Appearance of the Chief Electoral Officer on the Report on the 45th General Election of April 28, 2025

Fact Sheets	Lead
Cost	
Cost of 45th General Election	OCFO
Voting Services	
Electoral services enhancements for Indigenous communities	PACE
Voter Information Cards delay (content; replacement VICs, adaptation Nunavut)	EEI
Vote on Campus	EEI
Advance poll turnout, wait times and counting process	EEI
Special ballot counting process	EEI
National Special Ballots not returned to Elections Canada headquarters	EEI
Administrative count of Uncounted Ballots in Coquitlam – Port Coquitlam, Cape Breton—Canso—Antigonish and Northumberland —Clarke	EEI
Flooding and voting services in Kashechewan and Neskantaga (adaptations)	EEI
Political Entities	
Candidate nomination process (endorsement, strategic withdrawal, etc.)	LS
Third party financing regime	PF
IT / Security	
Elections Canada's website disruptions on election night	DT/PACE
Election security (physical, cybersecurity)	DT
Communicating with electors	
Social media monitoring (trends, treating inaccurate information)	PACE
Voter Information Campaign	PACE
Stakeholder Mobilization: Inspire Democracy Program	PACE
Education initiatives	PACE

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Supporting documentation	Lead
Complaints (number, trends)	PACE/IRPPA
Election by the numbers	EEI/PF/PACE
Cost of general elections (43rd to 45th)	CFO
MP questions – 45th Parliament	IRPPA
Petition e-6573 – Democratic Process	IRPPA

**Binder prepared for the appearance of the Chief Electoral Officer before the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs on October 2, 2025, on the Report on the 45th General Election of April 28, 2025.*

Appearance of the Chief Electoral Officer on the Report on the 45th General Election of April 28, 2025

Fact Sheet

Cost of 45th General Election

Key Messages

- **The revised estimated cost** of delivering the 45th federal general election (GE) as of **May 2025** is **$570M** or approximately $19.98 for each registered elector.
- **Previous estimates** from **February 2025** published on Elections Canada's (EC) website and included in EC's 2025-26 Main Estimates and Departmental Plan were at **$536M** or approximately $18.61 for each registered elector.
- Updates to the estimated cost of the 45th GE will be published on EC's website as they become available. The final cost of a general election is published once all the expenditures have been processed.

Facts

- The cost of delivering a GE is typically spread out over three years and includes expenditures incurred well after election day, such as reimbursements for parties and candidates. Most of the cost of delivering the 45th GE will be incurred in fiscal year 2025–2026, given that election day was on April 28, 2025.
- The estimated cost includes expenditures related to delivering and closing out the election, which includes reimbursements to parties and candidates for eligible election expenses.

Estimated Cost of the 45th General Election as of May 2025	
	(in 2025 dollars)
Conduct of the election and close-out activities [1]	$487.3 million
Reimbursement of election expenses to parties and candidates (includes subsidies to candidates' auditors)	$82.7 million
Total estimated delivery cost	**$570.0 million**
Estimated delivery cost per elector	$19.98

Readiness activities conducted before writs are issued [2]	$216.4 million

Footnotes

[1] Estimate of costs incurred during and after the election—including for the recruitment and training of approximately 230,000 election workers and worker service fees—to print ballots and lists of electors, to lease local offices and polling places, to ship election materials, to run communication campaigns, to hire temporary staff and to deploy IT equipment and telecommunications.

[2] Actual costs incurred between October 2021 and March 22, 2025 to maintain readiness to deliver an election at any time under a minority government, including to replenish and prepare election materials, to conduct pre-event assignments in the electoral districts, to hire temporary staff at Elections Canada headquarters, and to procure IT equipment and services.

Appearance of the Chief Electoral Officer on the Report on the 45th General Election of April 28, 2025

Fact Sheet

Electoral Services Enhancements for Indigenous communities

Key Messages

- The goal for this election was to offer in community election day and early voting services to all Indigenous communities that wanted them.
- Returning Officers (ROs) began engaging First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities well in advance of the election to plan election services with them to meet community needs and capacity.
- These initial steps towards our longer-term work with Indigenous communities resulted in an 127% increase in early voting services within Indigenous communities and an 8% increase in election day services.
- While we were able to better serve Indigenous communities overall in collaboration with them, I deeply regret that some electors in Nunavik were not able to cast their vote. These shortcomings are unacceptable and underscore that important of work remains.

Facts

- In remote, isolated or low-density communities, many of which Indigenous, the *Canada Elections Act* (the Act) permits Elections Canada (EC) to offer advance voting services of a varying length when the full four-days of voting is not feasible, rather than assigning these communities to the "nearest" place where the full four-days is offered.

- By leveraging this aspect of the Act during the 45th general election (GE), EC offered more flexible in-community voting services to remote, isolated, low-density communities, including Indigenous communities that wanted such services.

Indigenous Electoral Services Review (IESR)

- Following the 44th GE, recognizing the fact that many Indigenous electors continue to face barriers to electoral participation, EC undertook an Indigenous Electoral Services Review (IESR), which was completed in November 2024. The final report published on EC's website outlines a path forward to meet the needs and perspectives of Indigenous peoples who wish to participate in federal election in collaboration with them. This work will take time.

- During the IESR, and in preparation for the 45th GE, initiatives were piloted that responded to what was said in the cross country "Listening Sessions". One such initiative involved ROs communicating with and wherever possible visiting Indigenous communities starting in May of 2023 to understand their realities, establish relationships and plan election services with them.

- Providing accessible, culturally appropriate services to Indigenous electors is an important aspect of reconciliation. For this past election, EC began implementing culturally relevant outreach well in advance of the election, expanding service in Indigenous languages and tailoring voting options to meet community needs and capacity.

- As part of this engagement, ROs were able to discuss with communities whether more flexible advance polling options would better serve them and collaborate to decide which of the flexible services best met their needs.

- Securing suitable locations and enough workers for four full days is a recurring challenge. Without adjustments to the service model, many electors in smaller or isolated communities would be assigned to advance polling places located in larger population centres, which would have required them to travel more than 100 kilometres and for some fly-in communities it would have meant travel by airplane. This would make it difficult or impossible for many electors to take advantage of this service offering.

- To address this issue, communities who could not host an advance poll for four days were offered the option of operating their advance poll over one or a few days or with reduced hours. One hundred and seventeen communities chose this option as the approach that best suited their needs.

- When neither the regular or flexible advance poll option met the needs of certain communities, due to cultural activities such as hunting or other scheduling conflicts, Additional Service Point (ASP) voting kiosks were offered. The ASP kiosks offer voting services to groups of electors who face barriers to standard voting options. They can be open for up to a few days, typically from the day all candidates have been confirmed (Day 19) to the day before regular advance polls (Day 11). They are a type of "pop-up" office where the elector can register and vote using the Special Ballot voting process. A total of 35 Indigenous communities opted for this approach ensuring that voting services were available at times that best suited the communities' needs.

- Just ahead of the 45th GE, the Chief Electoral Officer approved an Indigenous Inclusion Program Pilot to advance the strategic objectives established from our IESR completed in November 2024.

Nuvavut

Nunavut – Use of Indigenous Languages

- In Nunavut—where the territorial *Official Languages Act*[i] recognizes the Inuit Language, English and French as official languages—EC took extra steps to ensure that voting was accessible to electors who do not speak English or French. As in the 44th GE, the agency provided large-format posters with the image of the ballot in Inuktut, which were displayed at polling places, along with smaller reference posters placed on voting tables to assist electors in marking their ballot. To ensure accurate representation of candidates' names in Inuktut, political parties and candidates were invited to voluntarily submit translations or transliterations of their names for inclusion on the posters.

- While EC had planned to implement a new pilot project in Nunavut to include candidates' and party names in Inuktut on regular ballots and allow electors to use Inuktut on special ballots during the 45th GE, the agency reverted to using posters as the necessary parliamentary approvals for the pilot had not been finalized before the start of the election

period.[1] EC also translated several materials into Inuktut, including recruitment messages for election workers. To further support language accessibility at the polls, every effort was made to recruit election workers who spoke at least one Inuit language.

- Beyond the work it did to translate materials into Inuktut in Nunavut, EC offered interpretation services in over 20 Indigenous languages throughout the election period. These services were available both by phone and, upon request, in person at polling places, thereby reducing language barriers that might otherwise have discouraged voter participation.

- The agency also ran an Indigenous Elder and Youth Program,[ii] which placed Elders and youth at advance and election day polling places in Indigenous communities. Their presence helped reflect cultural protocols and traditions, creating a welcoming and respectful environment for Indigenous electors.

Voting Services

- In Nunavut 24 ordinary polling locations, 15 advanced polling locations and two ASP were planned with community leadership.
- Advanced polls were unable to open in Kugluktuk on days 9, 8 and 7 and in Qamani'tuaq (Baker Lake) on Day 8 due to weather conditions with late poll openings in 8 other communities.
- On election day, five polls opened late.

Nunavik

- During the 45th GE, there were issues in Abitibi—Baie-James—Nunavik—Eeyou, particularly in Nunavik, where some polling stations opening with reduced hours or did not open at all.
- Forty complaints were received from the electoral district relating to service failures in Nunavik.
- EC has launched a review the circumstances that led to some electors not being able to vote in Nunavik. We will publish the findings.
- Our intention moving forward is to engage and collaborate with organizations and communities on an ongoing basis to better serve electors in Nunavik.

Outreach and Education Initiatives

- For this GE we expanded our work with contracted Indigenous organizations from 4 to 8, more actively recruited Indigenous Community Relations Officers from Indigenous communities and expanded our Indigenous Elder and Youth Program which is intended to offer a welcoming presence to help electors navigate the voting process at the polls to include advanced polls as well as election day polls.

- As part of the IESR, EC conducted an education pilot in Northwestern Ontario which began in November 2022. Our Indigenous Educator, in the weeks leading up to the election and during the election, supported the ROs in the pilot area but in particular

worked very closely with the new RO in Kenora. This entailed recruitment support; making connections with contacts for the ROs; hosting workshops and information sessions with students, teachers, and electors in the lead up to and during the election period; and connecting ROs with First Nations leadership to support work around community evacuations resulting from environmental factors.

- A mini-experiment ran in the Regina-Lewvan electoral district where two teachers delivered educational workshops in 2 high schools with high Indigenous student populations and recruited 31 students to work at the polls.

A table of voting services offered in Indigenous communities as compared to the 44th GE is provided below[2].

[2] The figures in the table represent the number of planned service offerings. As noted, there were instances where planned service offerings deviated from actual service offerings.

Elections Canada

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Fact Sheet

	45th GE Count			44th GE Count		Change in polling locations (% Change)	
	Ordinary	Advance	ASP[3]	Ordinary	Advance	Ordinary	Advance*
Number of Indigenous communities	**1,018**	**983**	**35**	**1,016**	**1,016**		
Indigenous communities excluded from proximity analysis due to not wanting a poll in community.	6	6	N/A	1	3		
Total communities with a site in their community or within proximity threshold	828	642	35	815	563	**+11 (+1%)**	**+113 (+20%)**
Within their community	497	181	35	460	95	**+36 (+8%)**	**+121 (+127%)**
Not within the community, but within the proximity threshold	334	461	0	355	468	**-25(-7%)**	**-8 (-2%)**
No proximate sites / No distance available	184	335	0	200	450	**-14(-7%)**	**-114(-25%)**

[3] These percentages include the ASP as this option was offered in lieu of an advanced poling location

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Fact Sheet

Voter Information Cards (VICs) delay (content; replacement VICs, adaptation Nunavut)

Key Messages

- In the 45th GE, many VICs were mailed past the statutory deadline of Day 24 owing to difficulties in confirming polling places.
- In this election, the difficulty of finding polling places delayed the mailing of 60% of voter information cards.

Facts

- The difficulties in confirming polling places stem from a combination of real estate market, snap election and a short election period, resulting in the inability to secure many of the planned locations.
- These included (but were not limited to):
- Difficulties within the changing real estate market have also made securing polling places increasingly complex. Many pre-identified polling places were owned by corporations, introducing additional layers of administrative requirements, liability considerations and paperwork that extended the time needed to secure agreements.
- In some cases, prospective landlords were also unwilling to consider short-term rental arrangements, further narrowing the pool of available venues.
- We experienced delays in Alberta and British Columbia, where the beginning of the writ period overlapped with spring break, and as schools are the most frequently used polling places, the temporary unavailability of school board representatives had a notable impact on site confirmation in those provinces.
- Some municipalities (including in Nunavut) were completing fiscal year-end activities when the election was called, which led to delays in confirming site availability and signing leases.
- The vast majority of VICs were received on time for the start of advance polls (Day 10).
- In 16 electoral districts (EDs) there was a risk that VICs would not be delivered in time for advance polls. Elections Canada (EC) alerted political parties and took measures to communicate the necessary information to the impacted electors.
- And, as in every election, errors or changes in polling places led to the need for replacement VICs in some EDs.

Appearance of the Chief Electoral Officer on the Report on the 45th General Election of April 28, 2025

Fact Sheet

Nunavut

- A combination of difficulties confirming polling locations and logistical challenges of mail delivery resulted in all VICs for Nunavut not being delivered on time for advance polls, impacting approximately 21,500 electors. In addition, some VICs had incorrect voting times (due to time zone issues) which were addressed with targeted media campaigns and liaison with local communities through the returning officer (RO).

- The VIC is a reliable proof of residence for electors, combined with another piece of identification. To mitigate the impacts of the VIC not being delivered by advance polls, the Chief Electoral Officer adapted the *Canada Elections Act* related to ID requirements to maintain accessibility to the vote for the electors. In this case, the identity and residence of an elector appearing on the list of electors who was unable to provide the required proof of identity was deemed to have been proven if the election officer is satisfied as to the identity and residence of the elector. Given the circumstances of electors living in Nunavut (low density population, low mobility), there is minimal integrity risk that electors who live elsewhere would travel to vote in the wrong ED.

- A communication strategy was deployed that included working with a public relations contractor to do local media outreach in English and Inuktitut, using mechanisms that are effective in Indigenous communities. Eighteen (18) local outreach officers from the local EC office were also equipped with key messages and printed material to proactively inform electors how to find out where they can vote. EC also communicated with various Indigenous partners to seek their advice and leverage their networks.

- The Stakeholder Mobilization team at EC provided key messages to their Nunavut stakeholders (contracted and non-contracted) on the VIC delay, as well as information on the list of advance and regular polling locations in the riding. In total, they contacted 10 organizations based in or that work in Nunavut. They also provided responses to individuals who reached out to the stakeholder mobilization team directly with their questions. Of note, one of the contracted organizations worked with an Inuk woman who translated EC's information about the Nunavut VICs into Inuktitut.

Bécancour–Nicolet–Saurel–Alnôbak and Mississauga–Erin Mills

- Some electors in the EDs of Bécancour–Nicolet–Saurel–Alnôbak (Quebec) and Mississauga–Erin Mills (Ontario) were assigned to the incorrect polling place following a procedural error.

- New corrected VICs were sent after the situation was addressed. However, due to the timing of the situation, some were not delivered in time for advance polls. A targeted communication strategy was put in place in those two EDs.

- The use of transfer certificates was allowed during advance polls in those two EDs and instructions to accelerate the process were provided to ROs to ensure electors who arrived at the incorrect location could be served as efficiently as possible.

- EC also alerted political parties and took measures to communicate the necessary information to the impacted electors.

- A limited number of enquiries and/or complaints from electors and political entities were received.

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Fact Sheet

Vote on Campus

Key Messages

- During the 45th general election (GE), Elections Canada (EC) opened 109 external service point offices (ESP) at 96 post-secondary institutions in 79 electoral districts.
- Delivered for the first time since 2019, for the first time in a minority government context and at the end of the students' semester, the program was a success and allowed more than 76,255 electors, mostly students, to vote on their campus.

Facts

- After a successful pilot during the 42nd GE, EC made Vote on Campus a national program. The program was delivered for the first time during the 43rd GE, with more than 110,000 electors voting at these offices.
- Due to challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the context of a minority government in 2021, the Vote on Campus program was not deployed during the 44th GE. However, following the 44th GE, EC committed to making Vote on Campus a permanent service offering.
- For the 45th GE, the program was deployed in 96 post-secondary institutions across 79 electoral districts in the country. At the time, 109 ESP offices were opened. 76,255 electors voted at these offices, with more than 69.9 % requesting to vote from outside their home electoral district.
- The voter turnout was lower for the 45th GE than it was for the 43rd GE. In 2019, the Vote on Campus took place during the first week of October, with peak student presence on most campuses. In 2025, the timing of the GE meant that the Vote on Campus days coincided with the end of the winter semester and occurred a few days prior to the Easter long weekend. This combination led to a low student presence on site. During the 43rd GE voting took place over five days, compared to four days during the 45th GE.
- During the 43rd GE, 111,237 electors voted using ESP offices, 26,289 (24%) of them voted from inside their home electoral district and 84,948 (76%) voted from outside their home electoral district.
- While any elector could vote by special ballot at these offices, most were students. According to the *Survey of Special Ballot Voters*, a majority (66.4%) of students chose to vote on campus because the location was convenient for them. This suggests that Vote on Campus services are particularly well suited to the needs of students and other electors who cannot easily vote at their assigned polling station.
- To participate in the Vote on Campus program, a post-secondary institution had to meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Have participated in the program during the 43rd GE in 2019
- Have a campus with more than 4,000 students who are eligible to vote
- Be recognized for serving Indigenous students
- Be recognized as a community hub
  - A community hub is a place that is used for other functions unrelated to post-secondary institution operations

- As in 2015 and 2019, this service offering relied on strong engagement efforts with post-secondary institution administrations (including through readiness activities conducted by returning officers and with national student associations).

- For the 45th GE, offices on campus were open from Day 15 (Sunday), 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and on Days 14, 13 and 12 for 12 hours a day.

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Fact Sheet

Advance poll turnout, wait times and counting process

Key Messages

- The trend of increasing voter turnout during advance polls continued during the 45th general election (GE).
- The increased voter turnout during advance polls did not cause significant issues but did lead to some longer wait times and a longer time to count ballots.
- Elections Canada (EC) made adjustments to try to reduce wait times and to ensure that preliminary results were available as soon as possible on election night.

Facts

Advance poll turnout

- Approximately 7.5 million electors voted at advance polls between Friday, April 18, and Monday, April 21, a 25% increase from the 44th GE.
- Friday and Monday, which coincided with Good Friday and Easter Monday, respectively, were the days with the highest turnout, with the Friday seeing an increase of approximately 45% increase from the 44th GE.
- The continued rise in popularity of advance polls shows an ongoing shift in voting habits. This marked trend has reached a point where it challenges the agency's ability to meet the expectations of electors for this particular service, at least for GEs that are not held on a fixed date. Setting a longer minimum election period for non-fixed date elections, as recommended in the Chief Electoral Officer's 2022 Recommendations Report, would help address this challenge.
- Introducing technology at the polls, such as the electronic list of electors, could also help address some of these challenges by improving the efficiency of the voting process and reducing wait times for electors.

Wait times

- Instances of long lineups were reported in certain areas, especially once polls opened on the Friday.
- Measures were taken to reduce wait times whenever additional resources were available, such as splitting polls alphabetically to double productivity, or adding a secondary worker to assist in the various documentation to reduce delays. Additionally, EC offered electors the option to vote at the local EC office (if located nearby). EC also informed electors, through communications products, of the daily trends to help electors know when there may be shorter line-ups at the polls.

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Fact Sheet

Counting of advance polls ballots

- Votes from advance polls take longer to count because each advance polling district includes a larger number of electors. The high turnout during advance polls meant that counting the ballots would take longer which would increase the wait time for reporting of results.

- The counting of ballots cast at advance polls must be conducted by the same election officers assigned to administer the vote during advance polls. However, many election officers assigned to work during advance polls were also assigned to an ordinary polling station given their experience. Additional election officers were recruited and trained for the purpose of counting.

- The CEO used his adaptation powers under s.17 of the *Canada Elections Act* (the Act) to allow for:

    - Election officers who were not assigned to an advance polling station to count the ballots;

    - The counting of the ballots cast at an advance poll to begin two hours before the close of voting hours on polling day.

- Starting the count earlier can have an impact on local campaigns by having to send observers that could otherwise be doing "get out to vote" activities, which was one of my considerations when deciding how long in advance the counting could start.

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Fact Sheet

Special ballot counting process

Key Messages

- More and more Canadians are choosing to vote by special ballots, a trend that is expected to continue in future elections.
- As we make our services more flexible, we need to ensure that our controls and processes evolve along with the expanded use of special ballots.
- As such, following the 45th general election (GE) I have committed to conducting an internal review of training, control mechanisms and processes that will look into what needs to be improved to continue serving Canadians.

Facts

Increased use of special ballots

- Preliminary numbers show that for the 45th GE, more than 1.2 million electors voted using a special ballot, a 17.8% increase from the 2021 pandemic GE and 89,4% increase from the 2019 GE.
- Elections Canada's (EC) electoral infrastructure has historically been centred around voting on election day; in contrast, special ballot voting relies on multiple channels of distribution, time-sensitive mail delivery and manual processing steps that are more susceptible to human error. These challenges are compounded when election periods are short.
- To recognize that with the evolution of the demand for special ballots the agency needs to make sure that its supporting infrastructure and controls also evolve, on May 15, I announced that EC will conduct an internal review of training, control mechanisms and processes.

Counting process

- The process for counting special ballots takes time because of security measures, including verifying outer envelopes and manually counting in front of witnesses.
- The counting of special ballots takes place at the returning officer's (RO) office on polling night. Counts are also held at EC's administrative centre in Ottawa for national electors, international electors, incarcerated electors, and electors who are part of the Canadian Forces.
- Unlike the ballots received at EC's administrative centre, those received at the office of the RO cannot be counted until after the close of polls in the electoral district on election day. Given the volume of special ballots received at EC's administrative centre, counting begins

on a date the Chief Electoral Officer sets, if no earlier date is set (i.e.: Day 10 for the 45th GE), five days before election day.

- However, counting of special ballots at EC's administrative centre continues on election night and sometimes in the days following. This is because ballots can be returned up until 6:00pm on election day and some arrive from Canada Post just before the deadline (i.e: over 13K during the 45th GE).
- Integrity measures employed during the count of special ballots mean that the count takes time. These include:
    - Verifying all outer envelopes to make sure that they meet the legal criteria to be counted, prior to counting special ballots
    - Having election officers count special ballots in front of witnesses, including candidates or their authorized representatives or authorized representatives of political parties, as with all other ballots.

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Fact Sheet

National Special Ballots not returned to Elections Canada headquarters

Key Messages

- On May 1st, 2025, Elections Canada (EC) was informed that 822 national special ballots cast by electors from 74 electoral districts (EDs) across the country had mistakenly been kept at the office of the returning officer (RO) for Coquitlam–Port Coquitlam during the 45th general election (GE).
- A few days later, we informed all registered political parties of the situation and published a news release.
- Building on the initial evaluation of the factors contributing to the incident, I have asked for an internal review of training, control mechanisms and processes to assess the situation further and make improvements before the next GE.

Facts

- Section 239(1) of the *Canada Elections Act* states that in order to be counted, special ballots must be received by the special voting rules administrator in the National Capital Region no later than 6:00 p.m. on polling day (April 28, 2025).
- On May 1st, it was discovered that 822 national special ballots cast by electors for 74 EDs across the country had remained in the custody of the Coquitlam – Port Coquitlam RO's office and had not been returned to Elections Canada Headquarters (ECHQ) by the legislated deadline of Day 0 (April 28, 2025), 6:00 p.m. (ET) to be counted.
- Initial findings reported a total of 822 ballots. Upon conducting the administrative count, a transcription error was discovered, and the corrected total was determined to be 821.
- Staff in the local RO's office misunderstood special ballot rules due to differences between federal and British Columbia's provincial regulations. On May 1st, the RO's office, having received no instructions on counting these ballots, reviewed the guidelines and discovered the error in their handling. On the same day, they notified ECHQ of the mistake.
- EC conducted an analysis and confirmed that these ballots would not have affected the preliminary results in any of the 74 EDs.
- In many of these EDs, the validation process had already been completed. For the ballots to be included in the official results, they would have needed to be counted prior to validation.
- Proceeding with a count in the remaining EDs would have resulted in some ballots being counted while others were excluded and could have compromised voter secrecy in certain cases. For these reasons, the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) decided not to adapt the legislation to enable the count in EDs where validation had not yet been completed. To

show the intention of electors, the CEO requested that an administrative count be conducted even though the uncounted ballots would not have impacted the results in impacted ridings. The tally will be published alongside the official voting results and in the *Special Ballot Report for the 45th General Election*, except in those instances where the secrecy of the vote could not be protected.

- Through the Advisory Committee of Political Parties forum, registered political parties were informed of the situation and a table with the distribution of these ballots by electoral district was shared with them. A news release was also published.

- EC will undertake an internal review of training, control mechanisms and processes to assess the situation further. This will include identifying preventative measures to mitigate future occurrences and determining additional controls.

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Fact Sheet

Administrative Count of Uncounted Ballots in Coquitlam – Port Coquitlam, Cape Breton—Canso—Antigonish and Northumberland —Clarke

Key Messages

- Between May 1st and May 12th, 2025, Elections Canada (EC) was informed of one instance where national special ballots were not counted and mistakenly kept at the office of the returning officer (RO) and two instances where local special ballots were not counted.
- To show the intention of electors, I requested that an administrative count be conducted even though the uncounted ballots would not have changed the overall results in the impacted ridings.
- The tally will be published alongside the official voting results and in the *Special Ballot Report for the 45th General Election*, except in those instances where the secrecy of the vote could not be protected.

Facts

- Subsection 540 (4) of the *Canada Elections Act* (CEA) is the authority under which EC has proceeded with the administrative count. Only staff authorized by the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) performed the administrative count.
- Candidate representatives did not observe the count as it was not a count under Division 6 or 7 of the CEA but an administrative inspection of the ballots by the CEO and authorized members of his staff.
- To ensure proper maintenance of the secrecy of the vote, particularly in electoral districts (EDs) with five or fewer special ballots impacted, procedures were developed to separate the teams responsible for verifying the outer envelope from those conducting the administrative count.

<u>Coquitlam–Port Coquitlam</u>

- On May 1st, it was discovered that 822 national special ballots cast by electors for 74 EDs across the country had remained in the custody of the Coquitlam – Port Coquitlam RO's office. In order to be counted, they should have been returned to Elections Canada Headquarters (ECHQ) by the legislated deadline of Day 0 (April 28, 2025), 6:00 p.m. (ET).
- Initial findings reported a total of 822 ballots. Upon conducting the administrative count, a transcription error was discovered, and the corrected total was determined to be 821.
- Staff at the local RO office in Coquitlam—Port Coquitlam misunderstood special ballot rules due to differences between federal and British Columbia's provincial regulations. Two days after polling day, the RO's office, having received no instructions on counting these

ballots, reviewed the guidelines and discovered the error in their handling. They promptly notified ECHQ of the mistake.

- EC conducted an analysis and confirmed that these ballots would not have affected the preliminary results in any of the 74 EDs.

- Through the Advisory Committee of Political Parties forum, registered political parties were informed of the situation and a table with the distribution of these ballots by electoral district was shared with them. A news release was also published.

Cape Breton—Canso—Antigonish

- On May 8th, 2025, EC was informed that 235 local special ballots cast by electors within the riding had mistakenly not been counted at the office of the RO for Cape Breton—Canso—Antigonish. To be included in the official results, they would have need to be counted prior to validation.

    - The box containing the valid outer envelopes was not included in the count on polling night. Upon clearing the office in preparation to close it, the box containing the ballots was discovered.

Northumberland—Clarke

- On May 12th, 2025, EC was informed that 232 local special ballots cast by electors within the riding had mistakenly not been counted at the office of the RO for Northumberland—Clarke. To be included in the official results, they would have need to be counted prior to validation.

    - The ballot box containing the valid outer envelopes was not included in the count on polling night. Upon clearing the office in preparation to close it, the box containing the ballots was discovered.

- In addition to the administrative count, the CEO announced via a news release that EC will conduct and internal review of training, control mechanisms and processes, which will allow EC to evaluate the training provided to employees and the controls that are in place for processing special ballots, with the intent to make improvements before the next general election. This will include identifying preventative measures to mitigate future occurrences and determining additional controls.

Appearance of the Chief Electoral Officer on the Report on the 45th General Election of April 28, 2025

Fact Sheet

Flooding and voting services in Kashechewan and Neskantaga (adaptations)

Key Messages

- During the 45th general election (GE), some electors in the communities of Kashechewan and Neskantaga in northern Ontario were evacuated due to floods, while others remained within the communities.

- On April 24, I issued two adaptations to the *Canada Elections Act* (the Act) to offer evacuated electors an opportunity to register and exercise their right to vote on polling day.

Facts

- Subsection 17(1) of the Act provides that during an election period or within 30 days after it, if an emergency, an unusual or unforeseen circumstance or an error makes it necessary, the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) may, for the sole purpose of enabling electors to exercise their right to vote or enabling the counting of votes, adapt any provision of this Act and, in particular, may extend the time for doing any act or may increase the number of election officers or polling stations.

Kashechewan

- Due to risks of spring flooding, some electors in Kashechewan (35044 – Kapuskasing—Timmins—Mushkegowuk) were evacuated inside of their electoral district (ED) mainly in Timmins, but also in Kapuskasing, Kirkland Lake and Val-Rita. An additional service point was also provided at the Crowne Plaza hotel (April 26, 2025 and April 27, 2025) near the Toronto airport where some residents and aid workers were reallocated.

- As a result, the CEO adapted the Act to:

    - allow the returning officer (RO) of Kapuskasing-Timmins-Mushkegowuk to establish two additional polling stations for the polling division and electors affected by the floods in Timmins and in Kapuskasing (these were established for reduced hours in the RO/AARO offices within the ED).

    - allow electors of that polling division to apply for a transfer certificate to vote at another polling station in the same ED.

    - provide for alternative voting services (Kashechewan residents evacuated outside their ED in Toronto).

Neskantaga

- Following the contamination of a local health facility, some electors in Neskantaga (35108 – Thunder Bay—Superior North) were evacuated outside of their ED in the ED of Thunder Bay—Rainy River.

- As a result, the CEO adapted the Act to:

- allow the RO of Thunder Bay—Superior North to establish a polling station in another ED on polling day, which bordered the affected ED and was located where the majority of evacuees were located, and to establish an additional polling station for the polling division and electors affected by the contamination in the city of Thunder Bay;
- allow electors appearing on the list of electors of that polling division in Thunder Bay—Superior North to vote without proof of identity of residence if the election officer was satisfied as to the identity and residence of the person intending to vote (the poll workers were members from the community, which made this adaptation possible).

- For both communities, posters were placed in hotels to advise electors to visit or contact the RO office to get information about how, when and where to vote. Social media posts were shared as well with community leaders to help spread the word to evacuees of their options for voting.

- For both communities, polls were also established within the affected communities for the electors that were not evacuated.

Appearance of the Chief Electoral Officer on the Report on the 45th General Election of April 28, 2025

Fact Sheet

Candidate nomination process (endorsement, strategic withdrawal, etc.)

Key Messages

- During the 45th general election (GE), political parties reported issues and challenges to Elections Canada (EC) around the candidate nomination process, which is designed in the *Canada Elections Act* (the Act) around candidates and not political parties.

- The Act prescribes the requirements and timing for the nomination and endorsement of candidates. I made several recommendations in 2022 to help simplify the candidate nomination process. Notably, I recommended a process for pre-registering candidates to reduce the possibility for last minute mix-ups. Furthermore, I proposed establishing clear authority for parties to withdraw their endorsement even after a candidate has been accepted, and to endorse a replacement candidate. I may consider further recommendations based on the experience of political parties and candidates during the 45th GE.

- EC will focus on improving instructions and training for political entities and returning officers (ROs) on the process and prescription around the candidate nomination process.

Facts

Legislative provisions

- The deadline prescribed by the Act to submit a complete application for candidacy (close of nominations) is the 21st day before election day, at 2 p.m. local time. The ROs must confirm or reject the application within 48 hours following the submission of the nomination paper.
    - Prospective candidates and political parties are advised at the beginning of the election to submit their nomination paper early to have time for corrective measures in case of issues with their application.

- The deadline prescribed by the Act for a political party to endorse a candidate is 24 hours before the close of nominations. A political party must supply complete and accurate information of all their endorsed candidates to EC and cannot withdraw their endorsement of a confirmed candidate.

- A political party can endorse a new candidate if the previous candidate was not confirmed, dies or withdraws before the close of nominations.
    - A candidate can withdraw until 5 p.m. on the 21st day before election day (three hours after the close of nominations).

Elections Canada

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Fact Sheet

Issues and Challenges

- Once an endorsed candidate is confirmed, the party may not withdraw its endorsement. This is true even if the party is seeking to change the endorsement before Day 22 at 2p.m. (the endorsement deadline). In such a case the only way for the party to "unendorse" a confirmed candidate is if the candidate themselves withdraws in accordance with the requirements of the law. If the candidate does this and the party still has time to submit an endorsement of a new candidate, they may do so.

- The time between the deadlines for submitting the names of endorsed candidates and the close of nominations creates a period of risk for political parties if there are issues with their prospective candidate's application.

    - For example, if a party endorses a candidate by the deadline (22nd day before election day) and the candidate decides to not run and the deadline has passed, the party cannot endorse an alternate candidate.

    - A party can endorse a new candidate before the close of nomination if the previous one withdraws. However, candidates can withdraw up to three hours after the close of nomination, leaving the party unable to endorse a new candidate since the nomination is closed.

- Prospective candidates can submit their application online or in person at the local EC office. However, various types of issues were reported during the nomination period, including user issues with the online system, from both prospective candidates and ROs. EC will focus on training and instructions for both parties and ROs for future election cycles.

Recommendations (2022)

- In 2022, I made recommendations to Parliament, including a recommendation to allow for the registration of candidates in the period before the election period. Allowing for the earlier registration of candidates would allow parties to better plan and avoid some of the last-minute complications that arise in the current nomination process.

- I also recommended that parties be allowed to withdraw their endorsement of a "pre-registered" candidate until a reasonable point before the close of nominations and to endorse a replacement candidate. This recommendation would deal with the concern that parties have raised that they are unable to "unendorse" candidates once they have been confirmed.

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Fact Sheet

Third party financing regime

Key Messages

- A third party is a person or group that wants to participate in or influence elections other than as a party, an electoral district association, a nomination contestant or a candidate.
- Foreign third parties cannot register and cannot incur expenses for regulated activities during the election.
- Overall, 109 third parties registered during the general election (GE).

Facts

Registration

- A third party must register immediately after it conducts one or more regulated activities during the election period with combined expenses totalling $500 or more.
- A third party is eligible to register if it is:
    - an individual who is a Canadian citizen or permanent resident or who lives in Canada
    - a corporation carrying on business and incorporated in Canada
    - a foreign corporation carrying on business in Canada, as long as its primary purpose in Canada during the election period is not to influence electors to vote or refrain from voting
    - a group, if a person responsible for the group is a Canadian citizen or permanent resident or lives in Canada
- Foreign third parties cannot register and cannot incur expenses for regulated activities.
- Registration of third parties opened on March 23, the first day of the election period. 109 third parties were registered.
    - Of those, 2 third parties registered after election day.
- Of the 109 third parties that were registered, 59 were corporations or trade unions, 26 were groups with a governing body, 17 were groups without a governing body, and 7 were individuals.

Funding

- Individuals who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents, and businesses or other organizations that operate in Canada, can make contributions to a third party. There is no limit on the amount of the contributions.
- A third party can also use its own funds to finance its regulated activities.

- A third party must not use funds from a foreign entity to finance its regulated activities.
- If a third party uses its own funds and has revenues from a mix of foreign and domestic sources, an amount no greater than its domestic funding can be used.

Regulated activities and expenses limits

- In an election period, regulated activities are election advertising, partisan activities and election surveys.
- There are limits on a third party's expenses for regulated activities that take place during the election period. The limits are adjusted for inflation each fiscal year. For this GE the limits were $602,700 overall and $5,166 for a given electoral district.
- During a GE, expenses for regulated activities always count against the overall limit, no matter where the activities take place or who is targeted. They may also count against the local limit if they promote or oppose a particular candidate.

Reporting

- Registered third parties must file up to two interim returns during the election, if they:
    - conduct regulated activities in the election period with combined expenses of $10,000 or more, or
    - receive contributions totalling $10,000 or more and conduct regulated activities in the election period with combined expenses of $500 or more for regulated activities
- 27 third parties filed the first interim return (due on April 7), and 44 filed the second one (due on April 21).
- Final campaign returns are due four months after election day, no later than August 28.
    - As of September 8, 2025, 40 complete third party campaign returns had been received.
- For the first time, Elections Canada sent awareness letters to third parties that had not registered but had conducted activities that might require them to register.
- The third parties were identified from enquiries or complaints received by the Political Financing Branch. In total, 8 letters were sent. In response, 1 third party registered and 3 informed us that they did not believe they met the criteria for registration.
- 43 of 109 third party campaign returns are expected to be selected for audit, and audits are expected to be completed by Aug 28, 2026.

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Fact Sheet

Elections Canada's website disruptions on election night

Key Messages

- Canadians experienced difficulties accessing the Elections Canada (EC) website and online services on election night.
- Contingency measures were put in place to ensure electors were informed of the issue and knew how to find their assigned polling station.
- Ultimately, it was determined that the issue was caused by the inadequacy of the services provider's Web Application Firewall to handle the large number of new connections on election night.
- Steps have already been taken to avoid similar issues in the future.

Facts

- On election night, beginning at 7 p.m. (EST), Canadians experienced difficulties accessing the EC website and online services. This affected the ability of electors to confirm polling place information, which was particularly impactful for individuals residing in electoral districts where polls were still open.
- EC confirmed the issue was not the result of a cyber-attack and launched the disaster recovery website, a simplified version with critical information.
- The disaster recovery (DR) website was activated at 9:02 p.m. to offer basic services to users. The DR website provides a simplified, read-only user experience focused on critical content and service notices. Interactive features were temporarily unavailable. Public web traffic was redirected to the DR website until the primary website environment was stabilized, after which traffic was returned to the primary website.
- The Election Night Result (ENR) Web Application, which provides live results as ballots are counted, was also impacted, preventing some public users from accessing to the ENR application. However, media were able to access the election results through the Media Consortium which has a data feed of election results that was shared with participating media outlets, who then used the information to update their broadcast and website information
- The website was fully restored to normal operations just after 5 a.m. the following morning.
- The service provider conducted a Root Cause Analysis to investigate, explain and document the issue. The report indicates that the main cause of the service disruption was due to the inadequacy of the Web Application Firewall to handle the large number of new connections on election night. Measures are being implemented to remediate and prevent this type of issue from happening in the future.

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- Ongoing interactions between EC and the service provider with action items are being implemented to ensure service continuity during upcoming electoral events. Many were put in place for the recent by-election in Battle River—Crowfoot.

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Fact Sheet

Election security (physical, cybersecurity)

Key Messages

- The security of the electoral process both from a physical security standpoint and cybersecurity, is a priority concern for Elections Canada (EC).
- Throughout the election period, EC worked closely with national and local authorities to ensure the security and safety of electors, its workers and polling places. No cybersecurity incident disrupted services to Canadians or the administration of the electoral process in the 45th general election (GE); however, the agency remains vigilant to emerging threats and works closely with security partners.
- The environment showed heightened tensions (however lower than the 44th GE which seemed to be primarily related to geo-political concerns. There were considerably fewer security incidents at polling locations during the 45th GE compared to the 44th GE, however still more than the 43rd GE.

Facts

- EC has an integrated security program that includes personnel security, physical security and cybersecurity. These programs work together to ensure the security of the agency's operations, staff, assets and information.
- There are safeguards present at every stage of the electoral process. With the support of our security partners, we maintain up-to-date situational awareness of new and emerging threats.
- Throughout the 45th GE, there were 44 reported security incidents, out of which 29 instances where police were engaged. Three of these instances were related to physical altercations, three were related to criminal activities and the remaining twenty-three related to disruptive behaviour.
- Through engagement with security partners and leveraging their advice and guidance, EC further improved our security practices to align with shifts in the security environment. EC maintained daily contact with security partners (Communications Security Establishment Canada (CSEC), Canadian Security Intelligence Service, Global Affairs Canada, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and Public Safety daily during the electoral period to maintain strong environmental situational awareness.
- Prior to the 45th GE, the agency took several measures to strengthen its security posture including significantly increasing engagement with police of jurisdiction across Canada.
- EC Headquarters was in close contact with returning officers (ROs) throughout the election period to share information and mitigate potential security concerns. ROs are also trained in all areas of election administration including incident management.

- ROs engaged security firms as required to support safe election operations or where required by lease agreements.

- All agency staff and key field election administrator positions underwent security screening and had to achieve the appropriate security clearance to access agency infrastructure and information.

- EC has a comprehensive security awareness program that is mandatory for all staff and includes instructional videos, simulated phishing exercises, cyber security training, ongoing communications and simulated exercises using various scenarios.

- EC relies on the expertise of its federal security partners, in particular the CSEC, to ensure its IT infrastructure meets Government of Canada security requirements, including leveraging CSEC's Supply Chain Integrity assessment process.

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Fact Sheet

Social Media Monitoring (trends, treating inaccurate information)

Key Messages

- As part of its mandate to provide Canadians with accurate information about the federal electoral process, Elections Canada (EC) monitors the public information environment for information related to its mandate.
- During the 45th general election (GE), EC monitored the public information environment in 22 languages and covered 60 platforms.
- The monitoring of the public information environment allowed EC to proactively and reactively address inaccurate or misleading information about the federal electoral process.

Facts

- In addition to monitoring traditional media coverage EC monitored 60 different platforms as well as news websites, blogs, and online forums during the 45th GE. The Environmental Monitoring team monitored 22 different languages (full table below).
- Monitored social media platforms can be divided into different subgroups:
    - Typical social media platforms (e.g. Facebook, X, Reddit)
    - Video-sharing platforms (e.g. YouTube, TikTok, Rumble)
    - Niche social media platforms (e.g. 4Chan, GETTR, Gab)
    - Ethnic social media platforms (e.g. WeChat, VK, Little Red Book)
    - News websites and blogs
- Platforms are monitored through a monitoring tool using a query (Meltwater), neutral keyword searches on the platforms themselves, and following news article backlinks on mainstream platforms. EC does not monitor specific accounts or individuals.
    - No content that is marked “private” or shared with “friends-only” or posted within private groups (Snapchat, etc.) is monitored
    - No messages or messaging-only apps (WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, etc.) can be monitored
- Content is manually tagged with different narratives relevant to EC, a single post or comment may contain multiple narratives. The top 5 narratives in the environment were:

Rank	Proportion	Narrative	# of mentions
1	9.47%	Allegations of Chinese interference in Canadian elections	3,912
2	6.93%	Allegations that the next election will be rigged	2,861
3	6.74%	Allegations that Elections Canada is partisan / corrupt	2,785
4	4.07%	Allegations of U.S. interference in Canadian elections	1,679
5	4%	Apparent complimenting or defending Elections Canada	1,652

- The monitoring function also allowed EC to address several inaccurate narratives about the federal electoral process using social media posts, web content (including ElectoFacts) and videos.

- Those narratives included:
    - Inaccurate information about the use of pens vs pencils
    - Inaccurate information about ballot box custody and safeguards
    - Inaccurate information about non-citizens and safeguards in the voting process
    - Inaccurate information about names being crossed off the list when electors go vote

Platforms monitored:

Twitter/X	Facebook	Reddit	Instagram	TikTok	LinkedIn
FreeCanada	4Chan	Gab	Quora	News websites & blogs	YouTube
Tumblr	Snapchat	Threads	Substack	Telegram	OmegaCanada
Patriots.win	GETTR	Parler	Think Spot	MeWe	Minds
Librti	Orbys	BitChute	Rumble	Crowdbunker	Brighteon
Odysee	8kun	Counter Social	TRUTH Social	VK (VKontakte)	Yandex

OK.ru (Odnoklassniki)	WeChat	Weibo	Little Red Book	51.ca app	Baidu
QQ News	TouTiao	Guancha	Zhihu	LIHKG (Living in Hong Kong	YorkBBS
Douyin	Youku	Xigua	Bilibili	Tudou	Kuaisho
Naver Café	Daum	DCinside	Naver	Pinterest	Online forums
Bluesky	Mastodon				

Languages monitored:

French	English	Arabic	Russian	Ukrainian
Mandarin	Cantonese	Hindi	Punjabi	Marathi
Spanish	Portuguese	Korean	Tagalog	Ilocano
Romanian	Hungarian	Czech	Slovak	Belarussian
Urdu	Vietnamese*			

*capacity was more limited for that language

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Fact Sheet

Voter Information Campaign

Key Messages

- Elections Canada's (EC) goal is to be the authoritative source of accurate information about federal elections by reaching Canadians where they are, through proactive and responsive communications.
- To do this, EC conducts a multimedia national Voter Information Campaign (VIC) before and during federal elections to provide Canadians with all the information they need to register and vote in a federal election. While the VIC primarily targets the general population, targeted efforts reach groups who face higher-than-average barriers to participating in elections: youth, new Canadian citizens and ethnocultural communities, Indigenous electors, and electors with disabilities.
- The paid advertising campaign drives voters to a dedicated website and is complemented with organic social media, media relations, local and national outreach and responds to questions via its a public enquiry team.
- We also monitor the online environment to identify false or misleading content and promptly provide electors with the correct information through our various channels such as ElectoFacts, a repository of all official communications, boosted social media posts and proactive media pitches.

Facts

The VIC is a national multimedia campaign that provides Canadians with all the information they need to register and vote in a federal general election (GE). The campaign is delivered in four phases:

Phase I: Registration (Day 31–22)
Remind electors (Canadian citizens at least 18 years old) to check or update their voter information.

Phase 2: Voter Information Card (Day 21-15)
Inform electors that, if they are registered, they should receive a voter information card in the mail telling them where and when to vote and to contact EC if they did not receive a card or if it contains incorrect information.

Phase 3: Early Voting Options (Day 14–7)
Inform electors of the different options to vote in advance: at their assigned polling station on election day or advance polling days, at any EC office across Canada or by mail.

Phase 4: Election Day (Day 6–0)
Remind electors of the date of the election, operation hours of polling stations, eligibility criteria, that they can still register when they go vote, and to bring accepted ID.

And includes the following complementary campaigns:

Recruitment Campaign (Day 31-2)
Raise awareness on paid poll worker positions and encourage potential workers to apply online at elections.ca/jobs.

New Youth Campaign (Day 31-0)
Raise awareness on registration, voting options and election day.

Vote on Campus (Day 17-12)
Increase awareness of Vote on Campus registration and voting opportunities.

Electoral Integrity (33-0) – additional posts done post GE until day -16
Raise the level of public knowledge about safeguards in place to ensure electoral security and integrity.

Voting at a Local EC Office (Day 19-15) - NEW
Increase awareness of voting at a local EC office.

*We also invested additional effort to reach Indigenous electors.

- Scope:
    - Multimedia national campaign: radio and television spots, print, digital and social media ads, and out of home media
    - Direct mail campaign: Voter Information Card (distributed to every registered elector) and Guide to the Federal election (distributed to every household)
    - GE Website (new sections for priority groups and ElectoFacts)
    - Organic and promoted content on social media accounts: Facebook, Instagram, X and LinkedIn + new Ask Me Anything on Reddit
    - Products for local community outreach (Community Relation Officer Toolkit) and national outreach (Stakeholders): Handbook, infographics, posters, flyers, social media message templates
    - Headquarters and on-the-ground media relations (i.e. news releases and Media Guide)
    - Public enquiries services
    - Signage at polling locations (excludes wayfinding)
- EC develops some election information products, such as the undated Guide to the Federal Election and the Voter Identification Tear-Off Sheet, in up to 17 Indigenous languages and 33 heritage languages (in digital format only). Several products are also available in alternate formats (i.e. braille, Daisy, ASL-LSQ).

- The multimedia campaign included ads targeting Indigenous electors, including ads on Indigenous television and radio stations, print publications and websites (in French and English). The paid campaign included radio spots in 14 Indigenous languages, five (5) explainer videos in 13 Indigenous languages, and the Handbook for Indigenous Community Leaders being available in 16 Indigenous languages. In Nunavut the Guide was mailed to all households in Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun (added for this GE) French and English.

- The ratio of the investment in the 2 official languages is representative of the Canadian population. Approximately 75% is in English and 25% in French.

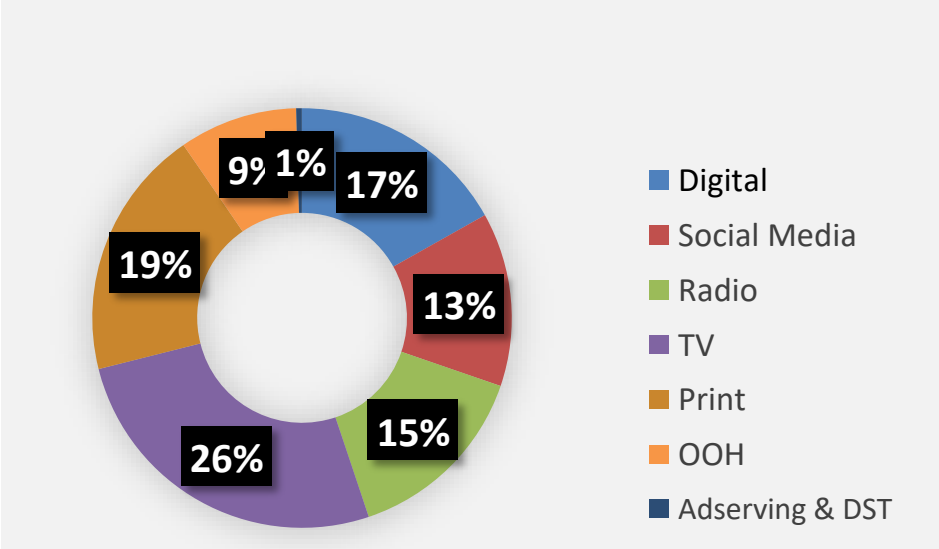
- EC works with two agencies to develop and implement the VIC - their expertise is essential to the successful delivery of the campaign: Acart Communications (creative development and production) and Cossette Communications (media planning and buy).

- Given the success of the campaign for the 43rd and the 44th and the minority government context, the same campaign creative was used for 45th, with some minor updates.

  According to the 44th GE National Elector Survey:

  - *96% ended up feeling at least somewhat informed about when, where and the ways to vote in the federal election (74% felt very well informed); and*
  - *94% were satisfied with the information they received form EC on the voting process.*

- The estimated media placement cost of the campaigns for the 45th GE is $ 14,9M (versus $ 16.7M for the 44th GE and $ 13M for the 43rd GE).



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Fact Sheet

Stakeholder Mobilization: Inspire Democracy Program

Key Messages

- The Inspire Democracy program is Elections Canada's (EC) national outreach program. It supports the agency's mandate to ensure that all Canadians can exercise their democratic rights to vote and be a candidate. It conducts targeted outreach activities and offers tools, information and opportunities to connect with our network and learn more about the ways to participate.
- The Inspire Democracy team maintains a large network of stakeholders consisting of organizations and individuals that are actively involved and work with audiences known to face barriers to electoral participation.
- For the 45th general election (GE), EC increased its network of organizations who shared EC's information and offered workshops delivered either by partners or directly by EC.

Facts

Elector Groups Known to Face Barriers to Electoral Participation

- Using evidence drawn from research and consultations, the program identifies groups who face barriers to participating in federal elections and works with external stakeholders to reduce those barriers.
- The following groups have been identified as priority target groups for the program: electors with disabilities, Indigenous electors and new electors (youth and new Canadians).
- The team also conducts outreach to other groups known to face barriers in some aspects of the electoral process. These include individuals for whom gender disproportionately affects their relationship with the electoral process (e.g. women running for office, and trans, non-binary and other gender-diverse electors concerned about the voter registration and identification processes); official language minority groups (particularly with regard to receiving adequate service at the polls); and electors experiencing homelessness.
- The Inspire Democracy program has developed a series of three informational toolkits that focus on the different ways to participate in the electoral process: Running in a Federal Election; Working in a Federal Election; and Registering and Voting in a Federal Election.

Engagement with stakeholders – Inspire Democracy program

- As part of its activities, the Inspire Democracy program puts contracts in place with key stakeholders to act as intervenors with groups of electors facing barriers to electoral participation. For the 45th GE, the Inspire Democracy program expanded its network of contracted organizations from 27 to 40, an increase of 48% compared to the 44th GE.

- For the 45th GE, EC increased its network of organizations. The overall growth of the network (contracted and non-contracted stakeholders) increased from 293 to approximately 900 organizations.

- These organizations shared EC's information in up to 50 languages and offered approximately 400 workshops delivered either by partners or directly by EC. These initiatives reached more than 38,000 electors in the year prior to and during the election.

- As part of the Electoral Safeguards Education Initiative, a Regional Outreach Coordinator was hired in the Edmonton area. Having a presence in the region significantly increased agency capacity to deliver in-person events in Alberta (53 events were delivered in less than 8 months reaching 1,155 people as a result of this pilot).

- The team attended approximately 260 events and engaged with just under 150,000 people in the period between the 44th GE and the 45th GE.

- Approximately 13,000 information products were distributed in 50 languages other than English or French (approx. 300% growth since the 44th GE). Chinese (traditional and simplified), Hindi, Punjabi and Plains Cree saw particularly large growth since the 44th GE.

Responding to emerging challenges

- For the 45th GE, the team played an important role in supporting the agency in its response to emerging challenges by engaging and sharing information with its network on the following:

    - Provided key messages to Nunavut stakeholders (contracted and non-contracted) on the delayed delivery of the Voter Information Card, as well as information on the list of advance and regular polling locations in the riding.

    - Leveraged renewed relationship with the Assembly of First Nations to provide timely information to First Nations electors on ID needed to vote (different rules in provincial vs. federal elections).

    - Supported targeted recruitment efforts in electoral districts unable to fill all positions on time for advance polling days.

    - Ensured electors residing in the Carleton riding had time to prepare and familiarize themselves with the long ballot before voting, including people with disabilities who may experience more challenges using the long ballot, by sharing information with 104 key organizations (contracted and non-contracted) within their network as well as members of the Advisory Group for Disability Issues.

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Education Initiatives

Key Messages

- Elections Canada's (EC) civic education program provides educators from all provinces and territories with learning resources, interactive tools, professional development opportunities and student-friendly information about elections in Canada.
- During a general election (GE), EC engages CIVIX to deliver Student Vote Canada, a student parallel election program that runs alongside the real federal election.
- For the 45th GE, EC also delivered an Indigenous Education Pilot in Northwestern Ontario as part of our Indigenous Electoral Services Review (IESR) and the Electoral Safeguards Education Initiatives, with regional educators in Surrey, BC and Markham, ON. A regional Outreach Coordinator was also hired in Edmonton, AB.

Facts

Background and program renewal

- The objectives of the civic education program are to:
    - Prepare and engage future voters to participate in electoral democracy when they're old enough
    - Equip teachers with the tools and support they need to confidently teach about elections and democracy
- Following an extensive program renewal, including a needs assessment, our renewed program launched in 2018.
- Our suite of 10, easy-to-use, turnkey resources make use of the rich content that EC has available in a student and teacher-friendly way, including maps, data and infographics. They are available in various formats, English and French, and versions for language learners and struggling readers. The resources are created for students in kindergarten to grade 12/secondaire V and are connected to curriculum outcomes in each province and territory.
- We consult with our Advisory Circle of Educators on best practices in education. Membership includes 18 educators from each province and territory, classroom teachers, Indigenous educators, school administrators, Ministry of Education officials, curriculum consultants and academics. These members continue to provide valuable feedback on resource updates and curriculum changes.

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Program results

- Educational resource interactions in the 2024-2025 fiscal year included 15,780 educational resource orders, views and downloads by educators, reaching an estimated 119,850 to 239,700 students across Canada. This number has nearly doubled from last year.

- During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the civic education team delivered 313 events (up 170% from last year), reaching approximately 19,331 people in the educational community. Most of these events were offered by regional educators (85%). Events include awareness activities such as booths at teacher conferences, workshops, classroom demonstrations, and webinars. Some key teacher conferences and events attended over the past year include:
    - Matawa Education Conference 2025 (Thunder Bay, ON)
    - 2025 Kivalliq Regional Teachers' Conference (Iqaluit, NU)
    - PEI Teachers Federation Annual Convention (Charlottetown, PE)
    - Congrès 2024 de l'Association Québécoise pour l'enseignement en univers social (Montreal, QC)
    - Teachers Institute on Canadian Parliamentary Democracy (Ottawa, ON)
- The program's robust online presence is key to allowing teachers to deliver our programs in classrooms. The Elections and Democracy website received 581,732 unique visitors, up 132% from last year.

- **During the GE-period, there was increased demand for Civic Education resources and programming.**
    - **4,726** physical resources ordered by **868** individual Canadian educators.
    - **1,807** teacher's guides downloaded.
    - **486,905** unique visitors to the Elections and Democracy website

Student Vote Canada

- During a federal election, we offer a special learning opportunity: Student Vote Canada. We engage CIVIX Canada to deliver the program.

- Student Vote is a parallel election that runs alongside the real election. It is an experiential learning opportunity where students get the chance to act as election workers and vote for the official candidates running in their school's riding, using authentic voting materials.

- In the 45th GE, 949,681 students from over 6,300 schools participated. All 343 electoral districts were represented.

- We know that this kind of authentic learning experience has an impact on developing engaged citizens and future voters by building the habits of active citizenship and demystifying the electoral process.

Indigenous Inclusion Program Pilot

- The Northwestern Ontario Indigenous Education Pilot, which was part of EC's IESR, ran from November 2022 to March 2024. This program continues as part of the Indigenous Inclusion Program Pilot.

- Led by an Indigenous education coordinator, the pilot helps build knowledge and trust with local Indigenous communities by delivering educational activities, attending meetings with local leaders and participating in community and cultural events.

- During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the Indigenous education coordinator delivered 53 activities to 5,839 students and electors. During the writ period specifically, they delivered 12 activities to 788 students and electors. These events included classroom and adult workshops on electoral process and working at an election, conference kiosks, and career fairs.

Safeguards Education Initiatives

- In response to reports of foreign interference during the 44th GE, the Electoral Safeguards Education Initiatives were launched to strengthen content about electoral safeguards in Civic Education and Stakeholder Mobilization programs and enhanced program delivery services to target audiences.

- In 2024, two regionally-based educators began delivering EC's civic education program, providing enhanced service in selected geographic areas and adapting to local needs and priorities (including language).

- EC's social media monitoring data showed that some language speaking groups were exposed to more mis- and dis-information that others. These included Mandarin, Cantonese and Punjabi. In response, the program hired two-regional educators in areas where those languages are most concentrated. One regional educator is located in

Markham, Ontario and delivers educational programming in English and Cantonese, and the other coordinator is located in Surrey, BC and delivers educational programming in English, French, and Punjabi.

- During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the regional coordinator in Markham, ON delivered 126 activities to 6,589 students and electors. During the writ period specifically, they delivered 37 activities to 1,579 students and electors. During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the regional coordinator in Surrey, BC delivered 73 activities to 2,505 students and electors. During the writ period specifically, they delivered 22 activities to 1,359 students and electors and worked closely with regional returning officers to support their outreach efforts. These events included classroom and adult workshops on electoral process and working at an election, conference kiosks, and career fairs.

- Additionally, a Regional Outreach Coordinator was hired in the Edmonton area. Having a presence in the region significantly increased agency capacity to deliver in-person outreach events in Alberta (53 events were delivered in less than 8 months reaching 1,155 people as a result of this pilot).

Elections Canada

Appearance of the Chief Electoral Officer on the Report on the 45th General Election of April 28, 2025

Complaints (number, trends)

Key Messages

- Elections Canada (EC) welcomes feedback from Canadians on all aspects of the electoral process. As of May 16, 14,182 complaints were received related to the 45th general election (GE) (compared in 17,000 in 44th GE; however, the 45th GE number will increase as paper forms are received and tallied).

- Electors provided feedback on their observations and experiences related to variety of topics, including:
    - Interactions with poll workers and polling operations (long lines/wait times)
    - Comments made by elected officials and candidates
    - Poll location suitability (location and accessibility)
    - Overall voting process (vote by mail, special ballot, voting in person)
    - Specific areas such as voter information cards, voter identification requirements and other accessibility issues

- More information on complaints will be provided once all feedback is captured an analysed as part of post-GE reporting.

Facts

Overall complaints

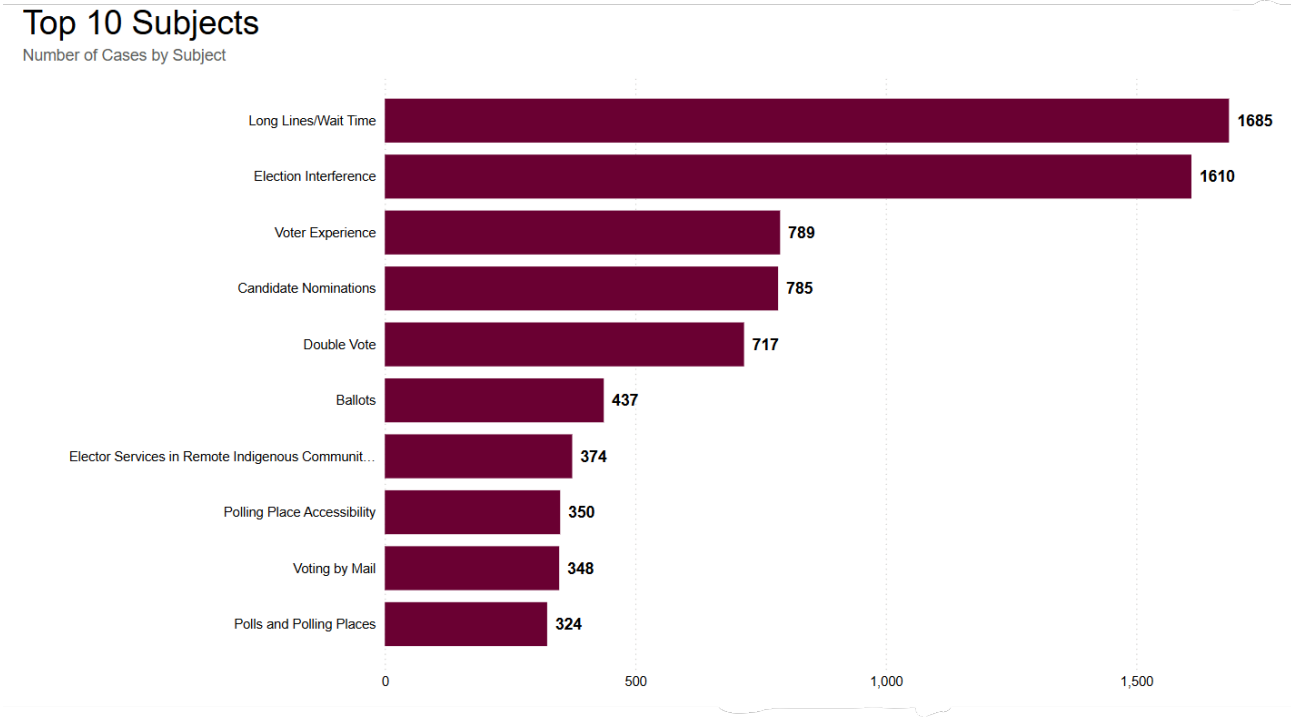
- During a GE, complaints can be submitted through an online form, by telephone, by email or by regular mail, and electors can file a complaint at a local EC office or at a polling place.

- Complaints are given the highest priority when an individual's right to vote is at stake. Such complaints are often dealt with immediately by providing the affected elector with the address of the polling place or the telephone number for the local EC office.

- In addition to filing complaints directly with EC, electors can submit complaints about the GE through other entities, such as the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages (OCOL) and the Canadian Human Rights Commission.

- Complaints related to a potential offence under the *Canada Elections Act* are referred to the Commissioner of Canada Elections for further investigation. Complaints related to potential offences involving robocalls or other voter contact services are referred to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission.

- To ensure that data on complaints about the electoral process are sound and presented in context, EC will publish further findings once the required analysis, review and categorization have been completed.
- Volumes of complaints received regarding specific cases:
    - Terrebonne – 59 submissions as of May 16 regarding the recount efforts.
    - Nunavik – 297 submissions as of May 16 regarding services to electors – with 40 submissions originating from that region itself.
    - The long ballot in Carleton generated 243 submissions as of May 16 with 24 submissions originating from the riding itself
    - The majority (1,383) of the submissions regarding “Election Interference” relate to the Alberta Premier's remarks (shown in the table below)



Official languages complaints

- Since the 44th GE, EC has worked with the OCOL to adapt the official languages complaint process to ensure a fast resolution of issues. This process allowed the agency and returning officers (RO) to quickly adjust services and respond to official languages complaints.

- EC has received 50 complaints related to the 45th GE through the OCOL. All complaints brought to our attention were quickly actioned with the collaboration of the relevant RO in order to address issues in a timely manner.
- EC is undertaking a thorough analysis of the official languages file, which will provide us with a better picture of the situation. Further information will be included in EC's retrospective report.

Elections Canada

Appearance of the Chief Electoral Officer on the Report on the 45th General Election of April 28, 2025

Election by the numbers

News Release

GATINEAU, Tuesday, April 29, 2025

- The 45th federal general election took place on Monday, April 28, 2025.
- To serve Canadians, Elections Canada opened 492 offices, hired some 230,000 people and offered around 7,200 advance and 65,000 election day voting desks in 343 electoral districts.
- Elections Canada's preliminary estimates indicate that 19,813,211* Canadians cast a ballot. This translates into a voter turnout rate of about 69.46%.
- An estimated:
  - **11,054,046*** voted at their polling station on election day or in their long-term care facility
  - **7,505,971*** voted at advance polls between Friday, April 18, and Monday, April 21
  - **928,311** voted by special ballot from within their electoral district
  - **267,733*** voted by special ballot from outside their electoral district (includes Canadian Armed Forces members, incarcerated electors, electors who voted on campus or at a hospital, and electors who were in Canada but outside their electoral district)
  - **57,440** electors living outside Canada voted by special ballot
- In the coming months, Elections Canada will finalize many of these estimated numbers and publish the Official Voting Results, along with other official reports.
- 16 registered parties were represented and 1,959 candidates were confirmed.

“I want to thank the some 230,000 people who helped deliver the election. Whether electors voted on election day or earlier at advance polls or by special ballot, election workers were there to serve them and to ensure that the integrity and secrecy of the vote was upheld.”

—Stéphane Perrault, Chief Electoral Officer of Canada

*Note: the numbers marked with an asterisk (*) were updated on May 7, 2025, following the completion of the validation process in all electoral districts except Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Source: https://www.elections.ca/content.aspx?section=med&dir=pre&document=apr2925&lang=e

Elections Canada

Appearance of the Chief Electoral Officer following the 45th General Election

COSTS OF GENERAL ELECTIONS

	Minority Governments				
	43rd G.E. (2019)		44th G.E. (2021)		45th G.E. (2025) [1]
	Actual Expenditures	In 2025 dollars	Actual Expenditures	In 2025 dollars	Estimated Cost
Number of Electoral Districts	338	338	338	338	343
Election Calendar Days	40	40	36	36	36
Number of Electors on Final List	27 373 058	27 373 058	27 509 158	27 509 158	28 525 638
Number of Voters	18 350 359	18 350 359	17 209 811	17 209 811	19 813 211
EC Headquarters and Field Offices ($ M)	$343,4	$414,2	$419,0	$492,1	$487,3
Reimbursements to Parties and Candidates ($ M)	$64,8	$78,2	$69,9	$82,1	$82,7
Total Delivery Cost of Election ($ M)	**$408,2**	**$492,4**	**$488,9**	**$574,2**	**$570,0**
Delivery Cost per Elector ($)	**$14,91**	**$17,99**	**$17,77**	**$20,87**	**$19,98**
Readiness Activities	$92,5	$111,6	$128,0	$150,3	$216,4

[1] The costs and number of electors on final list for the 45th general election are not final and as published on EC's website.

Cost Comparison Note: Although the numbers have been adjusted to account for inflation (Indicated in 2025 dollars columns), there are other factors that influence the costs of general elections. Key factors are the number of electoral districts and polling stations, legislative changes, service improvements to electors, the length of the electoral calendar, minority governments, increase to fees and allowances paid to thousands of election workers, and the number of candidates and political parties eligible for reimbursement of election expenses, and their spending levels.

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Elections Canada

MP Questions

Since the beginning of the 45th Parliament, Elections Canada has provided responses to the following seven written questions submitted by Members of Parliament: MP Q-70, MP Q-142, MP Q-143, MP Q-144, MP Q-165, MP Q-166, and MP Q-211.

MP Q-70 – Special ballots sent and returned by country/ED – May 30, 2025

Question

Michael Cooper (St. Albert-Sturgeon River) — *With regard to special ballots issued for the 45th general election: (a) how many special ballots were sent to electors residing outside Canada, broken down by country of current residence and further broken down by Canadian electoral district; and (b) how many special ballots were returned from electors residing outside Canada, broken down by country of current residence and further broken down by Canadian electoral district?*

Response

See Excel document.

MP Q-142 – Special ballot breakdown process – June 10, 2025

Question

Glen Motz (Medicine Hat—Cardston—Warner) — *With regard to Elections Canada and the 2025 general election: (a) what is the full breakdown of the processing of special ballots, including how and when they are counted; (b) does Elections Canada record a distinction between special ballots in person and special ballots used to vote by mail; (c) what is the full breakdown of the processing of advance polling and the counting of those ballots, including the transportation of ballot boxes used in advance polling locations to their storage and counting locations; (d) who processes vote-by-mail ballot requests and what are the criteria to accept or reject requests to vote by mail; (e) where are vote-by-mail ballots counted; (f) is Elections Canada aware of any instances of voters being told at the poll that they had already voted by mail-in ballot when they had not, and, if so, how many instances are they aware of, broken down by riding; (g) what is the process for poll workers to notify Elections Canada when the situation outlined in (f) occurs; (h) how does Elections Canada define (i) voting kit, (ii) special ballot, (iii) vote-by-mail, and have any of these definitions changed in the past 10 years, and, if so, what are the details, including the date of the change and the previous definition; and (i) on what date will the "raw data" of the 2025 Canadian federal election be made available online?*

Response

With regard to Elections Canada and the 2025 general election:

(a) what is the full breakdown of the processing of special ballots, including how and when they are counted;

- For information about processing of special ballots from elector's application to the return of the ballot to Elections Canada, please see the Elections Canada website.
- For information on how and when are special ballots counted please see the Elections Canada website.

(b) does Elections Canada record a distinction between special ballots in person and special ballots used to vote by mail;

- Yes, Elections Canada records in its database whether ballots were issued in person or by mail as well as how ballots were received, again, either in person or by mail.
- The statutory report on the 45th general election will include a breakdown of voting methods used by Canadians (in person versus vote by mail, etc.)
- Despite the database recording this, they are all counted together (they are not counted separately based on how they were issued or received). The counts are organized by the following categories:
  - electors living in their riding and voting either by mail from inside their riding or at an Elections Canada office inside their riding;
  - electors living in their riding but voting either by mail from outside their riding or at an Elections Canada office outside their riding; and
  - electors eligible to vote in their riding but living outside Canada.
- Preliminary data on the number of special ballot voting kits issued and returned during the 45th general election can be found on the Elections Canada website.
- Further information about voting by special ballot can be found on the Elections Canada website.

(c) what is the full breakdown of the processing of advance polling and the counting of those ballots, including the transportation of ballot boxes used in advance polling locations to their storage and counting locations;

- For information about how and when advance ballots are counted please see the Elections Canada website.

There are many safeguards in place to manage the custody of the ballots and ballot boxes.

First, ballots cast on election day are counted at the same location as where they were cast. Nobody touches the ballots between the moment they are cast and the moment they are counted in front of scrutineers, which are normally candidate representatives.

Second, ballots cast during advance polls are kept securely in ballot boxes and often have to be taken overnight by election workers to their homes. When this happens, there are safeguards in place.

Until the counting of the ballots on election day, an election officer must keep the sealed ballot box or boxes in their custody in accordance with the Chief Electoral Officer's instructions.

During closing procedures after each day of advance polls, the deputy returning officer (DRO) seals the ballot box slot and signs the seal. Any party or candidate representatives present must also sign the seal.

The seal prevents the ballot box from being tampered with, and prevents ballots from being added to or removed from the box. The ballot box is also sealed with short and long ballot box seals on each side of the box. If the seals were to be removed and replaced, they would not match the information on the Seal Control Sheet, which would result in an incident being detected.

The boxes must remain properly sealed and must be kept in a secure location at all times.

The chain of custody of a ballot box is maintained by a single election officer until the box can be returned to the office, and the handover of the box or boxes is always recorded in the appropriate log.

In between advance polls and the counting of the ballots on election day, ballot boxes are either kept in a secure place at the returning office or in the custody of the DRO.

On election day, before election workers start counting in front of witnesses the ballots cast at advance polls, the workers must make sure that the number of people who voted matches the number of ballots at each table. If the numbers do not match, they cannot start counting. The workers can also verify that the numbers on the ballots match those on the counterfoils that were kept on the day the ballots were cast.

Before any work begins, all election officers, when appointed, must sign a solemn declaration: They swear to perform their duties in an impartial manner and in accordance with the *Canada Elections Act*.

It is illegal under the *Canada Elections Act* to destroy, take, open or otherwise interfere with a ballot box or ballots otherwise than as provided by the Act or by instructions of the Chief Electoral Officer.

There are also multiple safeguards throughout the electoral process that would identify any irregularities if they were to occur. For example, there are always at least two election officers at a polling place to oversee the administration of the vote. Additionally, before the boxes are unsealed and ballots are counted, election workers close the doors of the polling place. No one is allowed to enter or leave until the end of counting.

- More information about transportation and storage of ballot boxes can be found on the Elections Canada website.

(d) who processes vote-by-mail ballot requests and what are the criteria to accept or reject requests to vote by mail;

- Vote-by-mail requests from electors voting ***within*** their electoral district are processed by service agents in local returning offices across Canada.
- Vote-by-mail requests from electors voting ***outside*** of their electoral district are processed by staff at Elections Canada headquarters.

- The elector must be a Canadian citizen and at least 18 years of age or older on polling day. The elector's application must be received by a returning officer in an electoral district or by the special voting rules administrator at Elections Canada headquarters after the issue of the writs but before 6:00 p.m. on the 6th day before polling day.
- The criteria to accept or reject vote-by-mail requests are based on **233 (1)** and of the *Canada Elections Act*:
    - The application for registration and special ballot shall be in the prescribed form and shall include the following information:
        - **(a)** the elector's name and the address of his or her place of ordinary residence;
        - **(b)** the elector's date of birth;
        - **(c)** satisfactory proof of the elector's identity and residence;
        - **(d)** the elector's mailing address; and
        - **(e)** any other information that the Chief Electoral Officer considers necessary to determine the elector's entitlement to vote or the electoral district in which he or she may vote.
    - In addition, the information provided by the elector in their application must match proof of ID and address provided by the elector. Otherwise, the application is rejected.
    - For more information about how electors can apply to vote by special ballot, including the requirements, please see the Elections Canada website.

(e) where are vote-by-mail ballots counted;

- Special ballots from electors voting ***within*** their electoral district are counted by Deputy Returning Officers in local returning offices across Canada.
- Special ballots from electors voting ***outside*** of their electoral district are counted by Special Ballot Officers at Elections Canada headquarters.
- Special ballots issued in person or by mail are all counted together. The counts are instead organized by elector category (not voting method such as by mail or in person).
- For information on where special ballots are counted please see the Elections Canada website.

(f) is Elections Canada aware of any instances of voters being told at the poll that they had already voted by mail-in ballot when they had not, and, if so, how many instances are they aware of, broken down by riding;

- If an elector was told that they were struck off the list of electors for having registered to vote by special ballot (the method is not specified on the list of electors at the polls), and the elector says they never registered to vote by special ballot, the poll worker would simply have the elector sign a *Voting Status Certificate*, which includes a declaration that they have not voted, in order to have their name "unstruck" from the list so they may vote at the polls.
- Elections Canada does not compile statistics on this.

(g) what is the process for poll workers to notify Elections Canada when the situation outlined in (f) occurs;

- As described above, an elector can complete and sign a *Voting Status Certificate* to have their name "unstruck" off the list; otherwise field staff at the polls would call their Returning Officer for further instructions if unsure. Poll workers do not notify Elections

Canada. However, Elections Canada conducts extensive poll reviews after the election to identify any potential case of double voting.

(h) how does Elections Canada define

- *voting kit:* Once an elector's application for registration and special ballot has been accepted, the voter receives a special ballot voting kit. The kit consists of a special ballot, an unmarked inner envelope, instructions and an outer envelope that identifies the elector and the elector's ED, and that contains a declaration that must be signed by the elector. This multi-envelope system protects the secrecy of the vote while ensuring that adequate administrative measures are taken. If the elector is voting by mail or wishes to register at a local EC office but leave with their kit, the kit will also include a pre-addressed postage paid return envelope and a voting instruction flyer explaining the voting procedures. Since the pandemic, voting kits have prepaid postage. A decision was made to maintain this service post-pandemic as it could have lead to confusion and potential lost voting kits if electors didn't realize postage was no longer paid before putting it in the mailbox.

- *(ii) special ballot:* Special ballot is defined at Form 4 of Schedule 1 of the *Canada Elections Act* (as referenced in s. 186). It has not changed in last ten years or more. Section 186 provides that "Special ballots supplied by the Chief Electoral Officer to electors under this Part shall be in accordance with Form 4 of Schedule 1."

- *(iii) vote-by-mail:* Vote by mail is not referenced in the *Canada Elections Act.* It can be defined as the process by which the ballot kit is sent to and/or received from the elector depending on the particular circumstances. Since 2021, local electors can apply to vote-by-mail online on the Elections Canada website. Before 2021, they had to fax their application and proof of ID and address to the returning officer's office. An illustration can be found on the Elections Canada website.

and have any of these definitions changed in the past 10 years, and, if so, what are the details, including the date of the change and the previous definition;

- See above definitions

and (i) on what date will the "raw data" of the 2025 Canadian federal election be made available online?

- Preliminary results for the 45th general election are available on the Elections Canada website.
- Preliminary data on special ballot kits issued and returned by electoral district is available on the Elections Canada website.
- The Chief Electoral Officer is required by s. 533 of the *Canada Elections Act* to publish polling division reports (also known as the "official voting results") within 90 days after the return of the writ. Those are expected to be available on the Elections Canada later this summer.

MP Q-143 – Special ballot data/ED (2019, 2021, 2025) – June 10, 2025

Question

Glen Motz (Medicine Hat—Cardston—Warner) — *With regard to Elections Canada and Special Ballot Data, for each of the 2019, 2021 and 2025 general elections, in total and broken down by electoral district, for each part of the question: (a) how many special ballots were issued to electors living (i) in their riding and voting by mail from inside their riding, (ii) in their riding and voting at an Elections Canada office inside their riding, (iii) in their riding and voting by mail from outside their riding, (iv) in their riding and voting at an Elections Canada office outside their riding, (v) outside of Canada and voting by mail from outside their riding; and (b) what is the breakdown of (a)(i) to (a)(v) by each of the five types of special voting rules for electors?*

Response

Please see Annex for the response.

Elections Canada records in its database whether ballots were issued in person or by mail as well as how ballots were received, again, either in person or by mail.

Despite the database recording this, they are all counted together (they are not counted separately based on how they were issued or received). The counts are organized by the following three categories, and are therefore not available to be broken down into five categories as requested in section (b):

- electors living in their riding and voting either by mail from inside their riding or at an Elections Canada office inside their riding;
- electors living in their riding but voting either by mail from outside their riding or at an Elections Canada office outside their riding; and
- electors eligible to vote in their riding but living outside Canada.

*Electoral district codes and names can be found on the Elections Canada website.

MP Q-144 – Vote-by-mail data (2019, 2021, 2025) – June 10, 2025

Question

Glen Motz (Medicine Hat—Cardston—Warner) — *With regard to Elections Canada, for each of the 2019, 2021, and 2025 general elections, in total and broken down by electoral district, for each part of the question: (a) how many applications for vote-by-mail ballots were (i) requested, (ii) denied; (b) how many vote-by-mail ballots were (i) sent out, (ii) received, (iii) counted, (iv) rejected; (c) what is the breakdown of each part of (b) by ballots sent to voters within Canada versus those outside of Canada; and (d) for Canadian Citizens residing outside of Canada, what is the process for determining what riding they vote in, and how does Election Canada verify the accuracy of the information used to determine the riding?*

Response

Please see Annex for the responses to (a), (b), and (c)

*Electoral district codes and names can be found on the Elections Canada website.

(d) for Canadian citizens residing outside of Canada, what is the process for determining what riding they vote in, and how does Election Canada verify the accuracy of the information used to determine the riding?

Canadian citizens living abroad may be included on the international register of electors providing they are at least 18 years old on election day and have lived in Canada at some point in their life.

In order to be included on the register Canadians living abroad must prove their identity and citizenship and must declare their last place of ordinary residence in Canada to determine in which electoral district their vote will be cast. Once on the register, an elector cannot change their place of ordinary residence.

Access to documentation proving their last place of ordinary residence may be difficult for electors who have lived outside of Canada for a number of years. Therefore, to ensure access to the federal election for eligible electors living abroad, the *Canada Elections Act* does not require proof of their last place of ordinary residence in Canada. However, when applying to be included on the register, electors must certify that the information they provide is true and are notified that a false declaration could result in a fine and/or imprisonment.

For information about the process for voting from outside of Canada, including address requirements, please see the Elections Canada website.

MP Q-165 – Special ballots and mobile voting requests (2019, 2021, 2025) – June 12, 2025

Question

Michael Cooper (St. Albert—Sturgeon River) — *With regard to special ballots issued for the 43rd, 44th and 45th general elections, nationally and broken down by riding for each election: (a) how many mobile voting requests were made for home visits pursuant to section 243.1 of the Elections Act, broken down by (i) total number of home visits at residential addresses, further broken down by type of home (house, assisted-living facility, etc.), if known, (ii) total number of home visits at hospitals or healthcare facilities; and (b) in numbers, what were the methods by which mobile voting requests were made under section 243.1, broken down by method (phone, mail, email, online, in-person delivery, etc.)?*

Response

For the response to part (a), please see the Annex.

*Electoral district codes and names can be found on the Elections Canada website.

For part (a)(i) and (ii), please note that this information is not compiled in our system, only the qualified elector's home address for voting purposes is compiled, However, that is not always where the elector's home visit is conducted if they are, for example, in the care of a relative at that given moment in time.

and (b) in numbers, what were the methods by which mobile voting requests were made under section 243.1, broken down by method (phone, mail, email, online, in-person delivery, etc.)?

This information is not compiled in our system; though, anecdotally, most requests for mobile voting are done by telephone to the returning officer's office. Only the qualified elector's home address for voting purposes is compiled. However, that is not always where the elector's home visit was conducted if they are, for example, in the care of a relative at that given moment in time.

MP Q-166 – Preliminary audits of registered third parties audits – June 12, 2025

Question

Michael Cooper (St. Albert—Sturgeon River) — *With regard to preliminary audits of registered third parties undertaken by Elections Canada during the 45th general election, prior to April 28, 2025: what were the details of each preliminary audit undertaken, including the (i) name of the third party, (ii) website name and uniform resource locator of the organization, (iii) cause or concern for issuing the preliminary audit, (iv) results of the preliminary audit?*

Response

Elections Canada does not perform preliminary audits of registered third parties. The interim returns that are filed during the election period are for information purposes only and are not subject to audit. Audits will be conducted following the submission of Third Party's Electoral Campaign Returns which are due on August 28, 2025.

Below are links to the third-party interim returns that have been published for the 45th general election (GE) as well as to the tools for third parties page.

Third Party Financial Returns for the 45th GE.

Tools for Third Parties.

MP Q-211 – International electors – June 17, 2025

Question

Grant Jackson (Brandon—Souris) — *With regard to Elections Canada and international electors: (a) how does Elections Canada verify the validity of the electors' last listed address before leaving Canada when they file a vote by mail application; (b) with regard to vote by mail applications received from international electors, broken down by year since 2011, what is the total number of (i) applications received, (ii) applications fully processed, (iii) applications fully processed and finalized, (iv) rejected applications, (v) rejected applications due to issues*

verifying the last listed address; (c) what is the total number of electors in the International Register of Electors; and (d) what is the breakdown of (c) by electoral riding?

Response

With regard to Elections Canada and international electors:

(a) how does Elections Canada verify the validity of the electors' last listed address before leaving Canada when they file a vote by mail application;

> Canadian citizens living abroad may be included on the international register of electors providing they are at least 18 years old on election day and have lived in Canada at some point in their life.
>
> In order to be included on the register Canadians living abroad must prove their identity and citizenship and must declare their last place of ordinary residence in Canada to determine in which electoral district their vote will be cast. Once on the register, an elector cannot change their place of ordinary residence.
>
> Access to documentation proving their last place of ordinary residence may be difficult for electors who have lived outside of Canada for a number of years. Therefore, to ensure access to the federal election for eligible electors living abroad, the *Canada Elections Act* does not require proof of their last place of ordinary residence in Canada. However, when applying to be included on the register, electors must certify that the information they provide is true and are notified that a false declaration could result in a fine and/or imprisonment.
>
> For information about the process for voting from outside of Canada, including address requirements, please see the Elections Canada website.

(b) with regard to vote by mail applications received from international electors, broken down by year since 2011, what is the total number of

> Canadian citizens living abroad may be included on the international register of electors providing they are at least 18 years old on election day and have lived in Canada at some point in their life.
>
> In order to be included on the register Canadians living abroad must prove their identity and citizenship and must declare their last place of ordinary residence in Canada to determine in which electoral district their vote will be cast. Once on the register, an elector cannot change their place of ordinary residence.
>
> When a general election, by-election or referendum is called, Elections Canada automatically sends a special ballot voting kit to all eligible electors on the International Register of Electors. There is no need for these electors to apply to vote by mail. Therefore, the response provided in the Annex is for the number of applications to be added to the International Register of Electors.

(i) applications received,

- See Annex for response

(ii) applications fully processed,

- See Annex for response (note that the response to (b)(ii) and (b) (iii) are the same and are categorized as “Approved International Applications.”)

(iii) applications fully processed and finalized,

- See Annex for response (note that the response to (b)(ii) and (b) (iii) are the same and are categorized as “Approved International Applications.”)

(iv) rejected applications,

- See Annex for response.

(v) rejected applications due to issues verifying the last listed address;

- Access to documentation proving their last place of ordinary residence may be difficult for electors who have lived outside of Canada for a number of years. Therefore, to ensure access to the federal election for eligible electors living abroad, the *Canada Elections Act* does not require proof of their last place of ordinary residence in Canada. Therefore, applications are not rejected for this reason. However, when applying to be included on the register, electors must certify that the information they provide is true and are notified that a false declaration could result in a fine and/or imprisonment.

(c) what is the total number of electors in the International Register of Electors; and

- See Annex for response. Note that the total number of electors currently on the International Register of Electors is the same as “Approved International Applications” for the 45th general election.

(d) what is the breakdown of (c) by electoral riding?

- See Annex for response. Note that the total number of electors currently on the International Register of Electors is the same as “Approved International Applications” for the 45th general election.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

PETITIONS

SIGN IN

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e-6573 (Democratic process)

Keywords

Ballots | Electoral candidates and nominations | Official election agents

E-petition

Initiated by River Klassen from Brandon, Manitoba

Original language of petition: English

Petition details

Petition to the Government of Canada

Whereas:

- Clear and understandable electoral ballots are essential for voter participation and trust in our democratic process;
- Coordinated attempts to register numerous protest candidates have resulted in excessively long ballots;
- These tactics can confuse or discourage voters; and

- Excessive candidate stacking creates unnecessary administrative burdens for Elections Canada and risks undermining the integrity of federal elections.

We, the undersigned, **citizens and residents of Canada.**, call upon the **Government of Canada** to:

1. Amend the Canada Elections Act to prohibit an individual from serving as the Official Agent for more than one candidate in a federal election; and

2. Require each candidate seeking federal office to pay a refundable deposit of $500, personally paid, to be refunded only if the candidate receives more than 0.1% of the valid votes cast in that electoral district.

History

Open for signature
June 9, 2025, at 4:03 p.m. (EDT)

Closed for signature
October 7, 2025, at 4:03 p.m. (EDT)

Member of Parliament



Grant Jackson
Brandon—Souris
Conservative Caucus
Manitoba

1199 signatures

Disclaimer regarding petitions