



B.C. Election Handbook



Vote

MAY 9, 2017



On **Tuesday May 9, 2017** 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!

Karen L. Huestis

Karen Huestis
President
Canadian Snowbird Association



Preservation of Provincial Health Coverage for Frequent Travellers

As a result of CSA advocacy efforts, residents of British Columbia (citizens of Canada or persons who are lawfully admitted to Canada for permanent residence), who are outside of B.C. for vacation purposes only, are allowed a total absence of up to seven months in a calendar year. To be eligible for a seven month absence, residents must not establish residency outside of B.C. and they must continue to meet the other requirements of residency.

Additionally, travellers may also be eligible to receive extended coverage for up to 24 consecutive months. Approval for extended coverage is limited to once in five years for absences exceeding seven months in a calendar year. If a resident loses coverage, they will be subject to a waiting period of undetermined length before coverage is reinstated.



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 When Travelling

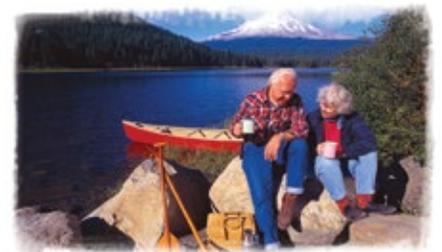
PharmaCare allows one to fill a prescription early if the supply is needed for travel outside B.C. However, the prescription can only be topped up to the maximum 100-day supply. This is well below the seven-month permitted travel period.

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

Despite undertaking a review of their policy on the frequency of dispensing prescription medications, the B.C. Ministry of Health has not changed their travel supply policy.

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 28131 West Pender St PO,
Vancouver, British Columbia
V6C 3T7

Phone: (604) 606-6000

Fax: (604) 632-0253

Email: contact@bcliberals.com
www.bcliberals.com

British Columbia New Democratic Party

Leader: John Horgan

301-4180 Lougheed Hwy
Burnaby, British Columbia
V5C 6A7

Phone: (604) 430-8600

Fax: (778) 379-4842

Email: info@bcndp.ca
www.bcndp.ca

The Green Party of British Columbia

Leader: Andrew Weaver

PO Box 8088 STN Central
Victoria, British Columbia
V8W 3R7

Phone: 1-888-473-3686

Fax: (250) 590-4537

Email: info@bcgreens.ca
www.bcgreens.ca

For a full list of registered political parties in the province of British Columbia please visit www.elections.bc.ca.

Election Date and Times

Election Day is **Tuesday May 9, 2017**.

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
www.elections.bc.ca

Office Hours:

Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Elections BC Contact Centre hours (1-800-661-8683):

Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 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 voting is scheduled for **April 29 and 30**, and **May 3, 4, 5 and 6**. Advance

voting places will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (local time).

The locations of advance polls will be available on the Elections BC website, www.elections.bc.ca.

Vote by Mail

Voters may vote by mail (alternative absentee voting) if any of the following conditions apply:

- You expect to be absent from B.C. on General Voting Day.
- You have a physical disability, illness or injury, or your mobility is impaired.
- You will not be able to attend a voting place due to your remote location, weather or another reason beyond your control.

To request a voting package, voters can:

- Use the online request form at www.elections.bc.ca
- Call Elections BC at **1-800-661-8683**
- Visit any district electoral office in the province

Voting packages can be requested from Elections BC up until 4 p.m. (Pacific time) on May 9, 2017. Packages will begin being shipped after March 13, 2017. Packages will be shipped based on the order that the

requests were received.

Voting packages within Canada will be sent via Express Post. Packages sent internationally will be sent via courier.

Please include an email address on the request form, as this will be used to provide you with a notification email when the package has been shipped, as well as a tracking number for your package.

Important:

- If you receive your package before the election is officially called, do not mark your ballot, sign the certification envelope (B), or post your package until after the election is called. The election is scheduled to be called on April 11.
- It is your responsibility to ensure that your voting package is received by Elections BC between when the election is called and General Voting Day. Packages received by Elections BC before the election is called or after General Voting Day cannot be counted.

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.

Voters who don't have ID can have their identity vouched for by another person.

Important Dates

Available start of mailing Vote by Mail packages

March 13, 2017

Writ Day (general election is called)

April 11, 2017

Candidate Nominations Close

April 18, 2017

Advance voting

April 29-30, 2017 and May 3-6, 2017

General Voting Day (voting packages must be received by 8 p.m. (PST))

May 9, 2017



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
E-mail 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