



# ***B.C. Election Handbook***



***Vote***

***MAY 14, 2013***



On **Tuesday May 14, 2013** the residents of British Columbia 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 snowbird issues. Do they support your right to travel? What will they support on your behalf?

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

Bob Slack  
President  
Canadian Snowbird Association



## Preservation of Provincial Health Coverage for Frequent Travellers

The Canadian Snowbird Association is pleased to inform all British Columbia snowbirds that our most recent advocacy campaign to extend health coverage in the province of British Columbia has been a success! On March 14, 2013, *Bill 8* received Royal Assent, amending the *Medicare Protection Act* to allow coordinating regulations to formally extend out-of-country stays from six to seven months. Once regulations come into force, which the CSA anticipates in the near future, snowbirds who call B.C. home will be able to spend up to seven months outside of the province and still maintain their provincial health coverage.

British Columbia will now be the third province in Canada, along with Ontario and Newfoundland and Labrador, to allow residents to maintain their eligibility for continuous health coverage while being absent from their home province for more than six months.

The CSA would like to express our gratitude to the Government and Opposition Members who supported the amendments to the *Medicare Protection Act* outlined in Bill 8.



### Question

Do your local candidates support the recent changes that were made to the Medicare Protection Act, to allow residents to be out-of-country for up to seven months and still retain health coverage?



## Access to Prescription Drugs When Travelling

Current PharmaCare policy limits coverage to a maximum 30 day supply for short-term prescription drugs and **100 day supply** for long-term prescription drugs.

PharmaCare allows one to fill a prescription early if the supply is needed for travel outside B.C. However, the prescription can only be topped up to the maximum 100 day supply. This is well below the permitted travel period.

British Columbia does not cover prescription drugs obtained outside the province.

With the amendments to the *Medicare Protection Act* now in place; the CSA's next advocacy initiative in B.C. will be to lobby government officials to amend PharmaCare policy to ensure prescription drug supplies match the time permitted outside of the province.

### Question

Do your local candidates support amending legislation or regulation 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?





## Access to Emergency Health Coverage When Travelling

Residents of British Columbia will be reimbursed a maximum payment of \$75 a day for emergency in-patient hospital care received while outside of Canada. British Columbia is one of the few jurisdictions which does not reimburse for out-of-country emergency out-patient hospital services. The Medical Services Plan (MSP) will reimburse emergency physician services while travelling abroad, in Canadian funds, at the same rate that would have been paid if the services were received in B.C.



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

## Registered Provincial Political Parties

Contact information to conduct election platform inquiries

### British Columbia Liberal Party

Leader: Christy Clark

PO Box 21014 Waterfront Centre  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
V6C 3K3

Phone: (604) 606-6000

Fax: (604) 632-0253

Email: [contact@bciberals.com](mailto:contact@bciberals.com)  
[www.bciberals.com](http://www.bciberals.com)

### British Columbia New Democratic Party

Leader: Adrian Dix

5367 Kingsway  
Burnaby, British Columbia  
V5H 2G1

Phone: (604) 430-8600

Fax: (604) 432-9517

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

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

## Election Date and Times

Election Day is Tuesday May 14, 2013.

Polls will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Pacific time.

**Electors absent from British Columbia during the election period may vote in the advance polls or vote by mail.**

## Contact Information

### Elections BC

Suite 100 – 1112 Fort Street  
Victoria, BC V8V 3K8  
Canada

### Mailing Address:

PO Box 9275 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9J6

Email: [electionsbc@elections.bc.ca](mailto:electionsbc@elections.bc.ca)  
[www.elections.bc.ca](http://www.elections.bc.ca)

### Office Hours:

Monday through Friday  
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Phone: 250-387-5305

Toll-free: 1-800-661-8683

TTY 1-888-456-5448

Fax: 250-387-3578

Toll-free Fax: 1-866-466-0665

## Advance Polls

If you will be outside of the province on election day, you may cast your ballot beforehand at an advance polling station.

Advance polls will be held from

Wednesday May 8 to Saturday May 11 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. local time.

The locations of advance polls will be available on the Elections BC website, [www.elections.bc.ca](http://www.elections.bc.ca).

## Vote by Mail

Recent changes made by Elections BC will now allow electors absent during the election period to request a voting package *before* the election is called. Elections BC will be distributing voting packages as early as March 25<sup>th</sup> in an effort to provide voters with additional time to exercise their democratic right to vote.

To request a voting package, voters can:

- Use the online request form at [www.elections.bc.ca](http://www.elections.bc.ca)
- Call Elections BC at **1-800-661-8683**
- Visit any district electoral office in the province after April 8, 2013

Voting packages can be requested from Elections BC up until 4 p.m. (Pacific time) on May 14, 2013.

The voting package will include the following contents: instructions, a ballot, return envelope. If your voting package is being sent to a location in Canada, the return envelope provided by Elections BC will be "postage paid."

Voting packages must be returned, completed, to the district electoral office from which they were issued before 8 p.m. (Pacific time) on May 14, 2013.

**Important: If you request for and receive a voting package early, do not complete your ballot and return it to Elections BC before April 16. Voting before an election is called will disqualify that ballot.**

## Elections BC Information

### What form(s) of identification do I need in order to vote?

Voters must provide:

- one document issued by the Government of B.C. or Canada that contains the voter's name, photograph and residential address, such as a B.C. driver's licence, B.C. Identification Card (BCID), or B.C. Services Card

**OR**

- a Certificate of Indian Status
- OR**
- two documents that contain the voter's name. At least one of the documents must also contain the voter's residential address.

## Special Voting

The District Electoral Officer may establish special voting opportunities to assist eligible voters who wish to vote but are unable to attend a regular voting place on May 14 because they are in a hospital, remote community or long-term care facility.

For more information on special voting and contact information for your respective District Electoral Officer please visit the Elections BC website at [www.elections.bc.ca](http://www.elections.bc.ca).

## Important Dates

Vote by Mail package request form available online	<b>February 8, 2013</b>
Available start of mailing Vote by Mail packages	<b>March 25, 2013</b>
Writ Day (general election is called)	<b>April 16, 2013</b>
Close of general voter registration	<b>April 23, 2013</b>
Nomination Day (election candidates are known)	<b>April 26, 2013</b>
Advance voting	<b>May 8-11, 2013</b>
General Voting Day (voting packages must be received by 8 p.m. (PST))	<b>May 14, 2013</b>



## 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 [csawriteus@snowbirds.org](mailto:csawriteus@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