

Can A Scrutineer Wear Political Materials On His/Her Person At A Polling Station?

No, identity cards approved by the Chief Electoral Officer indicating the political affiliation are the only political materials permitted to be worn by a scrutineer.

Is A Scrutineer Permitted To Use A Cell Phone At The Polling Station?

No, not directly at the table where an elector is preparing to vote. Cell phones should be turned off while scrutineers are sitting at the polling station. The scrutineer should go outside near the entrance if a cell phone is required to be used.



For Additional Information :

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Elections Newfoundland and Labrador

Scrutineers



What You Should Know To Work In A Polling Station

A Non-Partisan Office Responsible for the Conduct of Provincial Elections and Plebiscites

How Is A Scrutineer Appointed?

A scrutineer is appointed by a candidate to represent him/her at a polling station.

What Document Must A Scrutineer Present To Allow Admittance To A Polling Station?

A scrutineer must deliver a written appointment to the deputy returning officer signed by the candidate who appointed the scrutineer. The Chief Electoral Officer provides this appointment (Form 0) in sufficient quantities to all registered political parties for distribution. However, a registered political party may supply a scrutineer with the political party's own appointment form.

Is There An Age Requirement To Be Appointed A Scrutineer?

The Elections Act does not state an age requirement however the Chief Electoral Office would prefer all scrutineers to be of voting age.

Is A Scrutineer Required To Take An Oath?

Yes, before being permitted to remain in the polling station a scrutineer shall swear an oath in the prescribed form to keep secret the name of the candidate for whom an elector has marked his/her ballot in the scrutineer's presence.

Is A Scrutineer Permitted To Leave A Polling Station And Return During The Day?

Yes, but only one scrutineer for each candidate may be present at a polling station at a time. If a scrutineer replaces an appointed scrutineer the new scrutineer must deliver a written appointment for the assigned polling station and swear an oath in the prescribed form.

Can A Scrutineer Be Appointed For More Than One Polling Station?

Yes, one scrutineer may be appointed for several polling stations at the same building location. The scrutineer must, however, provide either a separate appointment form for each assigned polling station or an original plus the appropriate number of photocopies. In addition the scrutineer must take an oath at each assigned polling station.

Where Should A Scrutineer Sit In a Polling Station?

Every effort will be made to accommodate a scrutineer at a polling station. A scrutineer should sit next to the poll clerk so that he/she can easily hear the elector's name and address being called upon entrance to the polling station.

What Are The Responsibilities Of A Scrutineer At A Polling Station?

A Scrutineer Is Permitted To:

- inspect election documents and have ballots counted if present at least 15 minutes before the poll opens;
- vote at assigned polling station on polling day if in own electoral district;
- challenge an elector's qualifications by requesting that the elector first take an oath;
- provide another person working on behalf of a candidate with the names of persons who have voted at the polling station;
- be present inside the voting compartment with the deputy returning officer and elector requiring assistance when marking the ballot, whereby the scrutineer acts only as a witness;
- witness the closing of the poll;
- remain at the polling station for the counting of ballots;
- object to the counting of the ballot by the deputy returning officer (however the deputy returning officer's decision is final);
- receive a master list of all persons who have voted at the advance poll;
- endorse the various envelopes and seals;
- receive a copy of the Statement of the Poll completed and signed by the Deputy Returning Officer.

A Scrutineer Is Not Permitted To:

- interfere with an elector when marking his/her ballot;
- communicate information as to the manner in which a ballot paper has been marked in his/her presence;
- directly or indirectly induce or try to induce an elector to show his/her ballot paper after it has been marked;
- communicate to a person information obtained at a polling station as to the candidate for whom an elector has voted;
- communicate information obtained at the counting of the votes as to the candidate for whom a vote is cast on a particular ballot.

