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June 18, 2004

VIA E-Mail and Chapter Mail

**Distribution:**

Chapter/ Unit Chairs & Executive Directors  
Ontario Social Action Committee  
Ontario Executive Committee & Board  
Social Action E-Network  
Client Services/ Chapter Resources Staff  
*(Please forward to other interested members)*

**Social Action Alert**

- **Rights of Voters with Disabilities**
- **Don't forget to vote!**

**Rights of Voters with Disabilities****Voting Tips**

#1—Check to see if you are on the voters list. You should have received a voter information card. The voter information card tells you: (1) Your name is on the voters list. (2) Tells you when and where to vote.

#2—Call if you didn't get a card. Call Elections Canada at 1-800-463-6868 or 1-800-361-8935 (TTY) for information on how to get on the voter list.

#3—Vote in advance or by special ballot if that's easier—If you do not wish to vote on election day, you can vote during the advance voting day or use the special mail-in ballot. The voter card provides information on the advance voting days.

#4—Vote on election day. The address for the polling station will be on the voter card. It is also on the Elections Canada web site: [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca).

**Elections Canada and Access**

Polling stations and other premises used during an election must have level access. Only in exceptional local circumstances is a returning officer permitted to seek authorization from the Chief Electoral Officer to use a polling station which does not have level access.

The voter information card provides information about polling station access.

There are three ways to vote: by special ballot, at the advance poll or on polling day.

The polls are open for 12 hours on polling day.

Transfer certificates are available up to the Friday before polling day to allow voters with disabilities to use a polling station with level access, if their polling station does not have barrier-free access.

Mobile polling stations can be provided for institutions where seniors or persons with disabilities reside.

The ballot box can be moved from room to room to facilitate voting in hospitals and certain residential institutions.

There is a voting template for persons who have a visual disability.

At the request of the voter, there is assistance available in marking the ballot at the polling station (regular or advance).

A voter, who is registered for a special ballot and who cannot go to the office of a returning officer and who cannot mark the ballot due to a disability, is allowed to vote at home in the presence of an electoral officer and a witness.

Returning officers receive training on access and awareness.

Elections Canada has been working to remove barriers that electors with disabilities may encounter at the polls.

The Canada Elections Act has been amended in 1992, 1993, 1996 and 2000 to improve access to the process. It is important for consumers to know that the term “interpreters” in the *Canada Elections Act* included interpreters for persons with disabilities. “Permitted personal expenses” for a candidate with a disability or one who cares for a person with a disability now include expenses related to that disability.

## **Access to Information**

Elections Canada makes information available in alternate formats: large print, Braille, audio-cassette and diskette.

Special ballot registration forms are available on the internet.

There is a toll-free information line for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing: TTY 1-800-361-8935.

There are open and closed videos for persons who are deaf and hard of hearing.

## **How to Contact Elections Canada**

For more information on these topics, please contact Elections Canada. There are many ways to contact Election Canada:

Elections Canada  
257 Slater Street

Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0M6

Telephone:

1-800-463-6868 (Toll-free in Canada and the US)

001-800-514-6868 (Toll-free in Mexico)

613-993-2935 (from anywhere in the world)

TTY 1-800-361-8935

Fax

613-954-8584

1-888-524-1444 (Toll-free in Canada and the United States)

web site: [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca)

(Information courtesy of the Council of Canadians with Disabilities)

**A final reminder**

Don't forget to vote on Monday, June 28.

Deanna Groetzinger  
Vice-President, Communications

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