



The VOICE of Albertans with Disabilities

September 1, 2021

Federal Election Canada 2021

Not only should you know there is a federal election coming on Monday, September 20th, you should be ready and willing to take action to get the word out about inclusion, and full participation in the disability community.

Voter information in accessible formats: Key information about voting and registration is available online, in print and in alternate formats upon request to Elections Canada:

- Large print
- Braille
- Audio CD and files (i.e. DAISY)
- Full transcription
- Open captioning
- ASL and LSQ videos

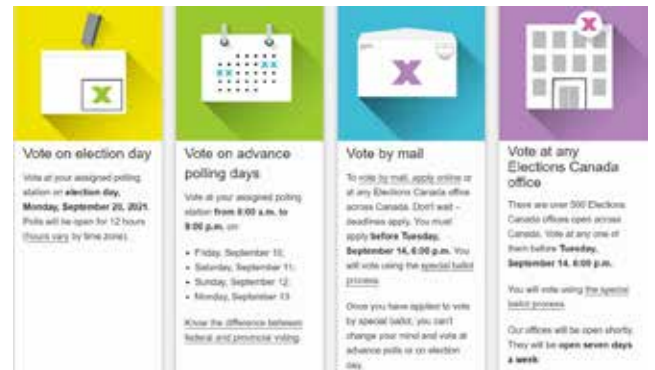
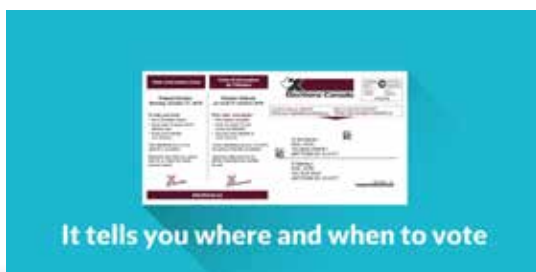
Polling place accessibility: The Polling Place Suitability Checklist ensures that all polling places are evaluated for accessibility before the election. Of the 37 accessibility criteria on the Checklist, 15 are mandatory. During the election, you can find out if your polling place meets your needs:

- By entering your postal code in our Voter Information Service, by calling us, or on the Voter Information Card, which is mailed to every registered elector.

Accessibility tools and services at the polls: We have reviewed and updated our Accessibility Policy and Service Offering policy. Available in multiple alternative formats, it shows the accessibility services available to polling staff and electors, including:

- Sensitivity training for staff working at the polls
- Sign language interpretation services available upon request in advance
- Tools to help electors vote
- A redesigned ballot that improves readability and optical character recognition (OCR) by screen readers.

Credit given to: <https://www.elections.ca/content.aspx?section=vot&dir=spe&document=index&lang=e>



Who is eligible to vote?

To vote in the federal election, you must:

- be a Canadian citizen
- be at least 18 years old on election day
- prove your identity and address

What ID do I need to vote?

You have many options to prove your identity and address. See your options and the full list of ID accepted at the polls.

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 prove their identity and address using option 1 or option 2. A person can vouch for only one person (except in long-term care facilities).



www.vadsociety.ca; vad@vadsociety.ca
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Is my polling station accessible?

All electors are assigned polling stations for election day and advance polling days. Make sure your assigned polling station meets your accessibility needs by calling 1-800-463-6868 or 1-800-361-8935 (TTY).

Credit given to: <https://www.elections.ca/content2.aspx?section=vote&document=index&lang=e>

Registered Political Parties

- Animal Protection Party of Canada
- Bloc Québécois
- Canada's Fourth Front
- Canadian Nationalist Party
- Christian Heritage Party of Canada
- Communist Party of Canada
- Conservative Party of Canada
- Free Party Canada
- Green Party of Canada
- Liberal Party of Canada
- Libertarian Party of Canada

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Voter's checklist

Get to know your voting options and choose what works best for you. No matter how you vote, keeping you healthy and safe is our priority. If you plan to vote by mail, don't wait, apply now at elections.ca.

- Make sure you're registered at your current address
- Watch for your voter information card in the mail
- Make a plan to vote
- Find out who the candidates are in your riding
- Bring ID when you go to vote

At your assigned polling station on election day

At your assigned polling station on advance polling days

By mail: visit elections.ca to see if voting by mail is the right choice for you (deadlines apply)

At any Elections Canada office across Canada (deadlines apply)

Visit elections.ca for the official information on voting and the health and safety measures in place
1-800-463-6868 / elections.ca / TTY 1-800-361-8935

Elections Canada

FEDERAL ELECTION #ItsOurVote

Have your ID ready to vote

Three options to prove your identity and address

To vote, you must be a Canadian citizen and at least 18 years old on election day.

Option 1

Show one of these pieces of ID

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

or

Option 2

Show two pieces of ID

Both must have your name and at least one must have your current address

Examples:

- voter information card and bank statement
- utility bill and student ID card

+ Don't have these? No problem! There are other accepted pieces of ID. Check out the full list at elections.ca

or

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 facilities).

Visit elections.ca for the official information on voting and the health and safety measures in place
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Elections Canada

- Marijuana Party
- Marxist-Leninist Party of Canada
- National Citizens Alliance of Canada
- New Democratic Party
- Parti pour l'Indépendance du Québec
- Parti Rhinocéros Party
- People's Party of Canada
- Veterans Coalition Party of Canada

Together, We Hold the Power!

Full Participation - Accessibility - Equity



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Municipal Election

Nominations for the general election will be open between January 1, 2021 and September 20, 2021. For summer villages, the nomination period can occur in June and/or July, with election day held 4 weeks after the nomination period closes. Check with your local summer village for specific dates.

Credit given to: <https://www.alberta.ca/municipal-elections-overview.aspx#jumplinks-1>

Voter identification requirements

In order to vote in the upcoming municipal elections, voters will be required to provide proof of their name and home address. The following types of verification meet the standard provincial requirement for one piece of identification.

- Identification issued by a Canadian government, whether federal, provincial or local, or an agency of that government, that contains a photograph of the elector and their name and current address.
- Proof of Identity and Ordinary Residence for Tenant Elector issued by the authorized representative of a commercial property management company.
- Proof of Identity and Ordinary Residence for Incarcerated Elector issued by the authorized representative of a correctional institution.
- Proof of Identity and Ordinary Residence issued by the authorized representative of a First Nations band or reserve.
- Proof of Identity and Ordinary Residence for Post-Secondary Student Elector in Residence issued by the authorized representative of a post-secondary institution.
- Proof of Identity and Ordinary Residence for Homeless Elector issued by the authorized representative of a facility that provides services to the homeless.
- Proof of Identity and Ordinary Residence for Elector in Long Term Care or Supportive Living Facility issued by the authorized representative of a supportive living facility or treatment centre.
- Supportive Living Facility issued by the authorized representative of a supportive living facility or treatment centre.

- Bank or credit card statement or personal cheque.
- Correspondence issued by a school, college or university.
- Government cheque or cheque stub.
- Income or property tax assessment notice.
- Insurance policy or coverage card.
- Letter from a public curator, public guardian or public trustee.
- Pension plan statement of benefits, contributions or participation.
- Residential lease or mortgage statement.
- Statement of government benefits (for example, employment insurance, old-age security, social assistance, disability support or child tax benefit).
- Utility bill (for example, telephone, public utilities commission, television, hydro, gas or water).
- Vehicle ownership, registration or insurance certificate.
- If a voter's identification shows a post office box number as the address instead of a residential or legal address, it can be accepted as verification of current address if it is in reasonable distance to the voting jurisdiction.

An elected authority could, by bylaw, require additional verification or a combination of verification to establish the person's specific current address.

Voting: Made Easy

Adapted from the 2015 article: <https://themedium.ca/features/voting-for-dummies/>

The upcoming federal elections will be the first time that many of the millennial generation will be able to vote. They represent 20 percent of the population of Canada, which has the potential to sway the election in any direction.

Many millennials are first-time voters and might not know how to vote or how voting works. But don't worry: voting is much easier than you think. In order to vote, you must be a Canadian citizen and be at least 18 years old by the election date.



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First-time voters must register as a voter—this can also be done on elections day at the polling station. If you like to do things early, you can register ahead of time on the Elections Canada website. Either way, you will need a driver's license or two other forms of ID.

Are you living on campus or away from home? Have no fear because you, too, can vote. In previous years, you had to vote at the polling station designated for the address you registered with. Now, you simply have to choose which address you want to use when registering and will vote for the candidates present in the riding you selected.

Following registration, you're ready to vote. You can vote in one of three ways: in person, in person on the advanced polling days, or at any Elections Canada office in Canada.

Alternatively, you can find which polling station is designated for your area using the Elections Canada website. Once again, you must bring either your driver's license or two other pieces of ID to the polling station.

However, the most important part of voting (which should actually be done first) is doing your research in order to make an informed decision.



During the last federal elections, only 38 percent of students voted. Students are a much larger portion of the voting population this year, so it's even more important to vote.

For more information on how to vote, you can visit the Elections Canada website: <https://www.elections.ca/>.

Here's a checklist below:

- Be a Canadian citizen
- Be at least 18 years old
- Find your designated polling station on the Elections Canada website
- Bring your driver's license or two pieces of ID to your polling station on voting day.

And finally, VOTE



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Did you know? Alberta is in an election season!

Every municipality in Alberta heads to the polls October 18, 2021 to elect their new mayors, councillors and school board trustees. Alberta Ability Network and Voice of Albertans with Disabilities have invited all the mayoral candidates across four Albertan cities to forums to discuss the issues that directly affect people with disabilities. Topics such as: transportation, housing and poverty reduction (and much much more). If you live in any of these cities, register to join the conversation at the links below - and make sure you enter any of the questions you have for your mayoral candidates in the registration page, or email accessibility@vadsociety.ca. ASL and Cart will be provided for all the sessions.

Edmonton: September 7, 2021 from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM Registration: <https://bit.ly/3iAiG9i>

Red Deer: September 14, 2021 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM Registration: <https://bit.ly/3Ava9dx>

Lethbridge: September 21, 2021 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM Registration: <https://bit.ly/3xCcSAd>

Calgary: September 23, 2021 from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM Registration: <https://bit.ly/3jIX3D3>

Don't see your city? Here's why:

There's 356 municipalities in Alberta, and although it would have been amazing to host an event for each one, a lot of time and resources go into making these work - we are focusing on these four because the incumbent (or current Mayor) isn't seeking re-election, and at the time of planning these event there were more than two mayor candidates announced. If you live in a city that isn't represented and you want support talking to the mayor candidates in your city or town, email accessibility@vadsociety.ca and we will do our best to make something work for you! Thanks for understanding. Learn more: <https://vadsociety.ca/news-and-events/events/municipal-elections-2021>



Where Does Disability Fit Into the 2021 Federal Election Platforms of Canada's Major Political Parties?

Get informed this federal election so you can cast your vote in line with the needs of Canadians with disabilities. The federal parties are making a number of pledges to improve accessibility and disability benefits. Here is a list compiling promises related to disability made so far:

The Conservatives pledge to:

- Double the Disability Supplement of the Canada Workers Benefit from \$713 to \$1500.
- Work with provinces to reduce penalties of employment income to disability benefits.
- Commit an additional \$80 million a year to the Enabling Accessibility Fund to:
 - Provide grants, funding, and other incentives to small businesses for becoming more accessible.
 - Provide grants and support for assistive technology and other accommodations needed by workers with disabilities.
- Improve existing programs to help Canadians with disabilities participate in the workforce.
- Make it easier for Canadians with disabilities to qualify for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC) and the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) by reducing the number of hours of therapy per week required by the life-sustaining therapy criterion, from 14 hours to 10.*
- Implement a Lifelong Disability Benefit for moderately to severely injured veterans



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*Needing life-sustaining therapy is one of four possible criteria to be eligible for the DTC. Individuals must meet only one of the criteria to be eligible.
 (O’Toole and Conservative Party of Canada 2021, 135–36)

While the Liberal Party has not released their official platform yet, Registered Liberals resolved in a policy prioritization vote at their 2021 national convention to:

- Guarantee a liveable income to families with disabilities.
- Implement a negative income tax as a basic income.
- Match assured income for the severely handicapped benefits offered by the provinces and territories up to \$2500 a month.
- Support the creation of a national autism strategy with \$15.4 million over two years.
- Update the assessments for the Disability Tax Credit, so that an estimated 45,000 additional people will qualify.
- Provide \$3 billion over five years, starting in 2022-23, to ensure provinces and territories provide a standard of care in their long-term care homes.
- Guarantee a liveable income to families with disabilities.

- Help children with disabilities by improving the physical accessibility of child-care centres through funding of \$29.2 million over two years.

The New Democrats pledge to:

- Uphold the United Nations’ Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and strengthen the Accessible Canada Act to make and enforce accessibility standards more quickly and efficiently.
- Expand income support programs to ensure people with disabilities are guaranteed a liveable income
- Expand disability employment programs.
- Extend Employment Insurance (EI) sickness benefits by 50 weeks.
- Implement universal pharmacare and dental care for all Canadians.
- Restore door-to-door mail delivery.
- Build accessible housing communities across the country.
- Develop a national autism strategy that will focus on research, access to services, employment, and accessible housing options.

FEDERAL VOTER FORUM

Tuesday, September 7th, '21
6 PM TO 7:30 PM

(Register online)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82812171011?pwd=MTA5MkZkMTA5RzVlYnd0QkQ=>



Nuts and Bolts of Federal Parties using a poverty lens

Four Major Parties: Conservative Party of Canada, Green Party of Canada, Liberal Party of Canada, New Democratic Party of Canada.

- 6:00 pm Welcome
- 6:10 pm Overview of poverty lens
- 6:45 pm Community Discussion
- 7:15 pm Meet Candidates
- 7:25 pm Closing

NUTS & BOLTS OF FEDERAL PARTIES
USING A POVERTY LENS (Online forum)
ASL and closed captioning provided

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wmCMbEwMTAS-f6Vy6Ynd0qQ

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