



Report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada

*Following the
September 11, 2000
By-elections held in
Kings-Hants and
Okanagan-Coquihalla*



www.elections.ca



**Report of the
Chief Electoral Officer
of Canada**

*Following the
September 11, 2000
By-elections held in
Kings–Hants and
Okanagan–Coquihalla*



Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Data

Elections Canada
Report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada
following the September 11, 2000 by-elections
held in Kings–Hants and Okanagan–Coquihalla

Text in English and French on inverted pages.
Title on added t.p.: Rapport du directeur général
des élections du Canada sur les élections partielles
tenues le 11 septembre 2000 dans Kings–Hants
et Okanagan–Coquihalla.
ISBN 0-662-65278-9
Cat. No. SE1-2/2000-1

1. Canada. Parliament—Elections, 2000.
 2. Elections—Nova Scotia—Kings–Hants.
 3. Elections—British Columbia—
Okanagan–Coquihalla.
- I. Title.
II. Title: Rapport du directeur général des
élections du Canada sur les élections partielles
tenues le 11 septembre 2000 dans Kings–Hants
et Okanagan–Coquihalla.

JL193.C32 2000 324.9713'32 C00-980420-XE

© Chief Electoral Officer of Canada 2000

Catalogue No. SE1-2/2000-1
ISBN 0-662-65278-9

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

PRINTED IN CANADA

For enquiries, please contact:

Public Enquiries Unit
Elections Canada
257 Slater Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0M6
Tel.: 1 800 INFO-VOTE (1 800 463-6868)
Fax: (613) 954-8584
TTY: 1 800 361-8935
Web site: www.elections.ca



The Chief Electoral Officer • Le directeur général des élections

November 17, 2000

The Honourable Gilbert Parent
Speaker of the House of Commons
Centre Block, House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I have the honour to submit this report, which covers the administration of the federal by-elections held in the electoral districts of Kings–Hants and Okanagan–Coquihalla on September 11, 2000, and the administration of my Office since the publication of the previous report. This report is submitted in accordance with subsection 195(1) of the *Canada Elections Act*, R.S.C., c. E-2, within 60 days after the by-election writs were returned.

According to subsection 195(3) of the Act, this report shall forthwith be submitted by the Speaker to the House of Commons.

Summary information has been included on the results of the by-elections, together with an account of the events. The official voting results will be published and made available on Elections Canada's Web site (www.elections.ca) by the end of December 2000.

Yours truly,

Jean-Pierre Kingsley

Table of contents

Foreword	1
Elections Canada’s activities since the previous report	3
Follow-up to the May 15, 2000, by-election in St. John’s West.....	3
Legislative issues	3
The National Register of Electors	5
Information technology: Maintaining election readiness	6
Electoral geography: New maps	7
Our largest election-readiness training program	8
Relations with Parliament and registered political parties	8
New publications	9
International activities.....	9
The by-elections in Kings–Hants and Okanagan–Coquihalla	10
Communicating with voters	11
Communicating with candidates, official agents and auditors.....	11
Revising the voters lists.....	11
Voting in the by-elections.....	13
The candidates and by-election results	15
Special permission.....	16
Commissioner’s report.....	16
Conclusion	16

Foreword

This report to the Speaker of the House of Commons describes the federal by-elections held in the electoral districts of Kings–Hants and Okanagan–Coquihalla on September 11, 2000, and the administration of my Office since the publication of the last report, on the by-election of May 15, 2000.

Both by-elections proceeded efficiently and successfully, as I conclude in my report. Communications, revision and voting were all conducted without any untoward incident. By-elections in Canada frequently result in smaller voter turnouts than general elections, and these two were no exception. The by-election turnout was 39.5 percent in Kings–Hants and 40.3 percent in Okanagan–Coquihalla, compared to 65.7 percent and 65.1 percent, respectively, in the 1997 general election.

During the past four months, Elections Canada has been exceptionally busy preparing for the changes required by the new *Canada Elections Act*. The Act received royal assent on May 31, 2000; our implementation planning went so smoothly that I was able to publish a notice in the *Canada Gazette* on September 1, stating that preparations for bringing the Act into operation had been completed, and that the new Act was in force as of that date. A summary of the main changes appears in this report.

Our plans for keeping the National Register of Electors up-to-date continue on schedule, and I am particularly pleased that we have signed a data-sharing agreement with the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer of Alberta. We believe that Elections Canada is at the forefront of those using modern technology for electoral administration, resulting in cost savings for Canadian taxpayers and greater convenience for Canadian voters. Both by-elections allowed us to try out several new computer applications, described in the report, with encouraging success.

Above all, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the dedication and imagination of Elections Canada's small staff, who work tirelessly on behalf of the Canadian electorate and Canadians of all ages. They have been tested severely during the past few months by election-preparedness activities, simultaneously handling the demands of the old *Canada Elections Act* and setting up procedures for the new Act. Few Canadians will see our staff during the long hours they put in, but all Canadians benefit from their energy and ideas. It is a privilege for me to work with them in the service of Parliament and the Canadian people.

Jean-Pierre Kingsley

Elections Canada's activities since the previous report

Follow-up to the May 15, 2000, by-election in St. John's West

Candidates' election expenses

Under the *Canada Elections Act*, candidates are required to file election expenses returns within four months of election day. Elections Canada is now reviewing financial returns from the five candidates who ran for office in the May 2000 by-election in St. John's West, to ensure compliance with the Act and to determine the amount of reimbursement owed to those candidates who qualified.

Legislative issues

Amendments to electoral legislation

The new *Canada Elections Act* received royal assent on May 31, 2000. It took effect on September 1, 2000, following the publication by the Chief Electoral Officer of a notice in the *Canada Gazette* that, the necessary preparations having been made, the Act was now in force. The new Act is available electronically in PDF format on Elections Canada's Web site at www.elections.ca under Electoral Law & Policy.

The new *Canada Elections Act* did not apply to the by-elections in Kings-Hants and Okanagan-Coquihalla. These by-elections were held under the *Canada Elections Act* in effect when the writs were issued on August 5, 2000.

The last two reports have briefly listed the main provisions of the new Act as it moved through the legislative process. The following is a more detailed summary of the principal changes that are now in force.

Third party election advertising

- A third party is defined as a person or group other than a candidate, a registered party, or its electoral district association.

- A third party is required to register after incurring \$500 or more on election advertising, to appoint a financial agent and to file a report on its election advertising expenses and related contributions.
- The report must include the names and addresses of donors who contributed more than \$200 for election advertising purposes, during the period starting six months before the election was called and including the full election period. If the donor who contributes more than \$200 is a numbered company, the name of the chief executive officer or president of that company must be indicated.
- If the third party is a trade union, corporation or other entity with a governing body, the application for registration as a third party must include a copy of the resolution authorizing the election advertising expenses.
- There is a spending limit of \$150 000, of which no more than \$3 000 may be spent in any single electoral district.
- Third parties may not issue tax receipts as third parties, receive voters lists or be reimbursed for expenses.
- Third parties are subject to the same blackout period for advertising and election opinion surveys as registered political parties and candidates.

Financing rules for registered political parties and candidates

- More detailed financial reports are now required from registered parties, to permit better assessment of their financial activities.
- Registered parties are required to file an audited financial report for each trust fund they establish for an election.
- Details are required of any transfer of funds from registered parties to candidates, electoral district associations and trust funds established for the election of a candidate.

- Reimbursement of election expenses, for those parties that qualify, is based on election expenses actually paid, rather than declared election expenses.
- The refund of a candidate's nomination deposit no longer depends on the number of votes that the candidate received. The deposit is refunded in full if reporting requirements are met.
- A registered party that fails to nominate at least 50 candidates is not required to liquidate its assets if it reapplies to become a registered party, and files financial reports and a declaration of intent to run candidates with the Chief Electoral Officer.
- A party created by the merger of registered parties may keep the assets of the constituent parties.
- The maximum subsidy for a candidate's auditor is increased from \$750 to \$1 500.
- The method of publishing financial reports is left to the discretion of the Chief Electoral Officer.
- The threshold for disclosure of donors has been increased from \$100 to \$200, with addresses as well as the names of donors required. If the donor is a numbered company, the name of the chief executive officer or president of that company must be indicated.

Election advertising and election opinion surveys

- Media outlets are required to include a survey's methodology when reporting on a new opinion survey during the first 24 hours that the survey results are transmitted to the public.
- Election advertising and publishing or broadcasting new election survey results are prohibited on election day.

Changes more directly affecting voters

- Voters living in apartment buildings have the right to post election signs, subject to reasonable restrictions.
- Candidates and their representatives have the enforceable right to enter apartment and condominium buildings from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

during an election campaign, except for safe-house dwellings for persons living under reasonable apprehension of bodily harm.

- Voting hours for all by-elections occurring on the same day in one time zone now run from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., local time.
- Canadian voters who are temporarily abroad may submit their special ballots at high commissions, embassies, consulates and other designated locations.
- Registration by vouching is no longer restricted to rural areas, but extends to all polling divisions in Canada.
- The *Income Tax Act* has been amended to raise the threshold for receiving the 75 percent political tax credit from \$100 to \$200.

Enforcement

- The Commissioner of Canada Elections may enter into compliance agreements with individuals who commit offences. These agreements must be entered into voluntarily by the persons concerned. The Commissioner must publish a summary of each compliance agreement.
- The Commissioner is empowered to seek a court injunction during a campaign ordering someone to conform with the Act, or to refrain from contravening the Act, if fairness or the public interest requires action to be taken.
- The *Dominion Controverted Elections Act* has been repealed and its provisions added to the *Canada Elections Act*.
- Outdated statutes have been repealed: the *Corrupt Practices Inquiries Act* (1876) and the *Disfranchising Act* (1894).

Electoral administration

- The language and organization of the *Canada Elections Act* have been updated and made clearer.
- The Chief Electoral Officer is authorized to develop and test electronic voting techniques during an election, with the prior approval of the

committee of the House of Commons that considers electoral matters.

- Returning officers now have the right to vote.
- In the case of a tie vote in an electoral district, a new election will be held in that district.
- The returning officer must verify the qualifications to vote of voters who sign nomination papers.
- It is now possible to submit nomination papers electronically in all electoral districts, either to the returning officer or to a person designated by the returning officer. The original documents must be provided to the returning officer 48 hours after the close of nominations.

Recent court matters

During the period covered by this report, some aspects of electoral administration and electoral law were being tested in the courts.

On May 2, 2000, the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada applied to the Federal Court – Trial Division for judicial review of the Chief Electoral Officer’s decision to allow the Reform Party of Canada to change its name to the Canadian Reform Conservative Alliance. On May 23, 2000, the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada also filed a statement of claim in the Federal Court, under the *Trademarks Act*. No hearing has yet been held in either case.

On July 7, 2000, Stephen Harper filed an action in the Alberta Court of Queen’s Bench, asking that ss. 323(1), 323(3) and 350–362 of the *Canada Elections Act* – dealing with third party requirements – be held unconstitutional. The hearing of this action began on October 2, 2000.

On August 16, 2000, the Ontario Court of Appeal issued its decision in the case of *Figueroa v. Canada (Attorney General)*, concerning the requirements for registration of a political party. It upheld the constitutional validity of the rule that a party may become registered only after it nominates candidates in at least 50 ridings during a general election. However, it decided that restricting the identification of party affiliation on the ballot to registered parties was contrary to s. 3 of the *Canadian*

Charter of Rights and Freedoms; in the Court’s view, identification of party affiliation was particularly important where small political parties were concerned. The court suspended the effect of this judgment for six months so that Parliament may make the necessary modifications to the *Canada Elections Act*.

The National Register of Electors

Maintaining the Register

Between general elections, the National Register of Electors is kept as up-to-date and accurate as possible, so that it is ready at any time to generate reliable preliminary voters lists for federal general elections, referendums, and by-elections, such as those just held in Kings–Hants and Okanagan–Coquihalla.

The Register is continually updated with data from the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, provincial and territorial motor vehicle and vital statistics registrars, and electoral agencies in British Columbia and Quebec (which have permanent voters lists). Voters lists from provincial and territorial elections are also used to update the Register. Elections Canada has agreements in place or under negotiation to obtain access to these lists from every province and territory.

The *Canada Elections Act* stipulates that active consent is required from individuals for the transfer of their information from federal sources to maintain the National Register of Electors. For the 1999 tax year, 84 percent of income tax filers consented to the transfer of their information to update the Register, and 87 percent of new Canadians consented to be added to the Register.

In March, Elections Canada signed an agreement with the Canada Post Corporation to receive the names and addresses of people who have notified Canada Post of their changes of address. Elections Canada can only use this information for mailing purposes. This information, however, can be used to update the Register with the express consent of each individual. Elections Canada will mail designated individuals a request for their consent to update the Register with their new address information.

During its regular maintenance activities, the agency mails a request to individuals who turned 18 to confirm their citizenship, and to ask their consent to be added to the National Register of Electors.

Elections Canada identifies these people by using information from the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency and motor vehicle registrars.

To date, only 25 percent of these 18-year-olds have consented to be added to the Register. In light of these disappointing results, we undertook a qualitative and quantitative evaluation of this outreach activity during the summer, and will complete it this fall. Elections Canada also plans a mailing to previous non-respondents during the next general federal election.

Sharing Register data

Data-sharing partnerships help to ensure that the quality of the National Register of Electors is consistently high, both during and between elections. Using revised voters lists from other jurisdictions to augment the standard update sources can improve the Register's quality. Sharing the Register's data with other electoral agencies also reduces costs for all Canadian taxpayers.

Since the last report, an agreement was signed on May 26, 2000, with the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nova Scotia, to use data from the Register to establish voters lists for the forthcoming elections in certain municipalities in October 2000. Under existing agreements, Register data was similarly shared with electoral agencies in Ontario and in Newfoundland and Labrador.

On September 22, 2000, Elections Canada signed a sharing agreement with the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer of Alberta. The National Register of Electors will receive electoral data resulting from Alberta's recent confirmation process; in return, Alberta may request extracts from the National Register to create voters lists and update the Alberta Register of Electors System. The agreement also provides for technical assistance from Elections Canada in updating the Alberta Register, including software, documentation and technical and methodological support. The agreement is in effect until December 31, 2003.

Each agreement includes mandatory security measures. Voter data is personal information that is protected by the *Canada Elections Act* and the *Privacy Act*. Under the *Canada Elections Act*, the information may only be used for electoral purposes.

Information technology: Maintaining election readiness

Reporting election results: Redesigned software

The Event Results System, first used in the 1993 general election, has been redesigned to take advantage of technological advances. This computer software helps returning officers to tabulate and send poll-by-poll election results electronically to the media and Elections Canada's Web site; it allows Elections Canada to gather and verify the poll-by-poll results received from the 301 electoral districts, and to gather, merge and verify the voting results under the Special Voting Rules.

The new system automates several manual processes, and improves electronic data transmission from Elections Canada to the electoral districts. For example, information that was previously sent by fax (such as the Special Voting Rules results) is transmitted electronically to returning officers from Ottawa on election night. The redesigned software also permits more rapid certification of the official results for publication. Successfully introduced in the September 11 by-elections, the system transmitted the results to the agency's Web site and the local media quickly and accurately.

Registration in the electoral districts: New software is operational

The computerized REVISE system for handling revision is now fully operational. The system has improved the preparation of voters lists from data in the National Register of Electors, and will accommodate changes resulting from the recent amendments to the *Canada Elections Act*. Used for the second time in the Kings-Hants and

Okanagan–Coquihalla by-elections for updating the voters lists, the system once more met Elections Canada’s expectations.

New computer network and equipment used by returning officers

The by-elections in Kings–Hants and Okanagan–Coquihalla served as proving grounds for several technological projects undertaken by Elections Canada in the last year. Chief among them was the implementation of an integrated local area network linking all computers in the office of the returning officer, and also capable of linking to the Elections Canada network in Ottawa. For the first time, IBM, the agency’s field-equipment contractor, provided information technology services under its newly awarded contract.

The network proved to be very robust and effective; the equipment performed well and, as expected, worked with very few problems despite the complexity of introducing new systems under field conditions.

Returning Office Payment System successfully tested

During the by-election in Kings–Hants, the new Returning Office Payment System was successfully tested as a pilot project. The system helps returning officers to track staff budgets, produce financial reports, prepare payment information for poll officials, the returning officer’s staff and landlords, and send all the information to Ottawa so that Elections Canada can process the payments.

Electoral geography: New maps

The agency has produced new polling division documents and maps for all electoral districts. These maps are newly formatted and updated to reflect the results of a mapping survey conducted among returning officers and political parties in spring 1999.

The new maps were used for the by-elections in Kings–Hants and Okanagan–Coquihalla.

National packages of geographic documents and maps have now been sent to the headquarters of all registered political parties. Members of Parliament received the same package for their electoral districts. The documentation includes descriptions of all polling divisions within each electoral district, poll keys that list streets alphabetically by name (listing also the number of the polling division and advance poll within which they are located), lists of the advance polling districts, and various map formats by electoral district, polling division and municipality.

Revised street indexes and the *Guide to Federal Electoral Districts* have recently been sent to all members of Parliament. The indexes help voters who use the Special Voting Rules determine the electoral district in which they are qualified to vote at a general election; they also provide information for anyone else wishing to determine the electoral district in which certain addresses are located. The guide is used to determine the electoral districts of almost 30 000 specific localities, and includes cities that contain more than one electoral district.

Elections Canada continues to update the National Geographic Database – a highly successful co-operative venture with Statistics Canada. The database is a national road network containing streets, address ranges, administrative boundaries and topographical features such as lakes and rivers.

A concerted effort is underway to increase the number of address ranges within the road network, especially those in newly built areas. The aim is to allow voters’ addresses to be georeferenced, an operation by which each voter’s address is assigned an x-y coordinate, which is then used to locate it in an electoral district and polling division. This enables the Register to be shared with jurisdictions that have different boundaries. Following the redistribution of electoral boundaries after the next census, it will also make the job of transposing the voters lists much easier.

Our largest election-readiness training program

As part of Elections Canada's plans to be ready for a general election under the new Act by September 1, 2000, the biggest training program ever held at the agency took place this summer in Ottawa. The project brought together 301 returning officers, 301 assistant returning officers and 301 automation coordinators, with 25 trainers and presenters from nine different divisions at Elections Canada.

The election officers received nearly 25 000 hours of training between July 31 and August 26 on recent developments in electoral administration, including:

- the impact of changes to the *Canada Elections Act*
- the new voter registration system (REVISE)
- the revised event management system
- the revised event results system
- the new organizational structure of local offices
- the new financial management system for returning officers
- the new voter information card
- the revised tariff of fees
- the new process for assessing the performance of returning officers

Evaluation reports completed by the participants indicated a high level of satisfaction with the training.

Relations with Parliament and registered political parties

Appearance of the Chief Electoral Officer before the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs

On May 18, 2000, the Chief Electoral Officer appeared before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs to present Elections Canada's main estimates. He provided an overview of some of Elections Canada's

recent achievements. These include conducting five by-elections in the 1999-2000 fiscal year; signing a memorandum of understanding with the Chief Statistician of Canada to merge geographic databases, giving Elections Canada the most detailed and current digital national road network in Canada; and making sure that the National Register of Electors continues to function and progress as planned. The Register is still projected to cut voter registration costs by some \$30 million for the next and subsequent elections.

The occasion also presented an opportunity to highlight some of the agency's plans and priorities for the 2000-2001 fiscal year, including the implementation of the new *Canada Elections Act*; Elections Canada's program to inform the public and all stakeholders about the Act's new provisions; training sessions for returning officers and key members of their staff; and the development of outreach programs to give all voters the information necessary to understand and participate in the electoral process.

The full text of the statement made by the Chief Electoral Officer at his appearance before the committee, and all his other public statements, are available on the Elections Canada Web site at www.elections.ca under Media (Statements and Speeches).

Advisory Committee of Registered Political Parties

The Advisory Committee of Registered Political Parties met on June 8, 2000, to receive updates on the National Register of Electors and on the revision and registration process, and hear an overview of the communication program the agency is preparing for the next general election.

On the following day, Elections Canada held a special briefing session on the new *Canada Elections Act*. The briefing was open both to registered political parties and to parties eligible for registration. The presentations summarized the changes to operational and campaigning provisions, and to provisions dealing with the registration of political parties, election financing for parties and candidates, enforcement,

communications, and third parties. Following the June 9 briefing, the Chief Electoral Officer extended membership on the committee to parties that are eligible for registration.

New publications

The third edition of Elections Canada's biannual journal, *Electoral Insight*, was published in June, with the theme of technology in the electoral process. The journal is directed to readers interested in electoral issues, including parliamentarians, officials of international and Canadian electoral-management organizations, election officers and academics.

The third phase of the Web module *Explore A History of the Vote in Canada* was launched during a ceremony at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Hull, Quebec, on August 9, 2000. The ceremony marked the 80th anniversary of the office of Chief Electoral Officer of Canada. The Web module examines the development of the Canadian electoral system since the colonial era. The first two phases of the Web module – *Journeys* and *Timeline*, launched last year – survey the general history of the vote from the 18th century to the present. This third phase, *Chronicle*, examines the contemporary period in detail, beginning with the creation of the office of Chief Electoral Officer. It includes *SElections*, Elections Canada's new electronic trivia game, an enjoyable and challenging way to learn about the history of the vote in Canada. The module was created in co-operation with the Canadian Museum of Civilization. It is accessible on the museum's Web site (www.civilization.ca/hist/elections/el_000_e.html) and from the information booth in the museum's Social Progress Gallery.

Elections Canada's new Web site, launched in September, now makes it easy for any viewer to set up his or her own personal screen to view election results as they come in. The customized screen can show past

and live results by political party, by electoral district, by province, or in any combination the viewer wants.

International activities

In June 2000, Elections Canada received a delegation from Kosovo. The four journalists from the Kosovo Radio and Television System were seeking information on Elections Canada's Web site, broadcasting, the public Enquiries Unit, media relations, civic education programs, information tools for reporters and information technology.

Also in June, Elections Canada received a delegation from Croatia, representing the Croatia-Canada Women Parliamentarians Network. The purpose of this study tour was to share information on different ways of organizing elections, the role of the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada, public education and the influence of political parties.

At the request of the United Nations, the Assistant Director of International Services accepted a one-month assignment with the United Nations, in Mexico, to help coordinate and support the Special Guests Program of the Instituto Federal Electoral for the elections that took place on July 2, 2000. Under the program, special guests systematically visited polling stations to obtain information on how the polling day activities were carried out.

At the request of the non-profit Carter Center of Atlanta, Georgia, the Assistant Chief Electoral Officer for International Services joined a delegation responsible for monitoring and observing the Venezuelan national elections on July 30, 2000.

In early September, the Assistant Chief Electoral Officer for International Services also participated in a training workshop for members of the Kosovo Election Commission at the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance in Stockholm, Sweden.

The by-elections in Kings–Hants and Okanagan–Coquihalla

On July 19, 2000, Jim Hart, Canadian Reform Conservative Alliance Member of Parliament for Okanagan–Coquihalla, resigned his seat in the House of Commons.

On July 24, Scott A. Brison, Progressive Conservative Party of Canada Member of Parliament for Kings–Hants, resigned his seat in the House of Commons.

On August 5, the Governor in Council announced that by-elections to fill the vacancies in the two electoral districts would be held on September 11. Following this announcement, the Chief Electoral Officer issued writs to the returning officers of the two electoral districts, directing them to conduct the by-elections. Table 1 is an overview of the important milestones during the period from the issue of the writs to their return.

Table 1
Key dates for the September 11, 2000, by-elections in Kings–Hants and Okanagan–Coquihalla

Date	Election calendar day	Event
August 5	Day 37	Issue of the writs; preparations made to open the offices of the returning officers
August 5 to 12	Days 37 to 30 (midnight)	Advertising blackout period for political parties
August 8	Day 34	Proclamation published in Okanagan–Coquihalla; candidates may file nominations
August 9	Day 33	Revision of voters lists begins
August 9	Day 33	Proclamation published in Kings–Hants; candidates may file nominations
August 14	Day 28	Targeted revision begins
August 16, 17 and 18	Days 26, 25 and 24	Notices of Confirmation of Registration mailed to all registered voters
August 21	Day 21 (2:00 p.m.)	Nominations of candidates close
August 31	Day 11	Revised voters lists distributed
September 1, 2 and 4	Days 10, 9 and 7	Advance polls
September 5	Day 6 (6:00 p.m.)	Revision and special ballot registration end
September 8	Day 3	Official voters lists distributed
September 10 and 11	Days 1 and 0	Advertising blackout period for political parties
September 11	Day 0	Election day
September 12	Day –1	Official additions
September 19	Day –8	Writs returned

Communicating with voters

In May, the agency published a brochure for Canadian Forces voters, explaining how to amend the *Statement of Ordinary Residence* that determines the electoral district for each voter in the Forces. The brochure was mailed to all members of the Forces, and the Canadian Forces newsletter *Maple Leaf* published an article on the subject on June 28, 2000. The article also appears on the Internet sites of Elections Canada and of the Judge Advocate General of the Department of National Defence.

After the writs were issued for the by-elections, Elections Canada mailed a general information booklet to each household in the electoral districts. It provided details on voting options, dates and locations. To make voters aware of important information and dates, such as advance polls and voting day, the agency purchased advertising in local and regional newspapers and radio stations.

As a pilot project for both by-elections, Elections Canada introduced a new reminder card to tell voters that they should already have received their notices of Confirmation of Registration. The follow-up reminder card advised them to call their local Elections Canada office if they did not receive a notice of Confirmation of Registration, if they received someone else's notice, or if the notice had errors in the name or address or the information was incomplete. An evaluation of the card's effect is still underway; if it proves positive, the reminder card could be used for future elections.

Two weeks before polling day, a special news release pointed out that election results from Kings–Hants could not be published in Okanagan–Coquihalla before the polls closed there at 7:00 p.m. The ban included publishing results on the Internet, a prohibition that attracted considerable media attention.

Communicating with candidates, official agents and auditors

To help candidates, official agents and auditors understand and comply with the financing provisions of the *Canada Elections Act*, Elections Canada presented seminars in Kings–Hants and Okanagan–Coquihalla on August 18, 2000. Agency officials gave instructions on how to complete the *Candidate's Return Respecting Election Expenses*, and demonstrated the *Electronic Candidate's Return*.

Revising the voters lists

For the ninth time since its creation in 1997, data from the National Register of Electors were used to produce the preliminary voters lists for the by-elections. The returning officers for both electoral districts reported a total of 7 012 additions, 3 458 moves within the electoral districts, 3 339 removals and 3 392 corrections recorded during the event on the preliminary voters lists, including persons voting under the Special Voting Rules who were added to the lists. This represents 12.4 percent of the 138 293 voters on the preliminary lists.

Of the 17 201 revisions performed during the event, including voters using the Special Voting Rules, 10 621 took place during the actual revision period from August 9 to September 5. An additional 6 580 revisions were performed as a result of registrations at the polls on election day. Table 2 shows the details of the revision transactions.

Table 2
Voters lists – revision transactions

Kings–Hants

Calendar	Revision transactions ¹	Cumulative totals	
Day 33 to Day 11	Preliminary lists	66 243	
	Additions	1 633	
	Corrections	563	
	Removals	347	
	Moves	1 245	
	Total	3 788	
Day 10 to Day 6	Revised lists	67 529	
	Additions	429	2 062
	Corrections	148	711
	Removals	55	402
	Moves	192	1 437
	Total	824	4 612
Election day	Official lists	67 903	
	Additions	1 505	3 567
	Corrections	571	1 282
	Removals	45	447
	Moves	415	1 852
	Total	2 536	7 148
	Final lists	69 363	

¹ Includes voters registered to vote under the Special Voting Rules (members of the Canadian Forces, incarcerated voters, voters temporarily residing outside Canada).

Okanagan–Coquihalla

Calendar	Revision transactions ¹	Cumulative totals	
Day 33 to Day 11	Preliminary lists	68 377	
	Additions	1 140	
	Corrections	639	
	Removals	1 706	
	Moves	840	
	Total	4 325	
Day 10 to Day 6	Revised lists	67 811	
	Additions	541	1 681
	Corrections	116	755
	Removals	909	2 615
	Moves	118	958
	Total	1 684	6 009
Election day	Official lists	67 443	
	Additions	1 764	3 445
	Corrections	1 355	2 110
	Removals	277	2 892
	Moves	648	1 606
	Total	4 044	10 053
	Final lists	68 930	

¹ Includes voters registered to vote under the Special Voting Rules (members of the Canadian Forces, incarcerated voters, voters temporarily residing outside Canada).

Voting in the by-elections

Voter turnout

In total, 55 151 of the 138 221 eligible voters cast their ballots in the two by-elections. For those unable to vote on election day, advance polls were held on September 1, 2 and 4. Most people voted on election day, September 11, at one of the 426 polling stations located throughout the electoral districts. All polling stations in Kings–Hants were open for 12 hours from

8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., local time. The polling stations in Okanagan–Coquihalla were also open for 12 hours, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., local time.

Each of the 183 polling stations provided level access. Table 3 shows the details of polling station locations and accessibility.

Voter turnout was 39.5 percent in Kings–Hants and 40.3 percent in Okanagan–Coquihalla. At the 1997 general election, the voter turnout was 65.7 percent in Kings–Hants and 65.1 percent in Okanagan–Coquihalla.

Table 3
Polling sites

Location of polling sites

Building types	Kings–Hants		Okanagan–Coquihalla		Total	
	Number of sites	Percentage	Number of sites	Percentage	Number of sites	Percentage
Band office	1	0.85	2	3.03	3	1.64
Church hall	9	7.69	4	6.06	13	7.10
Commercial site	4	3.42	2	3.03	6	3.28
Community centre	61	52.14	20	30.30	81	44.26
Educational	4	3.42	18	27.27	22	12.02
Federal building	1	0.85	0	0.00	1	0.55
Fire hall	16	13.68	1	1.52	17	9.29
Hospital	0	0.00	2	3.03	2	1.09
Hostel for the elderly	7	5.98	10	15.15	17	9.29
Municipal or township hall	1	0.85	0	0.00	1	0.55
Other	7	5.98	3	4.55	10	5.46
Recreation centre	0	0.00	2	3.03	2	1.09
Royal Canadian Legion hall	6	5.13	2	3.03	8	4.37
Total	117	100%	66	100%	183	100%

Types of polling stations

Electoral district	Ordinary	Mobile	Advance	Total
Kings–Hants	214	2	13	229
Okanagan–Coquihalla	209	5	13	227

Polling station accessibility

Electoral district	Total number of polling stations	Accessible polling stations	Percentage
Kings–Hants	229	229	100%
Okanagan–Coquihalla	227	227	100%

As is always the case during elections or by-elections, residents of the electoral districts who did not wish to vote at the advance or ordinary polls, and residents travelling or temporarily residing outside Canada, could vote by mail-in ballot under the Special Voting Rules. Canadians abroad could obtain information about how to cast their ballots from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, through its diplomatic missions and consular posts. Members of the Canadian Forces, whether

based in Canada or elsewhere, were informed of their right to vote by the Department of National Defence.

Table 4 shows the number of registrations for voting by special ballot in each electoral district. The three lists of voters registered under group 1 of the Special Voting Rules are separate from the lists that are revised during an event. The voters registered under group 2 of the Special Voting Rules are also entered on the revised voters lists.

Table 4
Registrations under the Special Voting Rules

Categories of voters asking to vote under the Special Voting Rules	Number of ballots requested	
	Kings–Hants	Okanagan–Coquihalla
Group 1¹		
Members of the Canadian Forces	808	103
Incarcerated voters	3	1
Voters temporarily residing outside Canada	36	21
Group 1 subtotal	847	125
Group 2²		
Voters temporarily outside their electoral districts	7	5
Voters voting in their electoral districts	277	319
Group 2 subtotal	284	324
Total number of registrations for voting by special ballot	1 131	449

¹ The three lists of voters registered under group 1 of the Special Voting Rules are separate from the list that is revised during an event.

² The voters registered under group 2 of the Special Voting Rules are also entered on the revised voters list.

Table 5
Preliminary statistics on the number of ballots cast and voter turnout

Electoral district	Number of electors on final lists	Ordinary polls	Advance polls	Special Voting Rules	Total votes cast	Rejected ballots	Total valid votes	Voter turnout %
Kings–Hants	69 319	25 683	1 352	373	27 408	232	27 176	39.5
Okanagan–Coquihalla	68 902	24 680	2 710	353	27 743	124	27 619	40.3

The candidates and by-election results

The deadline for nominating candidates was 2:00 p.m. on August 21, 2000. The deadline for withdrawal or for making corrections to information on candidates' nomination papers was 5:00 p.m. that same day.

Of the 10 registered federal political parties, three chose to nominate candidates in the Kings–Hants by-election: the Canadian Reform Conservative Alliance, the New Democratic Party and the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada. There was one independent candidate, and one with no political affiliation.

In the Okanagan–Coquihalla by-election, four registered parties nominated candidates: the Canadian Action Party, the Canadian Reform Conservative Alliance, the New Democratic Party, and

The Green Party of Canada. There were four independent candidates.

Once nominations closed, the lists of official candidates were transmitted to Canadian diplomatic missions and consular posts by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and to Canadian Forces bases by the Department of National Defence. The lists were also posted on the Elections Canada Web site.

On election night, the Event Results System used in both electoral districts was linked to Elections Canada's central computer. As votes were counted, the numbers were transmitted to the server in Ottawa for posting on the Web site.

The Rt. Hon. Joe Clark (leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada) was elected in Kings–Hants, and Stockwell Day (leader of the Canadian Reform Conservative Alliance) was elected in Okanagan–Coquihalla.

Table 6
Preliminary statistics on valid votes obtained, by candidate

Candidate	Political affiliation	Valid votes obtained	Percentage
Kings–Hants			
Joe Clark	Progressive Conservative Party of Canada	14 525	53.44
Gerry Fulton	Canadian Reform Conservative Alliance	4 385	16.13
Kaye Johnson	New Democratic Party	7 375	27.13
Alex Neron	No Affiliation	670	2.46
John C. Turmel	Independent	221	0.81
Total		27 176	99.97
Okanagan–Coquihalla			
Dennis Earl Baker	Independent	223	0.80
Stockwell Day	Canadian Reform Conservative Alliance	19 417	70.30
Ken Ellis	New Democratic Party	3 470	12.56
Rad Gajic	Independent	108	0.39
Jack William Peach	Canadian Action Party	1 159	4.19
Joan Russow	The Green Party of Canada	2 115	7.65
M. Boris St-Maurice	Independent	438	1.58
Jim Strauss	Independent	689	2.49
Total		27 619	99.96

Special permission

The week before election day, the Chief Electoral Officer made a ruling under subsection 9(1) of the *Canada Elections Act*, which allows him to adapt provisions of the Act in keeping with the intent of the legislation. In both electoral districts, the issue concerned subsection 126(4), which permits transfer certificates for deputy returning officers and poll clerks working at polling stations other than the one at which they may vote, if they are appointed after the advance polls. The Chief Electoral Officer extended this provision to central poll supervisors, information officers, registration officers and persons responsible for maintaining order. These officials would otherwise have been deprived of their right to vote, because they may not leave the polling stations where they work.

Commissioner's report

The Commissioner of Canada Elections, Raymond A. Landry, C.M., ensures that the *Canada Elections Act* is complied with and enforced. Since the last report, the Commissioner has received one further complaint alleging that an infraction of the *Canada Elections Act* had been committed during the by-elections of November 15, 1999, and has closed the file.

One complaint alleging that an infraction of the *Canada Elections Act* had been committed was brought to the Commissioner's attention after the May 15 by-election in St. John's West. The Commissioner has closed the file on the complaint, which concerned election advertising.

Three complaints alleging infractions of the *Canada Elections Act* were brought to the Commissioner's attention during the

September 11 by-elections in Kings–Hants and Okanagan–Coquihalla. The complaints concerned advertising and the obligations of election officers, and are under review.

The Commissioner may open an investigation or institute a prosecution on his own initiative, or if he receives a written complaint alleging that an infraction has been committed within six months of the infraction. Prosecutions must be instituted within 18 months of the infraction. These deadlines have not yet expired for the by-elections held in Kings–Hants and Okanagan–Coquihalla.

Conclusion

This report fulfills the statutory obligation of the Chief Electoral Officer to report on the by-elections held in the electoral districts of Kings–Hants and Okanagan–Coquihalla on September 11, 2000.

Both by-elections proceeded efficiently and successfully, and in accordance with our plans. Communications, revision and voting were all conducted without any untoward incident. The by-elections also gave Elections Canada an opportunity to refine our procedures and to test our new technology and procedures in preparation for the next federal general election.

As is customary, this report has reviewed other developments since the previous by-election in May 2000, highlighting both legislative reform and technological developments. We continue to innovate as we pursue our goal of a Canadian electoral system that is a model of modern practices, accessibility, transparency and service to all Canadians.