



Native Women's
Association of Canada

L'Association des
femmes autochtones
du Canada

**HONOURING OUR PAST,
SHAPING OUR TOMORROW**

Vote

**VOTING GUIDE
A Voters Checklist**



A Voters Checklist

In Canada, federal elections are an opportunity to express your most basic democratic right. However, the voting process can be intimidating and may sway interested voters away from casting their ballot. To encourage greater participation in the electoral process, NWAC has taken the opportunity to create a Voters Checklist to support Indigenous Women, Girls, Two-Spirit, Transgender, and Gender-Diverse People looking to vote in the next federal election.

ONE MONTH BEFORE THE ELECTION

✓ Ensure you are eligible to vote. To vote in a federal election you must:

- Be a Canadian Citizen
- Be at least 18 years old on election day.
- Prove your identity and address.

✓ Make sure you are registered to vote by visiting Elections Canada [Online Voter Registration Service](#). This resource can be used to:

- Check if you are registered to vote;
- Update the address on your voter registration;
- Register to vote.

✓ If you are **not** registered to vote, you can register:

- Using the Online Voter Registration Service at elections.ca
- At an Elections Canada Office (deadlines apply)
- At the polls on election day

✓ Determine how you are going to vote, current options include:

- On election day by going to your assigned polling station
- At the advance polls
- At an Elections Canada Office
- By mail (deadlines apply)

✓ **If you are voting by mail¹**

- Complete and print the Application for Registration and Special Ballot form at any Elections Canada office, by calling Elections Canada (1-800-463-6868), or online.
- Send Elections Canada your completed form with a copy of your proof of identity and address.
- Periodically check your mailbox for your Elections Canada voting kit.
- Mark your ballot and mail it back to Elections Canada, ensuring it is received before 6 p.m. on election day.

¹ [Once your application to vote by mail is accepted, voting by mail is the only way you can vote in that election.](#)



ONE WEEK BEFORE THE ELECTION

✓ Locate your polling station, this information can be found by:

- Checking your voter information card
- Checking Elections Canada's [Voter Information Service](#)²

✓ Determine what hours your polling station is open on election day:

- Newfoundland – 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Atlantic – 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Eastern – 9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.
- Central – 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Mountain – 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Pacific – 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

✓ Talk to your employer and schedule a time to vote.

- Ask to speak with your employer/manager.
- Be prepared and have a copy of your schedule, the *Canada Elections Act*, and options for going to vote.
- Employers must provide eligible employees with three consecutive hours for the purpose of casting their vote. Be open to your employer's suggestions, the *Canada Elections Act* allows them to determine which three consecutive hours you as an employee can take.

✓ Plan your vote.

- Research the political parties and candidates running in your local riding.
- Compare each political party and candidates position on the issues you care about most.
- Make your judgement, ask yourself "who will best represent me and my community?"



2 <https://www.elections.ca/scripts/vis/Find-ED?L=e&PAGEID=20>



ONE DAY BEFORE THE ELECTION

- ✓ Organize your proof of identity and address. Some examples of accepted documents include³:

- Band Membership Card
- Canadian Passport
- Driver's Licence
- Indian Status Card
- Utility Bill
- Vehicle Ownership
- Voter Information Card

- ✓ Determine how you are going to arrive at your polling station, what transportation options are available to you?

- Walking
- Biking
- Public Transit (ie. bus, train, taxi)
- Driving/Carpool

ON ELECTION DAY

- ✓ Go to your assigned polling station where an election worker will greet you and direct you to an Elections Officer to check-in.

- ✓ Provide your identity and address to the Elections Office, there are three ways this can be done:

- Option 1:** Show one piece of ID (issued by a federal, provincial, territorial, or local government).
- Option 2:** Show two pieces of ID, both must have your name and at least one must have your current address.
- Option 3:** Declare your identity and address in writing and have someone who knows you vouch for you.

- ✓ Receive your ballot from the elections worker and take it behind the voting screen. Elections Canada will have all the necessary supplies and materials you need on Election Day.

- ✓ Correctly mark your ballot by selecting your preferred candidate, according to Elections Canada properly marked ballots will be accepted if the:

- Ballot is marked in only one circular space to the right of the candidate.
- Ballot is marked with an "X" or other mark made with any writing instrument.
- Counter is satisfied with the mark or any other writing on the ballot is not so distinctive that it could be used to identify an elector.

- ✓ After marking your ballot, refold and return your ballot to the elections worker. They will remove the tab with their initials and number from the ballot and hand it back.

- ✓ Place your ballot in the ballot box.

³ [A list of accepted IDs can be found on our 45th General Election Voting Guide](#)