

We observed no instances of faulty organization or technical difficulties at the polls. In fact, quite the opposite was true and the voting was speedier than at the first round. Polling station officials and voters appeared familiar with the procedures involved and officials handled any potential problems with a welcome degree of flexibility. The public were provided with clear directions as to where to cast their ballots.

There was no evidence of the military at or near polling stations. Everywhere we visited an air of calm and good humour prevailed. Voters talked freely with us about their hopes for the future of their country and demonstrated by their participation a genuine appreciation for the fundamentals of democracy.

It is the unanimous opinion of the observer team that the Presidential run-off of December 8 provided a free and unhindered opportunity for the voters of Guatemala to choose their political leaders. The Canadian team considers it a privilege to have been invited to participate in what is a significant historical event for the Guatemalan people.