

I am proud of  
where I come from.

I have a past to honour  
and a future to  
nurture.

I have a  
point of view.

I can choose  
to make a difference.

I can vote!

For more information, contact your local  
Elections Canada office. You'll find the  
number on our Web site or by calling  
our toll-free number.

**www.elections.ca**  
**1 800 463-6868**

TTY 1 800 361-8935 for people  
who are deaf or hard of hearing

EC 93230 (04/04)

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## Why Vote?

Voting is our fundamental right and we vote to decide who will represent us in making the rules by which we agree to live together.

## What Are Elections All About?

In an election, **we vote for the candidate of our choice** in our electoral district. The candidate with the most votes is elected.

He or she then becomes a **member of Parliament**.

## Words I Need to Know

An **elector** is a Canadian citizen who is at least 18 years old by election day.

The **candidates** are the persons wishing to be elected.

The **voters list** includes the names of people who are registered to vote.

I receive my **voter information card** by mail. It confirms that my name is on the voters list and tells me when and where to vote.

The **polling station** is the place where I go to vote.

The **deputy returning officer** gives me a ballot. He or she can also help electors mark their ballots.

The **poll clerk** crosses my name off the voters list when I vote.

The **ballot** is the paper listing the names of the candidates in my electoral district.

Voting in Canada is by **secret ballot**.

The **voting screen** is the private area I go behind to mark my choice on the ballot.

After I mark my ballot, I return it to the deputy returning officer who tears off the tab without opening the ballot so that my vote remains secret. Then I place the ballot into the **ballot box**.

## The Election – I Make a Choice

When there is an election, I should receive a **voter information card** in the mail, which confirms that my name is on the **voters list**.

This card is important.

It tells me how, when and where I can vote.

If I do not receive my card, I will **contact Elections Canada** to find out how to get my name on the voters list so that I can vote.

I can learn the **names of the candidates** by visiting the Elections Canada Web site at **www.elections.ca** during the election period. I can also learn their names and policies by listening to the radio, watching television, reading newspapers and talking to friends and family members. I will choose the candidate I wish to **represent me**.

## How Do I Vote?

**There are three ways I can vote.**

**I can vote at an advance poll.**

Advance polls are for those who cannot or do not wish to vote on election day.

All electors can vote at an advance poll.

I can find out the place and times for advance voting on my voter information card or by contacting Elections Canada at the telephone number on the card.

**I can vote by special ballot.**

Voting by special ballot is done by mail or at the **office of the returning officer** in my electoral district.

I can contact Elections Canada for more information.

**I can vote in person on election day.**

On election day, I go to my polling station to vote.

The dates, times and polling station address are on the voter information card.

**At the polling station**, I find the table that has the number matching the one on my voter information card.

Two election officers are at the table: the **deputy returning officer** and the **poll clerk**.

I give my **name and address** to the deputy returning officer. Most people are already registered on the voters list.

If I am not on the voters list, I still have an opportunity to **register on election day**. I can register with the deputy returning officer at my polling station by providing **proof of my identity and residence**. I can also register by making a sworn statement of my identity and residence and by having another elector already registered in the same polling division accompany and vouch for me.

The poll clerk **crosses my name off** the voters list to show that I have voted.

The deputy returning officer gives me a folded ballot.

That person can also **help me** if I have difficulty marking my ballot.

I can also bring a friend or family member to the polling station to assist me.

**I go behind the voting screen**. No one can see for whom I vote.

**I mark an X** in the circle beside the name of the candidate I choose.

**I fold my ballot** so my vote remains secret.

I take my folded ballot back to the deputy returning officer who **tears off the tab**.

The deputy returning officer gives me back my ballot.

**I put my ballot in the ballot box.**