



**Appearance of the Chief Electoral Officer
on the 2024-25 Main Estimates**

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Letter to Senator Duncan (CRO program, May 2019)	IRPPA

** Binder prepared for the appearance of the Chief Electoral Officer before the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance on (September 17, 2024) on the Main Estimates 2024-25.*



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COSTS OF GENERAL ELECTIONS

	Minority Governments					
	42nd G.E. (2015)		43rd G.E. (2019)		44th G.E. (2021) ¹	
	Actual Expenditures	In 2024 dollars	Actual Expenditures	In 2024 dollars	Actual Expenditures	In 2024 dollars
Number of Electoral Districts	338	338	338	338	338	338
Election Calendar Days	76	76	40	40	36	36
Number of Electors on Final List	25,939,742	25,939,742	27,373,058	27,373,058	27,509,158	27,509,158
Number of Voters	17,711,983	17,711,983	18,350,359	18,350,359	17,209,811	17,209,811
EC Headquarters and Field Offices (\$ M)	\$302.4	\$379.5	\$343.4	\$404.4	\$419.0	\$480.4
Reimbursements to Parties and Candidates (\$ M)	\$104.1	\$130.6	\$64.8	\$76.3	\$69.9	\$80.2
Total Delivery Cost of Election (\$ M)	\$406.5	\$510.1	\$408.2	\$480.7	\$488.9	\$560.6
Delivery Cost per Elector (\$)	\$15.67	\$19.66	\$14.91	\$17.56	\$17.77	\$20.38
Readiness Activities	\$65.2	\$81.8	\$92.5	\$109.0	\$128.0	\$146.7

¹ The costs of the 44th GE are not yet final, therefore some minor variations may still occur.

Cost Comparison Note: Although the numbers have been adjusted to account for inflation (Indicated in 2024 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.

Explanation of Delivery cost variation between GEs (\$ M):	Actual Expenditures	In 2024 Dollars
Cost of 42nd GE (2015)	\$406.5	\$510.1
Service Enhancements, New Legislation, Systems Upgrades	\$25.0	\$29.4
Inflation	\$26.6	-
Services to More Electors	\$12.5	\$14.7
Length of Election Period (reduced from 76 to 40)	(\$62.5)	(\$73.6)
Cost of 43rd GE (2019)	\$408.2	\$480.7
Pandemic Measures	\$21.8	\$24.9
Field Offices and Personnel	\$42.9	\$49.2
Inflation	\$11.0	-
Elections Canada HQ, incl. IT Infrastructure	\$8.5	\$9.7
Reimbursements to Political Parties	\$3.4	\$3.9
Length of election period (reduced from 40 to 36)	(\$6.8)	(\$7.8)
Cost of 44th GE¹ (2021)	\$488.9	\$560.6

Actual Expenditures

Tariff	\$31.8	Tariff review only (CPI is included in Inflation), EBP	
Personnel	\$4.7	New positions (PAARO, POM), Difference in Hours & Number of Hired Workers, EBP	
Leases	\$1.8	Offices and Polls (lease only)	
Operating	\$4.6	Furniture, Services, Security, Printing, Travel	
	\$42.9		

Actual Expenditures

Rental of Polling Stations (1 day of ordinary, 4 day of advance)				
	GE42	GE43	GE44	
Rental ADV	\$2.1	\$3.8	\$4.4	Lease only
Rental ORD	\$6.8	\$8.0	\$10.9	Lease only
Other O&M	\$2.8	\$2.3	\$1.3	Cleaning, Security, Furniture, etc.
Total	\$11.7	\$14.2	\$16.7	



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OCEO Financial Trends 2019-20 to 2024-25

(\$ Millions)

	Main Estimates and Year-end Actuals as per Public Accounts								2023-24 Planned / Actual Spending			Planned
	2019-20 Main Estimates	2019-20 Actual (Yr of GE43)	2020-21 Main Estimates	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Main Estimates	2021-22 Actual (Yr of GE44)	2022-23 Main Estimates	2022-23 Actual	2023-24 Main Estimates	2023-24 Forecast (as per DP) ⁴	2023-24 Actual	2024-25 Main Estimates
Appropriation¹	39.2	41.5	48.2	51.5	48.9	51.2	49.3	52.2	49.7	59.6	64.8	60.4
Statutory - Operating	50.0	68.6	57.6	58.0	63.1	62.8	65.7	71.8	69.1	81.0	74.5	77.7
Statutory - Projects	9.1	12.8	7.0	11.5	14.0	3.8	12.9	12.6	30.4	33.4	19.3	40.5
Total Operating & Projects (Appropriation & Statutory)	98.3	122.9	112.7	121.0	126.0	117.8	128.0	136.7	149.2	173.9	158.6	178.6
Statutory - Electoral Events 2.3	394.9	448.0	20.9	87.8	46.9	509.5	75.5	76.5	55.7	108.0	90.5	80.7
Grand Total (Appropriation and Statutory)	493.2	570.9	133.7	208.8	172.9	627.3	203.5	213.1	204.9	282.0	249.1	259.3

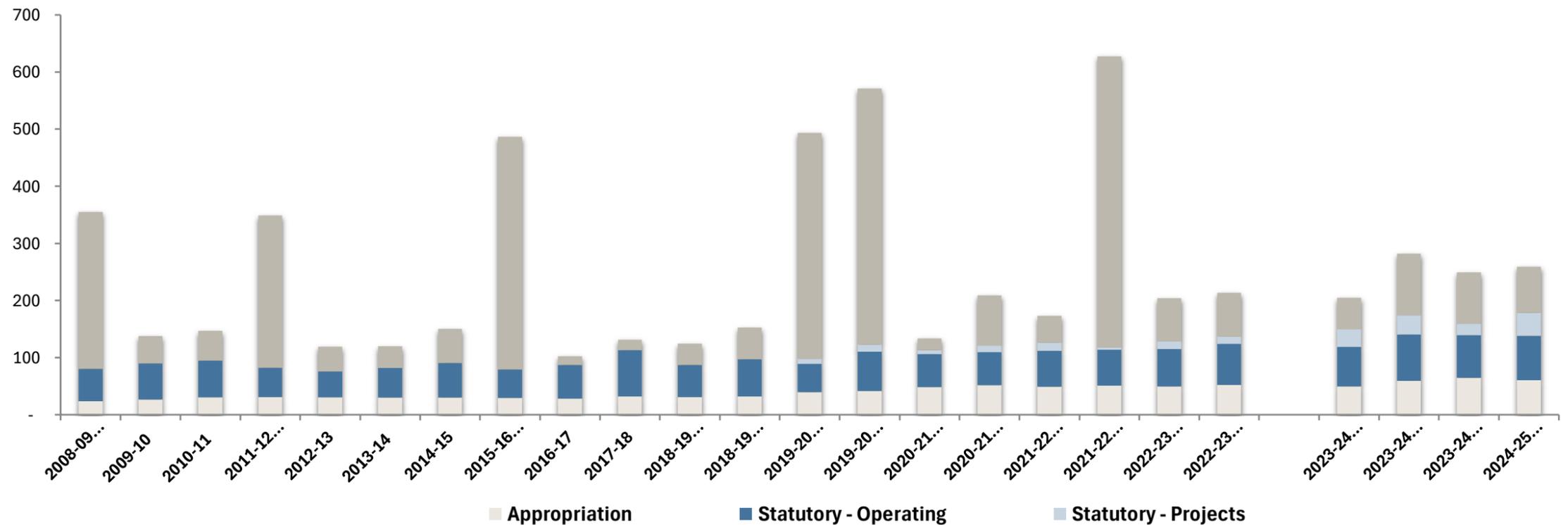
¹ 2024-25 Main Estimates excludes expected funding to be received in-year such as the carry-forward, new collective agreements, reimbursements of Paylist items, etc.

² 2023-24 Forecast, as published in the 2024-25 DP, is higher than Main Estimates mostly due to increased readiness activities, and conducted six by-elections which were not planned at the time of Main Estimates.

³ 2024-25 Main Estimates includes Readiness costs for the next general election in the context of a minority government.

⁴ As published in Planned Spending section of the 2024-25 Departmental Plan.

Totals may not add up due to rounding.





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Bill C-65 *An Act to amend the Canada Elections Act (Electoral Participation Act)*

Key Messages

- A majority of the elements in the Bill are aligned with the recommendations made by the CEO in June 2022.
- Elections Canada (EC) is currently studying Bill C-65 and making preliminary plans for its implementation, conscious that it may change or not become law.
- The Chief Electoral Officer looks forward to appearing before Parliament to discuss the Bill.

Facts

- Bill C-65 was introduced on March 20, 2024, and has not yet been debated at second reading.
- Among the notable changes that the Bill proposes:
 - Providing two additional days of advance voting and making consequential changes to other dates in the Act.
 - Clarifying the provision concerning advance mobile polls in remote, isolated, and low-density communities.
 - Reinstating LTC voting largely in accordance with the Pandemic era adaptations.
 - Applications for special ballots in pre-election period, drop boxes at polling stations, and the ability to vote at polls if special ballot is cancelled.
 - Allowing pre-registration of candidates in the pre-election period.
 - Restricting the distribution of preliminary lists of electors to smaller political parties.
 - Establishing voting at post-secondary institutions in law.
 - New requirements for party privacy policies.
 - Ban on cryptocurrency and other untraceable contributions.
 - Restriction of third parties to only use contributions from Canadian individuals and in limited cases their own funds.



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- Modification of existing prohibitions concerning foreign interference.
- Additional powers for the Commissioner of Canada Elections to impose administrative monetary penalties and powers in relation to attempts, conspiracies, etc.
- Requirement for the EC to produce reports on three day voting period; vote anywhere in the electoral district; vote anywhere in a polling station; and parties promoting hatred.

Electoral redistribution – Completion and costs of the process

Key messages

- The two representation orders (one for Quebec and one for the nine other provinces) were proclaimed on September 22, 2023. The new electoral map will take effect on the first dissolution of Parliament after April 22, 2024.
- Elections Canada has completed its pre-event activities and is now ready to conduct a general election in the 343 electoral districts on the new electoral map.
- The electoral redistribution exercise was spread over four fiscal years, from 2020–21 to 2023–24, and cost \$14.8 million.
- The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) intends to submit a recommendations report to the Speaker of the House of Commons in the fall of 2024, proposing amendments to the *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act*.

Facts

Calculating the number of seats

- The redistribution process began on October 16, 2021, with the CEO calculating the number of seats in the House of Commons. Alberta gained three seats, British Columbia and Ontario each gained one, and Quebec lost one.
- In response to the challenges brought forward by the loss of a seat for Quebec, Parliament adopted the *Preserving Provincial Representation in the House of Commons Act* in June 2022. This law amends the grandfather clause of the representation formula and stipulates that a province cannot obtain fewer seats than it had in the 43rd Parliament. The new formula thus gives Quebec 78 seats and 343 seats in total for the country.

Work of the commissions

- The ten independent electoral boundaries commissions were established on November 1, 2021, and began their work on February 9, 2022, after receiving the demographic data from the May 2021 census enumerating the Canadian population.
- The commissions published their proposals between May and August 2022, and subsequently held public hearings between June and November 2022. In all, 123 in-person and 24 virtual public consultations were held in the ten provinces. More than 5,000 representations and comments were sent to the commissions about their proposals.
- Six commissions tabled their reports in the House of Commons before the deadline of December 9, 2022. Three commissions (Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia) requested the two-month extension provided for in the Act. The Quebec commission, which has an extended timetable of around four months, submitted its report on January 30, 2023.

Objections from members of Parliament

- Between December 2022 and February 2023, members of Parliament raised 83 objections to the reports of eight commissions (excluding the Newfoundland and Labrador and the Prince Edward Island commissions). Of these, 32 were related to the names of districts, and 51 were related to their boundaries. The table below classifies these objections by province:

Commission	Objections Raised by Members of Parliament			Objections Accepted by the Commissions		
	Names	Boundaries	Total	Names	Boundaries	Total
Nova Scotia	3	1	4	0	1	1
New Brunswick	0	1	1	0	0	0
Quebec	10	11	21	9	5	14
Ontario	7	17	24	6	5	11
Manitoba	0	2	2	0	1	1
Saskatchewan	0	3	3	0	2	2
Alberta	2	5	7	1	2	3
British Columbia	10	11	21	5	2	7
Totals	32	51	83	21	18	39
	<i>Adoption rate</i>			65.63%	35.29%	

- The examination of the objections by the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs (PROC) took place between March and June 2023. The final commission reports including the disposition of objections were tabled in the House between April 18 and July 19, 2023 (the last reports tabled were from Ontario and British Columbia).

Preparation and proclamation of orders

- In July 2023, the CEO began preparing the two electoral representation orders (one for Quebec and one for the other nine provinces), which include the name, boundaries description and population of each of the 340 electoral districts in the ten provinces.
- The two representation orders were sent to the Minister on September 18, 2023, and, by Order in Council, were proclaimed on September 22, 2023.
- This proclamation declares the electoral representation orders to be in force effective on the first dissolution of Parliament that occurs after April 22, 2024.
- Forty-five electoral districts remain unchanged from the 2013 Representation Order and 295 have new boundaries, for a total of 340 electoral districts (the three territories are not included in the electoral redistribution exercise).

Cost of the exercise

- The cost of the electoral redistribution exercise, which was spread over four fiscal years, amounted to \$14.8 million. Two thirds of the budget was spent in 2022–23 as the commissions published their proposals, held their public hearings, and submitted their preliminary reports to the House of Commons.

2020–21 Actual Spending	2021–22 Actual Spending	2022–23 Actual Spending	2023–24 Actual Spending	Total
(\$ millions)				
0.3	3.5	9.8	1.2	14.8

- The previous exercise (2011–13) cost \$10.5 million. Taking into account the inflation rate of 23.8% over 10 years (2013 to 2022), the 2021–23 redistribution will have been slightly more expensive than the previous one (the 2011–13 redistribution would have cost \$13.0 million if adjusted for inflation).
- This increase of around 15% can be explained in part by the addition of 24 virtual public sessions (non-existent in 2012), which required considerable technological and administrative support (e.g. simultaneous interpretation). The increase in the number of representations received by the commissions (over 5,000 compared with around 2,000 in 2011–13) has also required greater administrative support from the commissions (hiring of additional staff) and from Elections Canada (translation and publication of comments on the commissions' website). Unforeseeable events, such as the pandemic and a recalculation of seats during the process, also required additional planning efforts and generated additional costs.

Pending issues

- Alexis Deschênes and Droits collectifs Québec v. Attorney General of Canada and Elections Canada*: Application for judicial review of the decision of the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for Quebec to abolish the electoral district of Avignon–La Mitis–Matane–Matapédia. The applicants named Elections Canada (EC) and the Attorney General of Canada (AGC) as respondents. EC will seek to be removed from the case at the judicial review hearing because EC is not an appropriate respondent. In December 2023, the applicants filed a motion to obtain a stay of application of the representation order for the electoral districts of the province of Quebec. On February 14, 2024, the court dismissed this motion. The next step is the filing of the applicants' record with the court for further proceedings.
- Eskasoni v. Attorney General of Canada*: Application for judicial review to set aside the final report of the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for Nova Scotia. The Attorney General of Canada (AGC) is the respondent, and EC provides support (e.g. documents or answers to certain questions relating to the redistribution process) when necessary. The AGC must file its record with the court by May 21, 2024. The next step will be to set a hearing date.



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Indigenous languages in the electoral process

Key Messages

- After the 44th general election (GE), Elections Canada (EC) launched an Indigenous Electoral Services Review (IESR) to examine how the agency engages and delivers public education and election services to Indigenous communities. This review is ongoing.
- EC is gradually offering more communication products in Indigenous languages (written and spoken) to make sure Indigenous electors have the information they need to be able to exercise their right to vote in a federal election. Additional products will also be available in Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun at polling places in Nunavut for GE45.
- EC will work with Parliamentarians to obtain the required authority to pilot a ballot that includes Inuktitut (Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun), reflecting the linguistic reality of Nunavut electors. The aim is for the project to be ready for the next fixed date election in October 2025.

Facts

Current Practices

- Currently, the undated *Guide to the Federal Election* and the *Voter Identification Tear-Off Sheet* are offered in 16 Indigenous languages on the EC website and are promoted by Indigenous organizations who work with EC as part of its Inspire Democracy programming. Both products will be available in 17 Indigenous languages for the next GE (Inuinnaqtun has been added).
- The multimedia campaign includes ads targeting Indigenous electors, including ads on Indigenous television and radio stations, print publications and websites (in French and English). For the next GE, the paid campaign will include radio spots in 14 Indigenous languages, five (5) explainer videos in 10 Indigenous languages, and the Handbook for Indigenous Community Leaders will be available in 17 Indigenous languages.

In Nunavut

- Every household receives a trilingual version of the *Guide to the Federal Election* (in English, French and Inuktitut – it will also be available in Inuinnaqtun for GE45).
- The Voter Information Card is sent to all registered electors in French, English and Inuktitut.



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- The paid advertising campaign includes print, TV, and radio ads in English, French and Inuktitut.

Planned Items for GE 45 – Nunavut and Northwest Territories

- Two electoral districts (EDs) (Nunavut and the Northwest Territories) have been identified with the objective to increase the presence of Indigenous languages on signage at the polls by the next fixed-date election.
 - Additional signage is planned in Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun at polling places in the Nunavut ED.
 - Discussions are underway with Elections Northwest Territories to allow the use of their unbranded multilingual signage wherever applicable.
- The pilot project in Nunavut will be conducted under section 18.1 of the *Canada Elections Act* (CEA) allowing EC to test its capacity to produce and distribute ballots that include Inuktitut in Nunavut without seeking a change in the law.
- The 8.5x11 ballot facsimile in Inuktitut that was provided at polling places in the last GE, as well as the poster-sized version, will still be available until such time that EC implements this pilot project.
- A number of unique aspects support such an experiment in Nunavut, including:
 - the territory being one ED;
 - Inuktitut is spoken by a majority of the ED's population and has official language status in Nunavut;
 - official translators can be accessed on short notice; and
 - Elections Nunavut has experience delivering elections in English, French and Inuktitut.
- The scope of the pilot project in Nunavut includes three aspects: regular ballots, special ballots and the list of candidates.
 - Regular ballots: Candidates and political parties will be allowed to submit their names in Inuktitut to appear on regular ballots.
 - Special ballots: Electors whose ordinary residence is in Nunavut, including local electors in Nunavut (voting by mail or in the Returning Officer's office), those located elsewhere nationally or internationally (voting by mail) as well as those



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incarcerated in Nunavut, will receive special ballot kits in English, French and Inuktitut and be authorized to fill special ballots in Inuktitut.

- List of Candidates: In accordance with the submission of names by candidates and political parties, the list of candidates for Nunavut will be published in English, French, and Inuktitut.
- EC will not be responsible for any translation/transliteration of candidate and party names in Inuktitut.
- EC has contracted ilinniapaa Skills Development Centre (iSDC) to provide Inuktitut consulting services to support the development of the implementation plan for this project. Pending approval by Parliament, iSDC would also provide Inuktitut quality control services during the implementation of the project in the next GE.
- As a contingency plan, discussions with Elections Nunavut have taken place to ensure quality control in Inuktitut. However, the 2025 October fixed date for the Nunavut territorial election and a newly appointed Chief Electoral Officer could impact the scope of a potential collaboration.
- Information technology systems will not be overhauled for the pilot project. While systems linked to ballot production are incompatible with syllabics, workarounds will be established.
- Mock regular and special ballots have been developed to assess design and printing limitations.
- EC will engage on the pilot with Parliament in the fall of 2024. Engagement with the Advisory Committee of Political Parties took place in September 2023.

Electronic list project

Key Messages

- The goal of the project is to reduce wait times at the polls by allowing election officers to perform a quick search through an electronic list and then strike registered electors as having voted.
- A successful pilot took place in the recent by-election in the Durham electoral district, where Elections Canada (EC) introduced a new service model (supported by technology) that allowed electors to vote at the first available desk instead of waiting in line to be served at a designated desk.
- A second pilot, which may take place at a by-election after September 1, 2024, is planned to test new functionalities and support material that will be developed in the upcoming months.
- The use of electronic lists should not be confused with electronic voting. EC continues to use paper ballots and all current safeguards remain in place. However, the new process improved record-keeping.

Facts

Durham by-election pilot:

- In Durham, at E-List enabled polls, EC observed the following:
 - Technology deployed was very intuitive to use and electoral workers quickly became familiar with it;
 - Electors appreciated the service fluidity;
 - Information related to electors who voted – *Sequence Number Sheet (Bingo Sheet)* was available faster through the Political Entities Service Centre Portal (PESC);
 - The combination of technology and the single electoral worker model made this model more popular with electoral workers and improved working conditions.
- The pilot and its achievements (solution and operational package such as procedures and training) serve as a foundation to pursue further enhancements on a broader scale.
- The overall project objectives after the Durham pilot remain but can now be looked at a broader scale to reach expected outcomes:
 - To enhance the in-person voting experience at selected advance and ordinary polls through process improvements enabled through limited and careful introduction of technology at the polls.
 - To accelerate the communication of voting information (Sequence Number Sheet) to political entities including candidates through an existing service portal and a complete automation of that process.
 - To address workforce shortages, by requiring fewer election officers at a polling place or by having better staff management, while providing improved level of service.



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- To reduce administrative burden in the field office by reducing manual data entry of strike records.
- To provide near real-time monitoring and statistical information about voting operations (e.g. voting patterns such as peak times at the polls, time required to serve electors, etc.) to improve service and allow even better future planning.
- As confirmed through the pilot, while electors found the process quicker, their experience was similar – as they could still visit their assigned polling place with the required identification.
- The project team is presently starting the next phase in an iterative fashion. The second phase objectives are to determine the:
 - 1) right size deployment scale to be considered for the 45th general election and plan its implementation;
 - 2) relevant solution functionalities to add and develop.

E-list project:

- The project is an EC initiative to enhance service to electors at a polling place, undertaken independently of the Government of Canada (GoC).
- The new process is a secure-by-design solution and EC continues to work closely with the Canadian Center for Cyber Security to protect its IT infrastructure.
- EC puts the security of personal information as a paramount concern. The solution takes into account a robust series of security controls and is aligned with GoC ITSG-33 standards including supply chain integrity checks on IT hardware acquisition.
- The project is led and the solution is developed internally by GoC security cleared personnel. All data is fully secured by a series of security controls at the business, technology, and process levels, which includes encryption, secure access control, and secure private database storage situated in Canada and accessed through a secure private network.
- Sound financial stewardship practices are in place – project and deployment costs are managed closely.
- Canada's federal electoral process is robust and protected by several safeguards.
- In technology enabled polling places (electronic list solution), paper list processes continue to be used for exceptions or as a backup if the solution or the relevant hardware is unavailable.
- Voting continues to be done using paper ballots marked and counted by hand in front of witnesses, as outlined in the *Canada Elections Act*.
- Similar variations of electronic list solutions are used in other Canadian jurisdictions and have been shown to be effective in making the voting process more efficient by allowing electors to vote at any desk at a polling place – thus reducing line-ups.



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Investment Plan and Digital Strategy

Key Messages

- Elections Canada (EC) continually reviews how it works and delivers services to meet expectations and adapt to the evolving environment.
- EC is currently preparing to offer more digitally enabled services to simplify business operations for our staff and improve services to Canadians.
- Some \$75.6 million in project investments over a four-year cycle (FY 2021-22 to 2024-25) have been allocated to longer-term initiatives.
- These investments are planned for, managed, and funded separately from our election-related preparations in a minority Parliament context.

Facts

Key Digital Initiatives

- EC developed a Digital Strategy in late-2020, that sets out a sustainable model by which to expand our tools and services to improve electoral management and to meet changing circumstances and evolving expectations of Canadians.
- The Digital Strategy will allow EC to achieve four strategic outcomes:
 - EC is the authoritative source of information about the electoral process for Canadians.
 - EC's processes and systems are agile and are able to meet evolving business needs.
 - EC's services and tools are responsive to user needs and can be accessed virtually by all stakeholders.
 - EC has access to sound data to understand the needs of Canadians and to inform its business decisions.
- Since 2021, EC has focused on initiating projects that set the foundation that will simplify our operating environment and produce a better experience for all user communities we serve.
- EC takes a cautious and incremental approach to introducing change and technology.
- We use only proven and secure technology to administer the electoral process based on advice and standards established in collaboration with the Government of Canada (GC) and industry experts, and our cyber security partners.
- All new technology solutions are designed to adhere to a stringent GC cyber security suite of policy and standards (e.g. ITSG-33).



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Foundational Initiatives and Framework

- The investment plan supports foundational initiatives to improve our services. Project investments over the last four-year cycle (FY 2021-22 to 2024-25) include initiatives such as:
 - **Enterprise Data Services Foundation** project to simplify and aggregate EC's data infrastructure systems and tools (\$8.1M).
 - **Cloud-Based Desktop Productivity Suite** project to migrate user desktop tools and data to EC's secure environment on the Microsoft cloud platform (\$1.3M).
 - **E-List** project to introduce electronic voter lists at select polling locations to expedite voting operations and reduce administrative errors at the polls (\$4.1M).
 - **Political Entities Registration Services** project to establish a new online registration service for political entities on EC's secure Microsoft Azure platform (\$3.7M).
 - **Field Payroll Solution Replacement** project to replace the existing election worker payroll system with a more resilient and effective solution (\$8.1M).
 - **King-Edward Datacentre Migration** project to relocate EC's computing assets to a more robust enterprise data center facility at Shared Services Canada (\$9.7M).

Other key initiatives

- The investment plan also supports key initiatives to improve our services. Project investments over the last four-year cycle (FY 2021-22 to 2024-25) include initiatives such as:
 - **Indigenous Electoral Services Review** project to offer better and more effective electoral services to First Nation communities (\$3.4M).
 - **Workplace Transformation** project to design and retrofit ECHQ workspaces to better support hybrid work for staff (\$13.3M).
 - **IT Equipment Replacement** is an ongoing IT asset replacement strategy to avoid obsolescence of desktop and systems technologies (\$4.9M).

Investment Summary

- The agency will invest an estimated \$75.6M in the current cycle on the Digital Strategy and other high-priority initiatives.

Investments in Digital Strategy and Other Transformative Projects - 2021-22 to 2024-25	\$ M
Invested to March 31, 2024	35.1
Earmarked Funding in 2024-25 Main Estimates	<u>40.5</u>
Total Estimated Project Investment	<u>75.6</u>



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Indigenous Electoral Services Review

- As Canada moves toward truth and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, Elections Canada (EC) has an important and defined role to play: to make sure that federal elections are inclusive and accessible for Indigenous electors who wish to participate.
- After the 44th general election, at my request, EC launched an Indigenous Electoral Services Review (IESR) to examine how the agency engages and delivers public education and election services to Indigenous communities. This review is ongoing.
- The review is being guided by First Nations, Inuit and Métis voices.
- Among other things, in 2024 the review team will set out a new way forward in managing EC's relationship with Indigenous peoples. I will publish and share the final report for the review with this committee.

Facts

While EC has implemented a variety of outreach programs, products and services for Indigenous electors and youth, more needs to be done.

EC recognizes that many Indigenous electors still face barriers to electoral participation. During the 44th general election, a breakdown in services and communication with some communities in the Kenora riding showed that a more robust and ongoing engagement is needed with First Nations communities nationwide.

The IESR review entails four basic steps:

1. Listening to Indigenous peoples to understand their perspectives and validate our future plans with them.
2. Taking stock of what we understand from our past research on barriers to participation and reviewing recommendations made to EC by Indigenous organizations and others in the past.
3. Learning and understanding from our past interactions with Indigenous peoples, as well as best practices and lessons learned by other organizations, including domestic and international election management bodies among others.
4. Experimenting with different approaches to working with Indigenous peoples in the short-term to help inform our review recommendations.

As a first priority, 53 listening sessions were held with a cross section of interested First Nations, Metis, Inuit peoples in urban, remote and rural settings. Our focus was at the Tribal council level, Friendship centres, education stakeholders, leadership forums and some community representation.



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EC established two working level Indigenous Advisory Circles – one for Inuit and another for First Nations and Metis.

A total of 5 meetings were held (two virtual meetings held separately with each Advisory Circle and one combined in-person meeting). These meetings resulted in the prioritization of areas where EC can take action to meet common objectives.

The review team is hoping to engage this spring with national indigenous organizations interested in working with EC on these priority areas before publishing its final report.

The goal of the review is to walk together in reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, laying the foundation for a renewed relationship and more inclusive electoral services for those wishing to take part in Canada's democracy. EC's intended outcomes include:

- **2-5 years:** Deliver operational service enhancements / Organizational Service Delivery Model for Enhancing and Maintaining Relationships with Indigenous Communities
- **5+ years:** Foster greater understanding and trust in Canada's electoral process
- **7+ years:** Reduce or eliminate barriers for Indigenous electors.

The review work will take time. In the meantime, EC is taking some immediate steps in the current minority context under the current legislation to improve our election services to Indigenous Peoples:

- Providing returning officers with three levels of training (online and in-person) on Indigenous issues, as well as the ability to engage and visit with Indigenous communities within their electoral districts to plan election services with them to meet their needs.
- Offering flexible advance polls of less than 4 days in remote and isolated communities which is now possible under the *Canada Elections Act*.
- Two electoral districts (Nunavut and the Northwest Territories) have been identified with the objective to increase the presence of Indigenous languages on signage at the polls by the next fixed-date election.
- EC will work with Parliamentarians to obtain the required authority to pilot a ballot that reflects the linguistic reality of Nunavut electors. The aim is for the project to be ready for the next fixed date election in October 2025. The facsimile of the ballot in Inuktitut that was provided in the last GE will still be available until such time that EC pilots a ballot in Inuktitut in Nunavut.
- Increasing cultural relevance and representation within the Voter Information Campaign and outreach communications products. Work is underway to offer some of our explainer videos presently available on our website in English and French in the 17 Indigenous languages in which we presently provide key communications products.



Appearance of the Chief Electoral Officer on the 2024-25 Main Estimates

Fact Sheet

Ongoing engagement with security partners for the 45th GE

Key Message

- Elections Canada (EC) works very closely with Government of Canada (GC) security and intelligence agencies in preparation for general elections (GEs) to align our practices with their expert advice and benefit from the continuous monitoring provided by these agencies.

Facts

- EC continues to collaborate with lead security agencies to ensure that its technological infrastructure continues to adhere to GoC security standards, and the EC continues to benefit from the protection afforded. This collaboration is complemented by EC's work to prepare for and, if required, act on attempts at electoral interference, whether through cyberattacks or the spread of inaccurate information about the electoral process.
 - EC leverages the expertise of security agencies to reinforce its physical, personnel, and cybersecurity measures. EC has also put in place collaboration mechanisms to ensure coordination on detection and response to potential threats and participates in simulation exercises involving national security agencies and other relevant government departments.
 - EC continues to rely on and work closely with national and local authorities to ensure the security and safety of electors, election workers, and polling places.
 - During and between GEs, EC maintains relationships and shares information on security threats with federal and national security agencies, which allows EC to identify broader overall security trends and maintain a robust security posture.
- In preparation for the next GE, EC will continue to seek briefings from federal security partners on evolving threat and risk trends that could impact electoral security.
- The GoC multi-departmental Security and Intelligence Threats to Elections (SITE) Task Force (including GAC, CSEC, CSIS and RCMP) was established to counter foreign interference in the federal electoral process.
- Protocols are established so that security incidents and suspicious activities related to EC's mandate are reported to appropriate authorities and EC headquarters.
- Returning Officers are also responsible for maintaining relationships and sharing information on security threats with the police of jurisdiction in their districts.
 - EC has increased engagement with local authorities in jurisdictions where monitoring has indicated there may be disturbances at polling stations, including in some larger city centres.



Appearance of the Chief Electoral Officer on the 2024-25 Main Estimates

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- When EC, in its role as the administrator of federal electoral events, and of the federal political financing regime, becomes aware of potential violations to the *Canada Elections Act*, it refers that information to the Commissioner of Canada Elections (CCE) for consideration and possible investigation.
 - EC does not comment publicly on matters that have been referred to the CCE.
 - The CCE carries out its investigations independently from EC.



Appearance of the Chief Electoral Officer on the 2024-25 Main Estimates

Fact Sheet

Recommendations for Protecting Against Threats to the Electoral Process – Foreign Interference

Key Messages

- In his June 2022 Recommendations Report, the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) made a number of recommendations that would provide additional tools for combating foreign interference in Canadian elections.
- Although not solely targeted at foreign interference, these recommendations would provide additional tools for combatting foreign interference in Canadian elections.
- The CEO is examining and has been consulting with political parties regarding other potential legislative amendments that he may put forward as the Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference continues its work.

Facts

- Recommendation 2.3.1 proposes a regime to more effectively prevent the use of foreign funds by third parties. The recommendation provides that third parties other than individuals who wish to rely on their own funds to finance regulated electoral activities need to provide Elections Canada with audited financial statements showing that no more than 10 percent of their revenue in the previous fiscal year comes from contributions.
- Recommendation 4.1.1 proposes to prohibit false statements about the voting process made to disrupt the conduct of the election or undermine the legitimacy of the election or its results.
 - To protect against inaccurate information that is intended to disrupt the conduct of an election or undermine its legitimacy, amend the *Canada Elections Act* to prohibit a person or entity, including foreign persons and entities, from knowingly making false statements about the voting process, including about voting and counting procedures, in order to disrupt the conduct of the election or to undermine the legitimacy of the election or its results.
- Recommendation 4.2.1 proposes expanding two existing prohibitions found in ss. 282.4 and 481 by extending the period to which they apply.
 - Section 282.4 specifically deals with foreign interference and was added by Bill C-76 to replace the existing unclear prohibition in former s. 331. It currently applies during the election period. The recommendation proposes extending this to a pre-election period.
 - Section 481 makes it an offence to distribute, transmit or publish material that misleadingly claims to be from Elections Canada, an election officer, a party, a



Appearance of the Chief Electoral Officer on the 2024-25 Main Estimates

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candidate, or a prospective candidate. It currently applies during the election period. The recommendation proposes extending this to all times.

- Recommendation 4.2.2 proposes expanding the scope of section 482, which relates to the misuse of computers.
 - Section 482 currently prohibits the misuse of computer systems by acting fraudulently with the intention of affecting the results of the election. The recommendation proposes expanding this to include actions meant to disrupt the conduct of the election or undermine the legitimacy of the election or its results.
- Recommendation 5.1.1 proposes to require online platforms to publish their policies on the administration of paid electoral communications and on user accounts during the pre-election and election periods as well as how they will address certain content that misleads electors.
- Recommendation 8.4.1 proposes to ban the use of untraceable instruments, such as prepaid credit cards, and to adopt specific rules for contributions using cryptocurrencies.



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Election Information for New Canadians and Ethnocultural Communities

Key Messages

- Elections Canada (EC) offers essential election information in 33 heritage and 16 Indigenous languages and communicates with new Canadians and ethnocultural communities through targeted advertising, spreading the word through its network of national and regional organizations and Community Relations Officers on the ground.
- In an effort to prevent electors from being intimidated or influenced to vote a certain way, Elections Canada has added new web content about safeguards in the election process. These include messages reinforcing the secrecy of the vote, that it is illegal to take pictures of a marked ballot, and that ballots with 'unique' markings, or in which there is any elector identifier, will be rejected. These messages will also be shared widely through additional communication channels for the 45th general election (GE).
- Foreign interference can sometimes take the form of false or inaccurate information about the electoral process that is spread on purpose. Elections Canada is piloting education initiatives in multiple languages to help strengthen the resilience of electors in ethnocultural communities and new Canadians against false information, and to bolster their overall understanding of the electoral process.

Facts

Communication Products:

- EC currently offers the undated *Guide to the Federal Election* and the *Voter Identification Tear-Off Sheet*, in 33 heritage and 16 Indigenous languages on its website. The Voter Information Campaign also includes television, radio, print, social and digital ads targeting these communities in multiple heritage languages.
- EC has added new easily accessible web content that provides information around election-related files that could impact trust, such as safeguards present in the electoral process and foreign interference. New Canadians and ethnocultural communities, who may be targeted by campaigns to influence their votes, are a key target audience.
- EC has begun issuing periodic safeguards messaging on social media channels and will be deploying a campaign for the 45th general election (boosted social media posts during the pre-writ and writ period), that will include messages reinforcing that the vote is secret. The campaign will include footage from a 2023 by-election (emphasis on showing real people and the tangible safeguards embedded in the process).
- Also during the 45th GE, a media guide will provide Mandarin, Cantonese, and Punjabi (Canada's three most common non-official languages) language media with information on subjects beyond what is typically available in translated products like the *Guide to Federal Elections* (examples: election security; National Register of Electors; political financing safeguards).



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- A new distribution list for Elections Canada's news releases has already been developed to include Indigenous and ethnocultural media outlets. EC will continue to identify opportunities for targeted outreach to cultural, Indigenous, and local media outlets.

Civic Education:

- EC is developing two videos about electoral integrity and safeguards that will be ready for use in Winter 2025: one for students that focuses on visible safeguards in the electoral process, and the other for an older student audience and teachers that focuses on behind the scenes or regulatory aspects that are not as visible, such as the political financing regime.
- EC has also created and shared communication products for teachers and students around electoral integrity including:
 - a. Blog post for teachers: Teaching about Electoral Integrity
 - b. Student-facing FAQ: How des Elections Canada keep our elections secure?
 - c. Regular social media posts about electoral integrity (Facebook and X) on EC's dedicated channels for teachers (@DemocracyCA).
- EC has hired two new Regional Education Coordinators who will work with regional school boards and community organizations to deliver workshops and professional learning to teachers (including delivering classroom demonstrations). One is based in Markham, Ontario and speaks English and Cantonese (started in January). One is based in Surrey, British Columbia, and speaks English, French and Punjabi (started in March). Both are delivering professional learning workshops to community leaders and teachers and have been delivering classroom demonstrations in their regions. To date (September 2024) they have delivered 51 workshops and have reached 1,684 people.

Outreach/Consultation Services and Stakeholder Mobilization (CSSM):

- Safeguards and integrity messages have been included in key outreach activities and various communications products, such as the Inspire Democracy Stakeholder Toolkits and workshops, for GE45. This includes messages about protecting voters' privacy and the secrecy of the vote, maintaining security at the polls, as well as safeguards for counting votes and reporting results.
- EC has expanded its network of stakeholder organizations (40) that work with new electors to focus not only on new Canadians, but to include some settlement organizations that focus on future Canadians, permanent residents, etc.
- A number of these organizations are also participating in electoral safeguards education initiatives. They are committed to sharing key messaging about the measures EC has in place, including keeping the vote secret.
- EC has also hired a new Regional Outreach Coordinator who will deliver Inspire Democracy workshops and enhance its stakeholder network in the Edmonton area. This employee (started in March) has been delivering workshops to key stakeholders that include messages on electoral safeguards.

Table 5. Estimates by Organization (dollars)

	2022-23 Expenditures	2023-24 Main Estimates	2023-24 Estimates To Date	2024-25 Main Estimates
Military Grievances External Review Committee	7,089,200	7,084,643	7,482,266	8,247,023
Military Police Complaints Commission	4,658,493	4,855,731	5,197,431	5,586,689
National Arts Centre Corporation	66,219,277	46,416,148	61,693,008	57,005,441
National Capital Commission	194,228,432	94,765,205	95,015,205	94,769,836
National Film Board	72,447,870	66,490,205	71,788,425	71,954,082
National Gallery of Canada	50,373,308	45,778,278	47,021,278	50,020,493
National Museum of Science and Technology	39,736,712	29,933,096	36,535,096	38,404,738
National Research Council of Canada	1,470,756,978	1,548,430,200	1,604,190,773	1,595,142,974
National Security and Intelligence Review Agency Secretariat	18,289,147	23,009,225	23,009,225	18,411,633
Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council	1,381,528,634	1,318,066,612	1,375,705,882	1,383,834,006
Northern Pipeline Agency	299,098	572,629	572,629	569,670
Office of Infrastructure of Canada	6,828,959,017	9,644,338,192	9,918,533,734	8,205,210,016
Office of the Auditor General	127,855,729	122,550,450	122,550,450	127,415,620
Office of the Chief Electoral Officer	213,133,374	204,854,210	204,854,210	259,288,288

Items for inclusion in the Proposed Schedules to the Appropriation Bill - 2024-25 Estimates

Unless specifically identified under the **Changes in 2024-25 Main Estimates** section, all vote wordings have been provided in earlier appropriation acts.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER	
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program expenditures
	60,363,036

Office of the Chief Electoral Officer

Raison d'être

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, commonly known as Elections Canada, is an independent, non-partisan agency that reports directly to Parliament. Its mandate is to be prepared to conduct a federal general election, by-election or referendum; to administer the political financing provisions of the *Canada Elections Act*; to monitor compliance with electoral legislation; to conduct public information campaigns on voter registration, voting and becoming a candidate; to conduct education programs for students on the electoral process; to provide support to the independent commissions in charge of adjusting the boundaries of federal electoral districts following each decennial census; to carry out studies on alternative voting methods and, with the approval of parliamentarians, test alternative voting processes for future use during electoral events; to provide assistance and co-operation in electoral matters to electoral agencies in other countries or to international organizations.

The Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs is the designated person for the purpose of tabling the Chief Electoral Officer's administrative reports in Parliament, including the Departmental Plan and Departmental Results Report.

Organizational Estimates

Table 299. Organizational Estimates (dollars) - Office of the Chief Electoral Officer

	2022-23 Expenditures	2023-24 Main Estimates	2023-24 Estimates To Date	2024-25 Main Estimates
Budgetary				
Voted				
1 Program expenditures	52,199,617	49,722,365	49,722,365	60,363,036
Total Voted	52,199,617	49,722,365	49,722,365	60,363,036
Total Statutory	160,933,757	155,131,845	155,131,845	198,925,252
Total Budgetary	213,133,374	204,854,210	204,854,210	259,288,288

2024–25 Main Estimates by Purpose

Table 300. 2024–25 Main Estimates by Purpose - Budgetary - Office of the Chief Electoral Officer

	Operating	Capital	Transfer Payments	Revenues and other reductions	Total
Electoral Administration	140,011,295	0	0	0	140,011,295
Regulatory Oversight	26,186,727	0	850,000	0	27,036,727
Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Administration	0	0	0	0	0
Internal Services	92,240,266	0	0	0	92,240,266
Total	258,438,288	0	850,000	0	259,288,288

Listing of Statutory Authorities

Table 301. Listing of Statutory Authorities - Office of the Chief Electoral Officer - Budgetary (dollars)

	2022–23 Expenditures	2023–24 Estimates To Date	2024–25 Main Estimates
Electoral expenditures (<i>Canada Elections Act</i> and the <i>Referendum Act</i>)	137,827,272	140,136,372	182,107,401
Contributions to employee benefit plans	13,352,508	13,668,683	16,434,151
Salary of the Chief Electoral Officer (<i>Canada Elections Act</i>)	372,371	372,200	383,700

Meeting Information	
Date	Tuesday, April 30, 2019 (9:30 to 11:00 am)
Topic	Main Estimates 2019-20
Witnesses	<p>Office of the Chief Electoral Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stéphane Perrault, Chief Electoral Officer • Hughes St-Pierre, Deputy Chief Electoral Officer, Internal Services <p>The Leaders' Debates Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michel Cormier, Executive Director • Bradley Eddison, Director, Policy and Management Services
Follow-ups	After the meeting, Senator Duncan spoke to the CEO about obtaining supplementary information on the Community Relations Officer program in general and, if possible, more specifically, the planned activities in the Yukon.
Opening Statement	
<p>The CEO outlined EC's priorities for 2019-2020 including implementation of Bill C-76, preparing for the election, the quality of the voters' list, and electoral security. His opening remarks can be found here: English / Français</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Cormier talked about the Commission's mandate: to organize two leaders' debates in each official language. He said that the Commission is seeking \$4.63 M overall for its core responsibility. • So far, the Commission has completed the first phase of its mandate; it has consulted with 40+ groups and individuals, has met with some political parties, has implemented a communications infrastructure, and is in the process of choosing a producer. • The Commission will also initiate an outreach program to foster interest in and knowledge of the debates. • The Commission will develop a research strategy to measure the impact of and interest in the debates, to inform their recommendations to Parliament following the GE. 	
Questions by Subject	
Exercising the Right to Vote (Target groups, Expats electors)	
<p>When asked about how EC reaches out to the "vulnerable sector" (i.e. the homeless, elderly, those without access to computers/Internet), the CEO spoke about the Community Relations Officer (CRO) program to assist Returning Officers in reaching out to different communities. The CEO also described outreach initiatives to equip groups that work with communities, such as new Canadians and Indigenous electors, with information about registration and voting options.</p> <p>The CEO also noted that there will be messaging in various formats to attract different groups of electors, including a pre-writ influencer campaign to motivate young people to register, and that the number of voting stations on campuses is being increased drastically. He added that some communications products are available in up to 38 languages.</p> <p>With respect to expat voters, the CEO said that starting on May 11 expat voters will be required to register where they last lived in Canada, instead of the existing choices. There have been about 2,000 registrations since the <i>Frank</i> case struck down the five-year rule, and EC is expecting up to 30,000 expat electors for the 2019 GE. The CEO also clarified that proof of citizenship is required when registering.</p>	

Regulating Political Entities (Third parties, Privacy)

With respect to monitoring third parties, the CEO explained that EC has identified third parties who registered in provincial and federal elections in past cycles, and is proactively alerting about the new rules. With regard to online platforms and disinformation, the CEO indicated that it is not EC's role to monitor the Internet, but that EC's responsibility lies in ensuring accurate information about the voting process is available.

When asked about the requirement for political parties to publish privacy policies, and whether this is sufficient, the CEO emphasized that it is not sufficient since there is no threshold for what privacy protections must be included, including consent and training. He has shared his concerns with parties on a number of occasions. The CEO also referenced the [guidelines](#) published with the Privacy Commissioner. EC's role is to ensure that parties have a policy, which must be posted on party websites by July 2.

Enforcement and Protecting Integrity (Disinformation, IT/Cyber security, Digital platforms, Enforcement, Foreign influence)

When asked how EC ensures donations are made legally, in light of a [CBC article](#) revealing illegal donations from SNC Lavalin employees, the CEO said that EC publishes all reported contributions and conducts a horizontal audit to check for over-contributions. However, he added that it is difficult to know the source of the money donated by individuals.

In response to further questions about the compliance agreement administered by the Commissioner of Canada Elections (CCE), the CEO distinguished between his role and that of the CCE, including that the investigation was conducted by the CCE and the CEO's only role was to ensure that illegal contributions were reimbursed to the Receiver General, and they were. The CEO explained that there are a number of factors that lead to the decision to enter a compliance agreement, including the seriousness of the act, as well as the availability of information to investigate. He also said the CCE's new ability to compel testimony may be significant in future similar cases.

When asked what mechanisms EC has in place to protect the election from foreign cyber interference, the CEO responded that EC has had the opportunity to modernize its IT infrastructure since the last GE, has worked closely with CSE, and security training has been provided to all staff. He also told the committee that EC will provide public awareness messages leading up to the campaign on social media literacy.

With respect to correcting mis- or dis-information about polling locations, the CEO said that EC is working to highlight that Canadians should only turn to EC as the official source for information about the electoral process.

When asked what EC's relationship with the Critical Election Incident Public Protocol, the CEO said that anything related to the electoral process is of concern to the CEO. On the other hand, issues related to foreign activities or national security are not within his mandate. He noted the importance of agencies working together and exchanging information in scenarios in advance of the election, and during the election.

In response to a question about collaboration with other countries on preventing foreign interference, the CEO said that EC has regular meetings with counterparts in the US, and is part of a forum with Australia, New Zealand, and the UK to share best practices.

EC's Budget and Costs of Administering the Election

With respect to the cost of implementing C-76, the CEO pointed to \$21M in costs for the election including increased hours at advance polls, as well as changes in the political financing regime (i.e. reimbursements for disability expenses), and increased flexibility in some procedures. The CEO also mentioned that based on the increase use of advance voting opportunities, EC will be increasing the number of advance polls.

When asked about the balance of about \$10 million between the total budget for 2019-20 and the part allocated for salary and the election, Hughes St-Pierre explained that the election budget is split over more than one

financial year, while other items include operational expenses.

When asked about the role of the Treasury Board in EC's unique funding, the CEO clarified that TBS does not have a role and this is the first time EC has asked for funding ahead of an election. He stated that he wishes to talk to Parliament, not to TBS.

Leaders' Debates

Format of debate

When asked about the challenges, Mr. Cormier said that the format of the debate is important, as is ensuring widespread access to the broadcast. He explained that the format is not up to the Commission, but rather to the producer, who will be expected to reflect certain values in their broadcast format.

In response to a question about whether a debate is the best way to engage Canadians in democracy, Mr. Cormier acknowledged that this is an experiment to be evaluated after the 2019 GE. He emphasized that having two debates to which major political parties commit is fundamental to the democratic process.

Criteria for inclusion

When asked about the criteria for inclusion of party leaders, Mr. Cormier explained that they were developed through consultations and are inspired from previous rules, but modified to allow discretion to the Commissioner. In response to a question about the subjectivity of the third criteria (whether the candidates endorsed by the party have a legitimate chance to be elected in the GE), Mr. Cormier said that the Commission will take into account polls and poll aggregates and carry out consultations. Ultimately, inclusion is up to the Commissioner. At the moment, five parties are eligible for inclusion, though this is still under examination.

Accessibility

With respect to access to the debates for people living in rural Canada, Mr. Cormier said that the producer will be asked to ensure the debates are widely available with multiple viewing possibilities. He also pointed to the mandate to ensure debates are accessible to different language communities. He mentioned that the Commission has met with AGDI to identify issues to be addressed for people with disabilities, and added that sign language will also be part of the contract with the producer. Mr. Cormier said that they are in the process of evaluating which languages to broadcast.

Commission's mandate

In response to a concern about overlapping education mandates (i.e. between the Commission and EC), Mr. Cormier said that the mandates are very different, and that in the context of fake news, all education efforts should be welcome. The CEO added that EC's civic education initiative speaks to elections in general, but that the consolidation of the mandates could be examined in the future.

When asked how the Commission will overcome perceptions of political bias, Mr. Cormier clarified that the Commission has total independence from the government, and remains at arm's length from the Minister and PCO.

Budget

In response to a question about the allocation of the Commission's budget, Mr. Cormier said that they hope to put as much money as possible in the production and promotion of the debates. Further, they wish to invest in research to engage Canadians and raise awareness and participation. He also noted that funding is required to make sure that the debates are accessible.

When asked why the \$4.5 M budget is so much greater than the \$250,000 it cost CBC/Radio-Canada to organize a debate, Mr. Cormier pointed out that the Commission is doing more than just organizing the debate, including an education campaign.



Le directeur général des élections • The Chief Electoral Officer

Our file: 2019-035799

Honourable Pat Duncan, Senator
The Senate
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A4

MAY 16 2019

Dear Senator Duncan:

This letter is further to our discussion following my April 30, 2019 appearance before the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance where you sought further information about Elections Canada's Community Relations Officer program and activities planned for Yukon for the 2019 general election.

The purpose of the program is to increase awareness during the election period of when, where and ways to register and vote among target groups of electors who historically participate in federal elections at a lower rate than the general population. These groups include Indigenous, youth, and homeless electors, electors with disabilities, senior electors living in long-term care facilities, and electors who are part of official language minority and ethno-cultural groups.

The role of the Community Relations Officer is to work with these groups during the election period to provide information about the electoral process (such as polling locations and how to register and vote) and to ensure that they have the opportunity to register and vote if they wish to do so. This is done through a variety of activities such as hosting kiosks, making presentations, or distributing information. A table showing the number of officers hired for the last three general elections is enclosed.

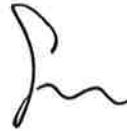
For the 2019 general election, the Returning Officer in Yukon, Mr. Michael Lauer, is planning to hire two Community Relations Officers to work with Indigenous electors, and one officer each to work with homeless electors, youth electors, and senior electors in long-term care facilities. In addition, Mr. Lauer is planning a combination of kiosks and information distribution, including the possibility of a presence at the Canada Games Centre in Whitehorse.

In addition to the Community Relations Officer program, Elections Canada also conducts national outreach initiatives on an ongoing basis. These activities are developed to understand why some Canadians do not exercise their democratic right to vote, and to act on what we learn by working directly with national and regional organizations.

Our ongoing national outreach program, Inspire Democracy, helps address barriers to electoral participation by providing information and discussion guides for organizations representing communities that face the greatest barriers (particularly new voters, people with disabilities, and Indigenous electors). Closer to a federal election, this network of organizations also shares Elections Canada information about when, where and ways to register and vote.

I trust that this information will be of assistance to you and I invite you to contact me if you have any further questions.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Stéphane Perrault', written in a cursive style.

Stéphane Perrault
Chief Electoral Officer

Encl.: Table: Community relations officers hired for the 40th, 41st and 42nd general elections

Community relations officers hired for the 40th, 41st and 42nd general elections

Program	Number of officers 40th general election	Number of officers 41st general election	Number of officers 42nd general election
Youth	200	230	230
Official language/ Ethno-cultural	143	129	132
Indigenous	154	164	169
Homeless	32	40	117
Seniors	N/A	300	314
Accessibility (Electors with a Disability)	N/A	N/A	233
Total	529	863	1,195