

## **Vote!**

*The right to vote in Canada is universally guaranteed by the Constitution since the adoption of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms in 1982.*

You are entitled to vote in federal elections if you are a Canadian citizen, and will be 18 or older on polling day.

You will receive a Voter Notification Notice in the mail by early October advising where to vote, for valuable information about registering, further information about voting and links to all the candidates involved in the current election please visit the Elections Canada website ([www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca)) or by calling Elections Canada at 1 800 463-6868.

The most common way to VOTE is at the polls on election day. Voters can also cast their ballots at an advance poll, or they can vote by special ballot, either at the office of the returning officer or through the mail.

The *Canada Elections Act* requires polling stations to be open for voting for 12 consecutive hours on **Election day October 14 2008**. Eastern Time **9:30 a.m – 9:30 p.m.**

## **Register**

An elector whose name is not previously registered on the revised voters list can register in person at the advance polling station where he or she is entitled to vote by showing satisfactory proof of identity and residence. It is also possible to register in person until 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 7, 2008 at your local

Canadian citizens residing outside Canada

- Visit the “Voting by Mail Inside or Outside Canada” section on the Elections Canada website for registration instructions. You can apply to register online.

New Citizens

- New citizens are registered through Citizenship and Immigration Canada by checking off the consent box on the citizenship application. Separate registration occurs if the consent box is not checked.

## Military personnel (soldiers)

- Soldiers who have filled out a Statement of Ordinary Residence (SOR) form will automatically receive a special ballot voting kit after an election is called.
- It is the soldier's responsibility to ensure that the ballot arrives in Ottawa by 18:00 Eastern Time on Election Day.
- Visit the "Voting by Special Ballot for Canadian Forces Electors" section of the Elections Canada website.

## Prisoners

- A Supreme Court ruling (Sauvé v. Canada) on October 31, 2002, granted all inmates the right to vote in federal elections, by-elections and referendums. The judgment ruled that prohibiting this right under former section 51(e), now section 4(c), of the *Canada Elections Act* violated the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.
- Prisoners wishing to vote can fill out an Application for Registration and Special Ballot available from their correctional institute.

## Homeless People

- An eligible voter who is homeless or without a fixed address can vote by registering with proof of identity and the address where s/he is staying OR by taking an oath as to identity and residence (another registered voter from the same electoral district, such as the administrator of a local shelter, must vouch for this information).

## Advanced Polls

If you not available to vote on election day October 14, 2008, Three days – **Friday, October 3, 2008, Saturday, October 4, 2008, Monday, October 6, 2008** – are designated for advance voting. Advance polls are open between the hours of **noon and 8:00 p.m.** The dates and the location of the designated advance polling station for each elector are indicated on the voter information card.

## ID Required

New rules under the *Canada Elections Act* now require electors to prove their identity and address before being given a ballot at the polling station.

You must provide either:

One **original piece of identification** issued by a government or government agency containing your photo, name and address. Driver's licence and Health Card.

**Two original pieces of identification** authorized by the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada. **Both pieces must contain your name, and one must also contain your address.** Health Card, Social Insurance Number Card, Birth certificate, Credit Card Statement or Bank Statement etc.

You can be **vouched for by an elector** whose name appears on the list of electors in the same polling division and who has an acceptable piece or pieces of identification. Both will be required to make a sworn statement. An elector cannot vouch for more than one person, and the person who has been vouched for cannot vouch for another elector.

**Check your ballot for times and locations before October 14, 2008.  
Bring your ballot and supporting identification to the polls and vote!**