



#IAmVoting

FEDERAL ELECTION 2021





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YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE

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If you have questions about voting contact Elections Canada:

Toll Free: 1-800-463-6868

TTY: 1-800-361-8935

Web: www.elections.ca

www.inclusionbc.org

What does that word mean?

Some words in this guide are in **bold**. You can find out what they mean in the glossary on page 17.

Where to find the information?

Text in this guide with a blue line under it is a website link. You can find the full address for each website link on page 18.

YOUR VOTE YOUR CHOICE

This fall there will be a Federal Election for the Government of Canada. The election will be held on Monday, September 20, 2021. Your vote is your choice and helps decide who forms the Government of Canada

During the **Federal Election**, each **Political Party** can put forward a **Candidate** in every voting region or area (called **Ridings**).

You vote for the candidate you want.

The candidate that gets the most votes becomes a **Member of Parliament (MP)**. That MP represents the people in your riding.

The party that gets the most MPs elected forms the **Federal Government**. The party with less MPs elected forms the Opposition.

Everyone who is a Canadian Citizen and who is 18 years of age or older on **Voting** day has the right to vote in this election.

This package gives you some ideas about how to get involved in the election. It explains some things about how an election works.

Please share this information with your friends.

Voting for the first time can be confusing because often people do not know what to expect. This guide will help you understand what voting is about and why it is important.

We hope this information will help make your voting experience a good one.

**MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 20, 2021**

*It's Your Right
It's Your Responsibility
It's Your Choice*

For more information:

1-800-463-6868

1-800-361-8935 (TTY)

www.elections.ca

*Canadian Citizens
who are 18 years
of age or older on
voting day have the
right to vote.*



QUESTIONS ABOUT VOTING

And answers!

Who can vote?

Every person who is a Canadian citizen and 18 years or older on voting day, can vote in this election if they are on the **Voters' List**. You also have to live in the riding where you are voting.

How do I get on the voters' list?

You can register before you vote or when you go to vote. To register before you go to vote, use the [Online Voter Registration Service](#) or call Elections Canada before September 14, 2021, 6:00 p.m. using the phone number listed below.

You can also register in-person at any Elections Canada office across Canada until September 14, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

If you are already on the voters' list you will receive a **Voter Information Card** in the mail by September 10, 2021. If you do not receive a voting card you can check if you are registered by calling Elections Canada at 1-800-463-6868 / 1-800-361-8935 (TTY) or use the Online Voter Registration Service.

When can I vote?

You can vote at your assigned **Polling Station** on Monday, September 20, 2021. Polling stations will be open in B.C. from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Advance voting is available from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on the days in the calendar below.

The Canadian Federal Election is on Monday September 20, 2021

September 2021						
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

2021 Advance Voting Days:

Friday, September 10
Saturday, September 11
Sunday, September 12
Monday, September 13

If I am not on the voters' list on Election Day can I still vote?

Yes. If you do not get on the voters' list before the Election, you can register to vote at the polling station when you vote. However, there may be line-ups and you will have to prove your identity and address. There are three ways to do this:

Option 1: Government Issued ID

Show your driver's licence OR any other card issued by a Canadian government (federal, provincial/territorial or local) with your photo, name, and current address.

Option 2: Show two pieces of ID

Both pieces of ID must have your name and at least one must have your current address. For example, you could use your voter information card and bank statement, utility bill, or student ID card.

Option 3: If you don't have ID

You can still vote if you declare your identity and address in writing and have someone who knows you and who is assigned to your polling station vouch for you. The **Voucher** must be able to prove their identity and address. A person can vouch for only one person (except in long-term care institutions).

Elections Canada has a [full list of accepted ID's](#) to prove your identity and address when going to vote. You can also call Elections Canada at 1-800-463-6868 / 1-800-361-8935 (TTY).



VOTING:
Your right
Your responsibility
Your choice



Where do I vote on Election Day?

On Election Day you vote at a place called a “Polling Station”. The address of the polling station will be sent to you in the mail along with your voters’ card. Polling stations can be schools, town halls, or other places in your community where people gather. If you don’t get this information you can check using the [Online Voter Information Service](#). You can also call Elections Canada at 1-800-463-6868 / 1-800-361-8935 (TTY) and ask them where to vote.

What if I live in a hospital or group home?

All people who live in hospitals or group homes have the right to vote. Sometimes they send a “mobile polling station” or a **Special Ballot** application and voting kit to places like group homes and hospitals. You can ask the staff how voting is going to happen where you live.

What if I need help when I vote?

You can bring someone you trust with you to help you vote. The person you choose has to sign a **Declaration** that they are there to assist a voter with a disability. Or, you can ask one of the staff at the polling station to help you. This person can read you the names or help you mark your ballot.

What if I need an accessible polling station?

You can find out if your polling station meets your needs by calling Elections Canada at 1-800-463-6868 / 1-800-361-8935 (TTY).

What if I need a ride?

1. Ask a friend or person you trust to take you.
2. Phone one of your local candidates and tell them you need help getting a ride. You don’t have to vote for the candidate who helped find you a ride.

How do I vote by mail?

You can vote by mail by applying for a special ballot. If you apply for a special ballot you can NOT change your mind and vote at a polling station.

1. You can [apply for a special ballot online](#). Apply early as special ballots need to be approved and mailed to you. Your special ballot application must be at Elections Canada before Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
2. After applying you can [check your special ballot application online](#) at or call Elections Canada using the phone number listed below.
3. If your special ballot is approved you will get a special ballot voting kit in the mail. Inside of the kit there are instructions and everything you need to vote.
4. Your completed special ballot **must reach Elections Canada by Monday, September 20, 2021 for your vote to be counted.**

If you need help with voting by mail or with the special ballot you can call Elections Canada at 1-800-463-6868 / 1-800-361-8935 (TTY).

How do I vote at the polling station?

1. Take your ID or your voters' card to the polling station. You can bring either one piece of ID issued by the Government that has your name, photo, and address OR you can bring two documents that have your name on them. One of those has to have your address too. Check Election Canada's [full list of accepted ID's](#).
2. Someone will give you a piece of paper with the names of all the people you can vote for. This is called a "Ballot".
3. Pick one person you want to vote for and put an **X** inside the circle beside their name.
4. After you put an **X** on your ballot, put the ballot in the box. Remember, you can only vote for one person. **If you put more than one X on your ballot your vote will not count.**

Elections Canada has [accessibility services and tools available](#) at the polling stations to make voting easier for you. You can ask polling station election workers for assistance. You can also call and ask Elections Canada at 1-800-463-6868 / 1-800-361-8935 (TTY).

FEDERAL ELECTION BALLOT	
Bloc Québécois	<input type="radio"/>
Conservative Party	<input type="radio"/>
Green Party	<input type="radio"/>
Liberal Party	<input type="radio"/>
NDP-New Democratic Party	<input type="radio"/>

What will be done to keep everyone safe from COVID-19?

Elections Canada wants you to be safe when voting. People working at the voting polls will be wearing masks. There will also be hand sanitizer stations, physical distancing markers, single-use pencils, and plexiglass barriers. When you go to vote please wear a face mask and stay 2 meters apart from other voters and workers.

How do I get voting information?

Visit Elections Canada at www.elections.ca or call 1-800-463-6868 / 1-800-361-8935 (TTY). You can also get information on TV by watching the news. Elections Canada is also on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ElectionsCanE/

You can bring someone you trust to help you vote, or ask the staff at the polling station to help you.



VOTING FOR POLITICAL PARTIES

And their leaders

In this election, people vote for the person they want to speak for them in the Government of Canada. This person usually belongs to a “political party”.

Bloc Québécois	Yves-François Blanchet
Conservative Party	Erin O’Toole
Green Party	Annamie Paul
Liberal Party	Justin Trudeau
NDP-New Democratic Party	Jagmeet Singh

Every political party has a Leader. The ballot only has the name of the **local person** who is a candidate in your area and the name of the political party they are with. **The party Leader’s name is NOT on the ballot.**

There are many political parties registered in Canada, but only four or five of those parties run candidates in almost every riding. There are also many candidates running as an independent, which means they don’t belong to any political party. You can visit Elections Canada to find out [which parties have candidates in your riding](#) or

call Elections Canada at 1-800-463-6868 / 1-800-361-8935 (TTY).

If you want to know more about the candidates who are running for election in your community, call their campaign offices or go to a virtual **All Candidates Meeting**.

If you have access to the Internet you can look up websites for each party. These websites will have information on each party’s **Platform**. A platform talks about what the party believes and the things that they will do if they are elected.



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PARTICIPATING IN THE ELECTION

There are lots of ways to learn about voting and how the election works. Here are some ideas you can do on your own or with a group.

1. You can get together with a friend you trust and talk about how voting works.
2. You can pay attention to the local TV news, radio stations, newspapers, and Internet. They will have updates on the election campaign. They will also have regular election specials.
3. Self-advocates can get together and invite all the candidates to come and attend a “Question and Answer” meeting on your issues.
4. You and your friends can go to a virtual “All Candidates Meeting” in your area to meet the candidates and ask questions on issues that are important to you.
5. You can practice voting by asking a friend to role-play with pretend ballots.
6. You can go online to request an [Election Resource Kit](#) or call Elections Canada and ask them for an election resource kit.
7. You can phone or email your candidates and get them to answer your questions.
8. You can call all the candidates’ offices in your area to see how they are running their campaigns; you can learn a lot and meet new people.
9. If you know who you want to vote for, you can volunteer to help them at their campaign office.
10. You can go online to check out where your [polling place is before Election Day](#).
11. The candidates and their helpers may come to your place to give you information and talk to you about why you should vote for them. This is OK, BUT you don’t have to talk to anyone you do not want to. And you do not have to let anyone into your house who you don’t want to talk with.
12. Be a letter writer. Tell candidates and newspapers about the issues that are important to you.

TEN QUESTIONS TO ASK EVERY POLITICIAN

Ask your candidate these questions and find out if they are committed to supporting people with disabilities

Ending Poverty

1. Will your party adopt new legislation to create a federal income program for working-aged people with a disability?
2. Will your party support and fund a federal income program that provides at least \$2200 per month in combination with provincial and territorial benefits?
3. Will your party amend the Child Disability Benefit to increase the benefit amount, raise the limit for when the benefit gets reduced, and prevent clawbacks?
4. Will your party amend eligibility and access to Federal Disability programs, like the Disability Tax Credit, by adopting the Accessible Canada Act definition of disability?
5. Will your party adopt a National Disability Employment strategy that supports people with disabilities to enter into the workforce, get real work for real pay, and advance their careers?
6. Will your party support a National Disability Employment strategy that is focused on youth employment?

Making Community Living Real

7. Will your party build a National Housing strategy that develops fully inclusive housing and does not fund housing that congregates, segregates, and isolates people with intellectual disabilities?
8. Will your party support and fund targeted portable rent supplements for people with disabilities?
9. Will your party amend the Canada Housing Benefit to include a disability component that is available through federal and provincial agreements?

Achieving Human Rights

10. Will your party fund a collaborative agenda and plan for realizing the rights promoted and protected in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with a Disability across Canada?

*These questions are based on the **Federal Election 2021: A Path to Inclusive Recovery**, created by Inclusion Canada to identify the key issues in the 2021 federal election.*



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I AM VOTING

WHY SHOULD YOU VOTE?

Your right to vote is one of the most important rights you have. It is the way you help choose who will represent you in Canada's government. When you vote you are participating as a full citizen in Canadian society.

Your Rights

1. You have the right to get on the voters' list.
2. You have the right to vote.
3. Your vote is your personal choice.
4. Your vote is a secret - you don't have to tell anyone who you vote for if you don't want to.
5. You have the right to talk to the candidates and ask them questions and get answers in a way you understand.
6. You have the right to put a sign on your lawn or window for the candidate of your choice. You also have the right to refuse.
7. No one can tell you who to vote for.

Your Responsibilities

1. Get your name on the voters' list.
2. Find out who the candidates are.
3. Know the issues. Get the information you need.
4. Make plans to get to the place where you vote.
5. Bring your voter's card (or ID) with you when you go to vote.
6. If you need it, bring a friend you trust to help you vote.
7. Keep informed after the election is over. Find out if the person who got elected in your area is keeping the promises they made during the election.

Thanks to all the people and organizations that helped us create the #IAMVoting campaign: People First BC, Self-Advocates of Semiahmoo, Self Advocate Net, Canadian Institute for Inclusion and Citizenship (CIIC), Inclusion Canada, Inclusion Langley, Vela Canada, Family Support Institute, Inclusion BC.

GLOSSARY

What do these words mean?

All Candidates Meeting: A meeting where all the people who want to be elected come together to talk about the issues.

Ballot: The piece of paper with the names of all the people who are trying to get elected in your area.

Candidate: A person who is trying to get elected.

Declaration: A document making something official.

Elections Canada: The official information on everything about voting during a federal election.

Federal Election: Voting for the government of Canada.

Federal Government: The people who are elected to manage the country of Canada.

General Voting Day: The day most people go to vote. Also known as polling day.

MP: Member of the Parliament who is the person representing the people in your riding.

Platform: What the party believes and the things that they will do if they are elected.

Political Party: An organization which has certain ideas about how to run their country, province, or territory. A candidate usually belongs to a political party. Some examples are Bloc Québécois, Conservative, Green, Liberal, NDP etc.

Polling Station: The place where you go to vote on Election Day.

Returning Officer: The person in your community who is in charge of making sure the election is fair and everyone gets to vote.

Ridings: The area you live and vote in.

Voter Information Card: A card that says you are registered to vote. It also tells you when and where to vote, the ways you can vote, and how to get more information.

Voters' List: A list of people who are signed up to vote. The people on the list are Canadians that are 18 years or older and can vote in federal elections or referendums.

Voting: Choosing the person you want to speak for you in the Government.

Voucher: A voucher is someone who knows you. When you do not have the identification to vote a voucher can prove who you are at the polling stations. The voucher must be able to vote at your polling station and be able to prove their identity and address.

WEBSITES

Where can I find more information?

Elections Canada:

- The official information on everything about voting during the federal election.
- <https://www.elections.ca/home.aspx>

Online voter registration service:

- Check if you are registered to vote.
- Update the address on your voter registration.
- Register to vote.
- Apply to vote by mail.
- Check if your application to vote by mail was approved.
- <https://ereg.elections.ca/CWelcome.aspx>

Online voter information service:

- Find information about your electoral district.
- Find a list of candidates in your electoral district.
- Find the locations of advance polls and election day polling places.
- Find the address of your local Elections Canada office.
- Find a map of your electoral district.
- Submit a job application to work as a poll worker in your electoral district.
- <https://elections.ca/Scripts/vis/FindED?L=e&QID=-1&PAGEID=20>

Identification to vote:

- Learn about the three options available to prove your identity and address.
- Find a list of accepted ID's to prove your identity and address.
- <https://www.elections.ca/content2.aspx?section=id&document=index&lang=e>

Voting by mail:

- Apply for a special ballot to vote by mail as soon as possible.
- Applications must be at Elections Canada before Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
- <https://elections.ca/content2.aspx?section=vote&dir=app&document=indexapp&lang=e>

Accessible voting tools and services:

- Assistance marking your ballot (bring a support person or ask an election worker for help).
- Sign language interpretation (request this service by 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 14, 2021).
- Help to prove your identity (bring someone you know to vouch for you).
- Signature guides (if you need to sign your name during the voting process).
- Large-print and Braille lists of candidates (looks exactly like the ballot, but is 2.5 times bigger).
- Tactile and Braille voting templates (used to mark your ballot).
- Magnifiers (makes the ballot look four times bigger).
- Extra large-grip pencils (limited quantity available).
- Voting screens (let in more light).
- <https://www.elections.ca/content2.aspx?section=acc&dir=tol&document=index&lang=e>

Elections Canada is on Facebook:

- www.facebook.com/ElectionsCanE/

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Voting allows you to choose who you think will best represent you and your community.





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ELECTION 2021
Information and
Participation Guide



inclusionBC
www.inclusionbc.org