

ELECTIONS BC

News Release

Date: March 22, 2005

Elections BC's Province-Wide Registration Drive Underway

Victoria – On February 17, 2005, Elections BC launched a province-wide voter registration campaign to create a high quality voters list for use in the May 17, 2005 provincial general election and referendum on electoral reform.

To inform voters of the many voter registration opportunities available, an information flyer was sent to 1.62 million residential households, providing information on the options available to register, update or confirm voter registration information. To date, the results have been very successful. Elections BC has updated 198,440 voter records, confirmed 55,760 voters, and registered 40,671 new voters, resulting in 294,871 voter transactions to the provincial voters list. 2,746,080 British Columbians are now registered as provincial voters.

However, the currency (number of voters who are listed at the address where they currently reside) of the voters list information is only 75%, reflecting the fact that more than 600,000 voters are registered at a previous address.

It's important for voters who have moved since the last time they voted (federally or provincially) to update their registration before registration closes on Tuesday, April 26, 2005. Voters who are not registered, or are registered at their previous address, will not receive a Where to Vote Information Card in the mail during the week of May 9, 2005. The Where to Vote Information Card tells voters the dates, opening times and locations of their assigned voting place and advance voting locations.

Elections BC encourages voters to register, update or confirm their registration information on Elections BC's Web site at www.elections.bc.ca or by calling toll-free 1-800-661-8683. Operators are available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

If a voter is not registered by the deadline they can still register in conjunction with any voting opportunity. However, they will require two pieces of identification and may encounter line-ups.

Elections BC is a non-partisan Office of the Legislature responsible for the impartial administration of provincial elections and referendums, voter registration and voter education.

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For more information:

Elections BC

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