



# *Ontario Election Handbook*



*Vote*

*June 7, 2018*



On **Thursday June 7, 2018** the residents of Ontario will choose their next provincial government. As a member of the Canadian Snowbird Association (CSA), now is the time to ensure your voice is heard!

Take the time to learn where your local candidates stand on these important issues. Do they support your right to travel? What will they do on your behalf?

We don't want election promises! We want fair treatment!

*Karen L. Huestis*

Karen Huestis  
President  
Canadian Snowbird Association



## Access To Emergency Health Coverage When Travelling

Ontario's practice for reimbursing Canadians for emergency health services while abroad contravenes sub-paragraph 11(1)(b)(ii) of the *Canada Health Act*. Emergency in-patient hospital services eligible for OHIP coverage will be paid up to a maximum of \$400 per day for complex hospital care. "Complex" is defined as care that takes place in a coronary care unit, intensive care unit, neonatal or paediatric special care unit or the operating room of an eligible hospital or health facility. For less intensive emergency in-patient care Ontario reimburses travellers up to \$200 per day.

Emergency out-patient services will be paid to a maximum of \$50 for all out-patient services provided on any one day. Fifty dollars per day is below the average paid to residents for similar in-province services in other jurisdictions. For physician services, OHIP will pay the actual cost billed by the out-of-country physician(s) or the cost of the same physician service(s) in Ontario, whichever is less.



### Question

*Do your local candidates support upholding the portability principle of the Canada Health Act? Do they support reimbursing emergency in-patient and out-patient health services obtained while outside of Canada at the same rate as services required while present in Ontario? Do they support continually updating these reimbursement rates to reflect changing costs?*



## Preservation of Health Coverage for Frequent Travellers

Ontario residents can keep their health benefits and be out of the province for up to 212 days (approximately seven months) in any 12-month period. While this is one of the longest allowable travel periods in Canada, Ontario does not have a policy that allows residents to travel the rest of the year without risk of losing their benefits.



Residents of Ontario may be eligible to maintain their OHIP coverage for an extended vacation absence of up to two years. To be entitled to continuous health coverage during the first of these absences, residents must have been physically present in Ontario for at least 153 days in the 12-month periods for 2 consecutive years before the absence. Further absences of this nature will be permitted provided residents are physically present in Ontario for at least 153 days in the 12-month periods for 5 consecutive years before each subsequent absence.

### Question

*Do your local candidates support changing current policy to allow international travel for up to eight months (or seven months with an unlimited number of short-term trips [23 days] anywhere in the world), while still maintaining health benefits?*



# Access to Prescription Drugs For Use During Travel

Ontario's Drug Benefit Program will cover the cost of 200 days' worth of prescription drugs, but only in two separate 100-day supplies. In order to obtain the second 100-day supply, the traveller must provide the pharmacist with a letter (written by the individual) or a copy of travel insurance, in

either case confirming the planned departure. In addition, if an Ontario resident has 30 days or less left on their current prescription, the ministry will allow an early refill of the next 100-day supply. This allowance enables one to take between a 200 to 230-day supply of medication with them when travelling, depending on when the request for an early refill and vacation supply is made.

The Ontario government does not reimburse the cost of prescriptions purchased while outside of the province.



## Question

*Do your local candidates support simplifying the process for obtaining a 212 day travel supply of prescription medication? This would allow travellers to meet their medication needs without having to time their requests, write a letter or make arrangements to have medication sent from Ontario to their travel destination.*

*Do your local candidates support reimbursing the cost of medication prescribed by appropriately accredited physicians and dispensed outside the province at the same rate as if purchased in the province?*

# Vote

June 7, 2018

## Election Date and Times

Election Day is Thursday  
June 7, 2018.

Polls will be open from 9:00 a.m.  
to 9:00 p.m. ET.

*Absent electors who are unable to vote on Election Day may cast their vote in advance at an advance polling station or through special ballot (in person or by mail).*



## Registered Provincial Political Parties

Contact information to conduct election platform inquiries

### Ontario Liberal Party

Kathleen Wynne

210-10 St. Mary Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4Y 1P9

Tel: 416-961-3800  
Toll-Free: 1-800-268-7250  
Fax: 416-323-9425

Email: [info@ontarioliberal.ca](mailto:info@ontarioliberal.ca)  
[www.ontarioliberal.ca](http://www.ontarioliberal.ca)

### Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario

Doug Ford

400-59 Adelaide Street East  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5C 1K6

Tel: 416-861-0020  
Toll-Free: 1-800-903-6453  
Fax: 416-861-9593

[www.ontariopc.ca](http://www.ontariopc.ca)

### New Democratic Party of Ontario

Andrea Horwath

201-2069 Lakeshore Blvd West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M8V 3Z4

Tel: 416-591-8637  
Toll-Free: 1-866-390-6637 (ONDP)  
Fax: 416-599-4820

Email: [info@ontariondp.ca](mailto:info@ontariondp.ca)  
[www.ontariondp.ca](http://www.ontariondp.ca)

### Green Party of Ontario

Mike Schreiner

PO Box 1132, Station F  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4Y 2T8

Tel: 416-977-7476  
Toll-Free: 1-888-647-3366  
Fax: 416-977-5476

Email: [admin@gpo.ca](mailto:admin@gpo.ca)  
<https://gpo.ca>

For a full list of registered political parties in the province of Ontario please visit [www.elections.on.ca](http://www.elections.on.ca)

## Advance Polls

If you will not be present in Ontario on Election Day, you may cast your ballot beforehand at an advance poll.

The advance polls will be open: From **May 26 to May 30**, from **10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at area advance voting locations in your electoral district.

From **May 26 to June 1**, from **10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at your returning office.

If you choose to vote at an advance poll, you will be asked to take an oath and sign a document to confirm you will vote only once.

The dates, times and locations of advance polls are provided on your Voter Information Card. During the election, they will also be available online from Elections Ontario at [www.elections.on.ca](http://www.elections.on.ca).

## Special Ballot Voting

Due in large measure to the advocacy efforts of the Canadian Snowbird Association, residents of Ontario may now vote in Ontario elections via special ballot.

If you are unable to vote at an advance voting location or on Election Day (June 7), you may be eligible to vote by special ballot. To vote by special ballot, you will need to complete an application form and provide one piece of identification.

### Vote by mail

To vote by mail using special ballot, you will need to complete an application form and provide a copy of your identification. Your identification can be submitted by mail as a photocopy, or electronically as a photograph or scanned document.

#### To obtain an application form:

- Download it from the Elections Ontario website – [www.elections.on.ca](http://www.elections.on.ca)
- Contact Elections Ontario by telephone at **1-416-649-1046**
- Email Elections Ontario at [sb@elections.on.ca](mailto:sb@elections.on.ca).

#### To submit your completed application form, choose one of the options below:

- Scan your application form and identification document and email them as an attachment to [sb@elections.on.ca](mailto:sb@elections.on.ca)
- Mail your application form and a photocopy of your identification document to Elections Ontario, Special Ballot, 51 Rolark Drive, Toronto, Ontario M1R 3B1
- Fax your application form and a copy of your identification document to Elections

Ontario at **1-416-212-8723** or toll free in Canada and USA at **1-888-483-4448**

**The special ballot application and a copy of your identification document must be received by Elections Ontario no later than 6:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) on June 1, 2018.**

A special ballot officer at Elections Ontario will review your application and the copy of your identification document. If your application is approved, you will be sent a special ballot kit.

#### The special ballot kit includes:

- A write-in ballot
- A secrecy envelope
- An elector confirmation envelope
- A pre-addressed return envelope
- Detailed voting instructions

Once the kit has been mailed to you, you will not be able to choose another voting option, such as voting at an advance poll or in person on Election Day.

**Elections Ontario must receive your write-in ballot no later than 6:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) on June 7, 2018.**

### Vote in person

You can choose to vote in person by special ballot at your returning office from **May 10, 2018** until **6:00 p.m.** (Eastern Time) on **June 6, 2018.**

You can find the location of your returning office on your Voter Information Card or by contacting Elections Ontario.

To vote by special ballot, you will need to

bring identification. An election official will ask for your identification and provide you with an application form that you will need to complete.

Once the election official has approved your application, they will issue you a ballot. When issued a ballot, indicate the name of the candidate of your choice on the ballot and place the ballot in the ballot box.

## Contact the Special Ballots Team

**Email:** [sb@elections.on.ca](mailto:sb@elections.on.ca)

Please include **“Special Ballots – Information”** in the subject line

#### Mailing address:

Elections Ontario  
Attention: Special Ballots  
51 Rolark Drive  
Toronto ON, M1R 3B1

#### Phone:

Toll-Free in Canada and the United States:  
1-855-523-5932

Collect calls from anywhere in the world:  
1-416-649-1046

TTY toll-free in Canada and the United States: 1-888-292-2312

#### Fax:

Toll-free in Canada and the United States:  
1-888-483-4448

From anywhere in the world:  
1-416-212-8723

Please include “Elections Ontario – Attention: Special Ballots” on your cover page.



## CANADIAN SNOWBIRD ASSOCIATION

Commitment, Service and Advocacy for Travellers

180 Lesmill Road  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
M3B 2T5

Office Hours (Eastern Time)  
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday  
Fax (416) 441-7007

[www.snowbirds.org](http://www.snowbirds.org)  
E-mail [csastaff@snowbirds.org](mailto:csastaff@snowbirds.org)

#### General inquiries (English service)

Telephone (416) 391-9000  
Toll-Free 1-800-265-3200

#### General inquiries (French service)

Telephone (416) 391-9090  
Toll-Free 1-800-265-5132