carry out when filling out this statement.

Moreover, the investigation allows us to conclude that the other irregularities observed also stemmed from the polling officers' misunderstanding of the tasks they were required to carry out. We noted that the training provided in the Gaspé electoral division was not consistent and that the tools provided by Élections Québec were not fully utilized. Therefore, we can rule out any type of bad faith.