



Canada's 41st General Election –A guidebook

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All Politics is Local



- ❑ Voting is the most important political action you can take
- ❑ It affects your voice in Ottawa and Canada
- ❑ It affects your workplace, your home life and the prospects of your family
- ❑ It can make a difference! We have a system that one vote could mean a victory for a candidate (or a loss)
- ❑ When your MP arrives in Ottawa hopefully he/she knows and understands your issues

Building Trades Members Vote



- ❑ Solidarity in the workplace has created our organization of 400,000 plus Canadians
- ❑ We have the infrastructure in place to create our own destinies – we all have to choose to be leaders and take action in our communities
- ❑ The decision to vote or “nominate” someone to represent us in Ottawa is just as important as organizing our workplace
- ❑ We influence around 1.5 million votes, why not influence them in order to benefit our “work” selves and families
- ❑ If we bargain for a better deal at work why wouldn't we bargain for a better deal in Ottawa?



Voter Turnout 2008

- ❑ Voter turnout has been consistently falling over the last number of elections in Canada
- ❑ Nationally, percentage of voter turnout was 58.8% in the last Federal Election – 13.9mm out of a potential of 23.6mm
- ❑ This means if you vote in a number of provinces you have twice the impact
- ❑ *Newfoundland 56%, PEI 73%, Nova Scotia 64%, New Brunswick 69%, Quebec 64%, Ontario 67%, Manitoba 62%, Saskatchewan 65%, Alberta 62%, British Columbia 64%, Yukon 66, NWT 56, Nunavut 54 %*



So what?

- ❑ 400,000 * 58.8%(national voting average) = 235,200 of us voted last election
- ❑ 164,800 did not – with other members of our household (adult children, aunts , parents) we can affect the election.
- ❑ These votes represent an opportunity to shape the political landscape across the country and improve the lives of our members
- ❑ 55 constituencies won/lost by less than 1000 votes last time – we can actually have impact if we get out the vote



By Not Voting....?

- ❑ Someone else is speaking for you
- ❑ You are missing an opportunity to support those that support your workplace issues
- ❑ You are missing an opportunity to send a message to those that are NOT supporting your workplace and family issues



Don't Forget



- ❑ Someone you vote for on a single issue (like capital punishment, abortion, immigration or another emotionally charged issue) has the potential to have vastly different views than you on most other issues
- ❑ Single issue voters, get their issue if their candidate wins; but they get the rest of the package and sometimes the “package” is not very pretty

How to vote?

- ❑ At home or away, Canadians have a say!
- ❑ There are several ways to vote if you are away on election day:
 - 1. Advance poll in your riding (10 days 9 days and 7 days before election day)
 - 2. Apply for a “Special ballot” after the election is called or 6 days prior to election day and vote from anywhere in the world



By Mail –

- ❑ Apply on www.elections.ca to receive a mail ballot and vote by mail – you must do this well in advance of election day
- ❑ What does the law say about where you live?

(1) The place of ordinary residence of a person is the place that has always been, or that has been adopted as, his or her dwelling place, and to which the person intends to return when away from it.

(3) Temporary absence from a place of ordinary residence does not cause a loss or change of place of ordinary residence.



But you have to be on the list

- The National Register of Electors is a database containing basic information – name, sex, date of birth and address of Canadians who are qualified to vote. It is used to produce the voters lists when an election is called.



See if you are on the list

- ❑ Call 1-800-463-6868
- ❑ Once an election is called (and you are on the list) you will receive a voter registration card. If you don't you must register to ensure your right to vote is preserved



Get on the list



- ❑ During a campaign you can go to the local returning officer and get on the list
- ❑ You can get added to the list on voting day byshowing up

NEW! You have to show ID to Vote !

- When you vote, you MUST prove your identity and address. You have three options:
- **Option 1**
- **Provide one original piece of identification issued by a government or government agency containing your photo, name and address (e.g. driver's licence).**

- or
- **Option 2**
- **Provide two original pieces of identification authorized by the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada. Both pieces must contain your name, and one must also contain your address (e.g. health card and hydro bill).**

- or
- **Option 3**
- **Swear an oath and be vouched for by a registered elector who is on the list of electors in the same polling division and who has an acceptable piece or pieces of identification (e.g. a neighbour, your roommate).**

Note: The pieces of identification required under the are not the same as those for provincial or municipal elections.

Away from home??

- Apply to vote by the special procedures allowed under the law – www.elections.ca
- Anyone working in camp or working on subsistence CAN order a ballot



Special Ballots

- (2) In order to have the special ballot
- counted, an elector shall ensure that the ballot
- is received
- (a) if the special ballot is cast in the elector's
- electoral district, at the office of the returning
- officer before the close of the polling stations
- on polling day; or
- (b) if the special ballot is cast outside the
- elector's electoral district, at the office of the
- special voting rules administrator in Ottawa,
- not later than 6:00 p.m. on polling day.
- **240.** For the purpose of this Division, an
- elector has the sole responsibility to ensure that
- (a) his or her application for registration and
- special ballot is made within the period
- specified; and
- (b) his or her special ballot is received within
- the period specified to be counted as a vote.



Questions to ask all candidates

- ❑ What is your vision of the role for the federal government to help address skill shortages in construction?
- ❑ What is your commitment to the Red Seal Program as part of the training landscape in construction ?
- ❑ What is your commitment to the Sector Council program currently administered and funded by HRSDC ?
- ❑ If elected, will your Government commit to change the *Income Tax Act* to support construction worker mobility ?
- ❑ If elected, will your Government support the efforts of the organized construction industry to crack down on the underground economy – if so, how?
- ❑ What are your commitments for a comprehensive industrial energy plan in Canada?
- ❑ What are your commitments for a national employment strategy?
- ❑ What are your commitments to programs that help train a skilled workforce?
- ❑ What are your commitments for “retirement system” reform in Canada?