



# *Federal Election Handbook*



*Vote*

October 21, 2019



On Monday, October 21, 2019 the citizens of Canada will choose their next federal 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

Under the portability criterion of the *Canada Health Act*, insured Canadian residents who are temporarily absent from their home province or territory and outside Canada must continue to be covered for insured health services during their absence. When the insured services are provided outside Canada, payment is to be made on the basis of the amount that would have been paid by the province for similar services rendered in the province/territory, commonly referred to as the "home province" rate. This allows individuals to travel or be absent from their home province or territory, within a prescribed duration, while retaining their health insurance coverage. Many provincial governments are in blatant breach of this provision. Subsequent federal governments have refused to use the penalty provisions of the *Canada Health Act* to force provinces to pay the required amounts that would allow Canadians to travel without severe financial concerns.



### Question

If elected, will you and your party enforce the portability section of the *Canada Health Act*? If elected, do you and your party agree to apply the penalty provisions of the *Canada Health Act* to force provinces to comply with the law?



## Preservation of Health Coverage for Frequent Travellers

The principles of universal and portable health care under the *Canada Health Act* should not be compromised by a Canadian's desire to travel outside of their province, territory or country. Unfortunately, some jurisdictions in Canada restrict their residents' ability to travel by limiting their access to continued health care.

To date, the federal government has not used the *Canada Health Act* or other policies to address the minimum residency requirements necessary for eligibility for insured health care services. This absence of national leadership has resulted in a patchwork of requirements across the country, providing residents of some provinces much less freedom to travel than some of their fellow residents from other provinces and territories. Some jurisdictions permit residents to travel freely for up to 12 consecutive months while others force their residents to be physically in the province for a minimum of six months a year.

It is up to the federal government to enforce the *Canada Health Act* and set national standards for health insurance eligibility. In the absence of national standards, the current patchwork across the country will be allowed to continue.



### Question

If elected, will you and your party adopt a national standard guaranteeing access to continued health coverage during extended trips of up to eight months (or seven months with an unlimited number of short-term trips anywhere in the world)?





# Access to Prescription Drugs For Use During Travel

There is currently a patchwork of rules across the country specifying limits on the supply of prescription medication that provincial and territorial drug programs will cover. Some jurisdictions will cover a seven month supply, matching the amount of time residents can remain outside of their home province while remaining eligible for continuous health coverage. Other jurisdictions will limit the supply of prescription drugs that are dispensed to as few as 30 days.



Increasingly, there have been reports of prescription drug shortages across Canada. For travellers, this can be problematic if medications are changed prior to their departure and they no longer meet the stability period mandated by their travel medical insurance provider.

## Question

If elected, would you and your party enact a national pharmacare program, covering all drugs, not just catastrophic expenses?

Would you and your party investigate the cause of drug shortages and implement concrete solutions to remedy the problem?

## Registered Federal Political Parties Contact information to conduct election platform inquiries

Party	Leader	Telephone	Website
Conservative Party of Canada	The Hon. Andrew Scheer	1-866-808-8407	<a href="http://www.conservative.ca">www.conservative.ca</a>
Liberal Party of Canada	The Right Hon. Justin Trudeau	1-888-542-3725	<a href="http://www.liberal.ca">www.liberal.ca</a>
Bloc Québécois	Mr. Yves-François Blanchet	514-526-3000	<a href="http://www.blocquebecois.org">www.blocquebecois.org</a>
NDP - New Democratic Party of Canada	Mr. Jagmeet Singh	613-236-3613	<a href="http://www.ndp.ca">www.ndp.ca</a>
Green Party of Canada	Ms. Elizabeth May	1-866-868-3447	<a href="http://www.greenparty.ca">www.greenparty.ca</a>
People's Party of Canada	The Hon. Maxime Bernier	819-205-2648	<a href="http://www.peoplespartyofcanada.ca">www.peoplespartyofcanada.ca</a>

For a full list of registered federal parties please visit [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca)

# Vote

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# Elections Canada Information

## Am I registered to vote?

In order to vote, eligible electors must be registered. To determine whether or not you are registered to vote in the upcoming federal election, you can check online at [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca) or you can contact Elections Canada by telephone toll-free at 1-800-463-6868.

## How do I register to vote?

There are two ways you can register to vote in a federal election:

1. Online at [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca) – use the Online Voter Registration Service on the Elections Canada website to register before Tuesday, October 15 at 6 p.m. You must prove your identity and address to register.

2. In-person - you can register and vote at any Elections Canada office across Canada before Tuesday October 15 at 6 p.m.

You can register at your assigned polling station when you go to vote on advance polling days, or on election day, Monday, October 21.

*Voters can also register at their advance or election day polling place prior to casting their ballot.*

## Vote by mail

Canadian voters have the option of voting by mail.

You must apply as soon as possible to allow time for your special ballot voting kit to reach you, and for your marked ballot to reach Elections Canada, by election day.

If you apply online or to Elections Canada in Ottawa: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. Eastern time.

If you apply to a local Elections Canada office: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. local time

Voters residing in Canada and who will be outside their riding when they will submit their application to vote by special ballot can apply online ([www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca)), in-person, by fax, or by mail.

The Application for Registration and Special Ballot can be downloaded from the Elections Canada website [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca).

Special Ballot application must include proof of identification. A complete list of accepted ID documents can be found at [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca).

## Deadlines and reminders

Apply ASAP. Elections Canada must receive your completed application by the deadline: 6:00 p.m. Eastern time on October 15, 2019.

Allow time for your voting kit to reach you, and for your marked ballot to reach Elections Canada in Ottawa, by 6:00 p.m. Eastern time on election day, October 21, 2019.

## Vote at any Elections Canada office

There are over 500 Elections Canada offices open across Canada. Vote at any one of them before Tuesday, October 15 at 6:00 p.m. You will vote using the special ballot process.

Elections Canada offices are open seven days a week.

Find the Elections Canada office nearest to you at [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca).

## Voting Hours Across Canada

On election day, polls will be open for 12 hours across Canada. The voting hours will be staggered to ensure that the majority of results are available at approximately the same time on election night.

### Newfoundland Time

8:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

### Atlantic Time

8:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

### Eastern Time

9:30 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.

### Central Time\*

8:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

### Mountain Time\*

7:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

### Pacific Time

7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

\*In Saskatchewan, when daylight savings time is in effect for the rest of the country, voting hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. (local time).

If an electoral district spans more than one time zone, the returning officer, with the prior approval of the Chief Electoral Officer, determines one local time for voting throughout the district.

## Advance Voting Days

Vote at your assigned polling station from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on:

Friday, October 11

Saturday, October 12

Sunday, October 13

Monday, October 14

To find your advance polling station, check your voter information card when it arrives in the mail or the Voter Information Service on [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca) after October 2.

**For more information, please contact:** Elections Canada, 30 Victoria Street, Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0M6

Telephone: 613-993-2975 or 1-800-463-6868 (toll-free in Canada and the United States) 001-800-514-6868 (toll-free in Mexico). For people who are deaf or hard of hearing: TTY 1-800-361-8935 toll-free in Canada and the United States

Fax: 613-954-8584 or 1-888-524-1444 toll-free in Canada and the United States



## 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