



Alberta Election Handbook



Vote

April 16, 2019



On Tuesday April 16, 2019 the residents of Alberta 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

Currently, the province of Alberta's reimbursement rate for emergency in-patient hospital services obtained outside of Canada is \$100 CAD per day excluding the day of discharge. The rate for out-patient emergency hospital services received while outside of Canada is \$50 CAD per day and is limited to a single visit per day. While the government of Alberta continues to refuse to disclose its per-day rate for emergency services required while within Alberta, \$100 and \$50 are well below the average rates paid for in-province in-patient and out-patient services respectively, elsewhere in Canada. Given these rates, it is clear that the government of Alberta continues to violate the portability principle of the *Canada Health Act*.

The position of the Canadian Snowbird Association has remained firm and consistent on the issue of access to emergency health care coverage while outside of Canada. The government of Alberta needs to begin fully complying with the *Canada Health Act* by reimbursing travelling Albertans at the equivalent rate for services obtained while in-province and continually update these rates to match changes in real costs. Since travelling Albertans contribute to the health care system by paying taxes year round, it is only reasonable that they receive equal access to emergency health care coverage.



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 Alberta?

Do they support continually updating these reimbursement rates to reflect changing costs?



Preservation of Provincial Health Coverage for Frequent Travellers

Due to the efforts of the Canadian Snowbird Association, the Alberta government has amended their temporary absence policy to allow long-term vacationing residents to remain eligible for health coverage while being absent from Canada for up to 212 days in a 12-month period.

Travellers leaving Alberta for longer may apply to Alberta Health for a 24-month extension of coverage. In this case you must demonstrate permanent residency by satisfying the government's criteria, such as having maintained economic, personal and social ties in Alberta and not having established permanent residence elsewhere.



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

Alberta Health sponsored drug plans will cover up to a 100-day supply of most drugs on the *Drug Benefit List*. However, once per benefit year, extended quantity authorizations for up to a 200-day supply of eligible medications are

permitted for Albertans leaving the province for extended periods of time. Alberta Health must be notified of the period of absence from the province. The government of Alberta will reimburse eligible expenses for prescription drugs obtained while out of Canada at Alberta rates for prescriptions written by licensed practitioners.



Question

Do your local candidates support amending legislation to permit, at the discretion of physicians and pharmacists, travellers to be covered for a supply of prescription medication equal to the permitted travel time out of the province?

Registered Provincial Political Parties

Contact information to conduct election platform inquiries

Alberta Liberal Party

David Khan

PO Box 94098 Elbow River
Calgary, Alberta
T2S 0S4
Phone: (780) 414-1124
Toll Free: 1 (800) 661-9201
Fax: (780) 414-1125
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Alberta New Democratic Party

Rachel Notley

Suite 201, 10544 - 114 Street NW
Edmonton, Alberta
T5H 3J7
Phone: (780) 474-2415
Toll Free: 1 (800) 465-6587
Fax: (780) 669-9617
Email: info@albertaNDP.ca
www.albertandp.ca

United Conservative Party

Jason Kenney

203, 2915 - 21 Street NE
Calgary, Alberta
T2E 7T1
Toll Free: 1 (888) 465-2660
Email: info@unitedconservative.ca
www.unitedconservative.ca

Alberta Party

Stephen Mandel

STN MAIN, PO Box 1045
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 2M1
Phone: (587) 930-7933
Email: info@albertaparty.ca
www.albertaparty.ca

Freedom Conservative Party of Alberta

Derek Fildebrandt

7133 77 Ave
Edmonton, Alberta
T6B 0B5
Phone: (403) 703-1217
Email: contact@freedomconservativeparty.ca
www.freedomconservativeparty.ca

Contact Information

Elections Alberta - Main Office Address:

Suite 100, 11510 Kingsway NW
Edmonton, Alberta T5G 2Y5
Canada

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday: 8:15 a.m. - 12 noon
and 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Tel: 1 (780) 427-7191

Fax: 1 (780) 422-2900

Other locations in the province can call toll free
by dialing 310-0000 then dial (780) 427-7191.

Email: info@elections.ab.ca

For a full list of registered political parties in the
province of Alberta please visit www.elections.ab.ca

Advance Polls

If you will not be present in Alberta on election day, you may cast your ballot beforehand at an advance polling station.

Advance polls will be held from **Tuesday, April 9 to Saturday, April 13 from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. local time.**

The dates, times and locations of advance polls are provided on the Notice of Registration card. During the election,

they will also be available from Elections Alberta at www.elections.ab.ca and in the local newspaper.

With passage of *An Act to Strengthen and Protect Democracy in Alberta* in 2017, eligible voters in Alberta will be allowed to vote in advance at any polling station in the province.

Voting by Special Ballot

What is a Special Ballot?

A special ballot is a means for an elector to cast a ballot in the upcoming provincial general election if he or she is unable to vote during the advance polls or on polling day.

A special ballot can be sent to the elector, on request, or the elector can vote at the Returning Officer's office.

Special Ballot Process

1. Request a Special Ballot

An elector must contact the Returning Officer for the electoral division in which the elector is ordinarily resident. **Requests for mail-out special ballot packages can only be requested up until 6:00 p.m. the Monday prior to advance polls opening.** In person requests at the office of the returning officer can be made until the close of polls on polling day.

Contact information for the Returning Officers is available throughout the election period on the Elections Alberta website www.elections.ab.ca, by phone (780) 427-7191 or by email info@elections.ab.ca.

Electors may also request a special ballot online at <https://specialballot.elections.ab.ca>.

2. Receive a Special Ballot

On receipt of a special ballot request, the Returning Officer will mail the special ballot package or hold it for pick-up by the elector or the elector's designate. An elector may have the package picked up by a commercial courier, friend or family member. The person picking up the special ballot package will be asked by the Returning Officer to provide identification.

It is important to remember that the special ballot cannot be sent to the elector nor returned to the Returning Officer by facsimile or other electronic means.

3. Return a Special Ballot

The elector must complete the special ballot and Part I of the Special Ballot Certificate Envelope. If the elector is not included in the Register of Electors, an Enumeration Record will be sent with the special ballot package. Completion of the Enumeration Record will ensure that the elector's name is included on the List of Electors.

A properly completed special ballot package with a copy of identification must be returned to the returning officer before the close of polls on polling day in order for it to be counted.

Mobile Poll

A mobile poll is a means for electors who are resident in:

- a treatment centre that provides medical care on an in-patient basis (such as a hospital or nursing home), or
- a supportive living facility (such as a seniors' lodge)

to vote within the facility on polling day.

A mobile poll is established by the returning officer in each facility that is deemed appropriate, after consultation with the facility officials. Mobile polls will be made available on election day, April 16, 2019. The hours of the mobile poll will be determined by the Returning Officer, in consultation with the facility officials.

For more information on mobile polling and contact information for your respective Returning Officer please visit the Elections Alberta website at www.elections.ab.ca.

Elections Alberta Information

Can I vote if my name is not on the List of Electors?

Yes. An elector whose name is not on the List of Electors may vote after producing government issued identification containing the elector's photograph, current address and name such as a driver's licence or Alberta identification card.

How can I have my name added to the List of Electors?

You can register to vote using the secure on-line registration system called *Voterlink* at www.voterlink.ab.ca. You can also contact Elections Alberta in person or by phone (780) 427-7191, e-mail info@elections.ab.ca or facsimile (780) 422-2900. Your information will be added to the Register of Electors to ensure that it will appear on subsequent Lists of Electors.



CANADIAN SNOWBIRD ASSOCIATION

Commitment, Service and Advocacy for Travellers

180 Lesmill Road
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
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Office Hours (Eastern Time)
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday
Fax (416) 441-7007

www.snowbirds.org
E-mail csastaff@snowbirds.org

General inquiries (English service)
Telephone (416) 391-9000
Toll-Free 1-800-265-3200

General inquiries (French service)
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