

# ELECTIONS BC

## News Release

For Immediate Release

Date: April 20, 2005

### British Columbians Urged to Vote in Combined Election/Referendum

**VICTORIA** – Elections BC is encouraging British Columbians to vote in the historic May 17<sup>th</sup> election and referendum.

“There is every reason to vote in this election and referendum, which will determine the essential character of our electoral system into the future,” B.C.’s Chief Electoral Officer Harry Neufeld told a news conference Wednesday.

British Columbians will vote on two separate ballots in this election; one to choose their elected representatives in the Legislature, the other to decide whether or not the province should adopt the BC-STV electoral system as recommended by the Citizens’ Assembly on Electoral Reform.

Voters may register, update or confirm their voter registration until Tuesday, April 26, when general registration closes. There are more registered voters on the provincial voters list than ever before with 2,744,078 voters registered as of today. BC Stats estimates that there will be 3,064,687 eligible voters in B.C. on May 17, 2005.

Registration is available online at [www.elections.bc.ca](http://www.elections.bc.ca), or in person at 85 District Electoral Offices or 59 Government Agent offices. Registration can be confirmed or updated by calling toll-free at 1-800-661-8683.

There are many voting opportunities available during the 28 day campaign period. If a voter is going to be out of the province or in a remote area, they can request a mail-in ballot. Voter accessibility in British Columbia is the most extensive of any jurisdiction in Canada.

All British Columbians who are 18 years of age, Canadian citizens and residents of British Columbia for the past six months are eligible to vote.

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For the full text of Mr. Neufeld’s speaking notes and background on the May 17<sup>th</sup> election and referendum on electoral reform, visit <http://www.elections.bc.ca/elections/ge2005/mediatoolkit.htm>

**For more information:**

Elections BC

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