

The PEI Literacy Alliance Guide to

Provincial Elections

Why should I vote in the PEI provincial election?

Voting gives you a chance to have a say in how our province is run. It doesn't take a lot of time or effort.

Your vote supports the person that you think is the best one for the job, and it supports the political party to which that person belongs.

Everyone's vote is important because the person who wins the election has an influence on provincial laws and regulations.

Some of the things the Provincial Government makes decisions about are:

- road construction and repair
- snow removal
- hospital and medical services
- education for you and your children
- welfare programs
- taxes like sales tax, gasoline tax, property tax and income tax



Do I have the right to vote in the election?

To vote you must:

- be at least 18 years old by election day
- be a Canadian citizen
- have lived in PEI for at least the six months before the government called the election

They're making a list

Soon after the government calls the election, two people called **Confirmation Officers** visit every home in your area to make a list of everyone who can vote. If they visit your house twice and nobody is there, they leave a card asking you to phone the Returning Officer. This way, you can still get on the voter's list.

Please note that even if your name is not on the list, you can still vote. Go to the voting place on election day and speak to the returning officer.

The person in charge of the election for your area is called the **Returning Officer**, or **RO**. If you would like to speak to your RO, you can call Elections PEI at 1-888-234-8683 for contact information.

Where do I go to vote?

The place where people vote is called a polling place. It will be a building in your neighbourhood, usually a church, school or community hall. The card from the Confirmation Officers names the polling place and the hours that it is open.

Getting ready to vote

When it is time to vote, go to your polling place. If you wish, you can bring a friend or relative along to help you read the ballot. You can bring your children with you.

The people at the polling place will find your name on the Voters List and will record that you have come to vote.

Next they will give you a folded piece of paper called a ballot. You are ready to vote.

On the ballot you will see a list of names of all the candidates in your riding. The ballot will have a white square beside each candidate's name and political party.

After the election is announced, there will be an ad in the newspaper with the name and phone number of your RO. If you need to check where to find your polling place or have any other questions, you can call either your RO or Elections PEI at 1-888-234-8683.

There will be a screen set up so you can vote in private. Take your ballot there.

How do I mark my ballot?

Unfold your ballot and find the name of the person you want to vote for. Mark an “X” in the white square beside this person’s name.

Be careful not to spoil your ballot:

- only make one “X”
- do not sign your name or mark anything else on your ballot

If you make a mistake on your ballot, you can get a new one. Take it back to the officer and say you have made a mistake. The officer will give you a new ballot.

After you mark your “X”, refold your ballot and give it back to the officer, who will then put your ballot in the ballot box. You have finished voting.

If you know that you are going to be away on election day, you can still vote by using the **advance polls** or a **mail-in ballot**.

Advance Polls

The advance poll is a vote that takes place on the Saturday nine days before the regular voting day, and on the Monday seven days before the ordinary voting day. If you want to vote in the advance poll, call your RO or 1-888-234-8683 to find out where the polling place will be for the advance poll. When you go to vote, you will be asked to sign your name in a poll book.



Sample Ballot

Mail-in Ballots

If you are going to be unable to vote at an advance poll or at the ordinary poll, you may still be able to vote using a mail-in ballot. You will need to fill in a form. You can get it from your RO, Elections PEI or a political party.

Fill in the form and return to your RO or Elections PEI by 6:00 pm 13 days before election day. You will also need to send a copy of a piece of official identification which contains your signature. This could be your driver's license which shows your name, address, date of birth and signature, or a combination of two documents providing the same information. You can send your completed form by fax, mail or deliver it yourself to your Returning Officer or Elections PEI. The address is:

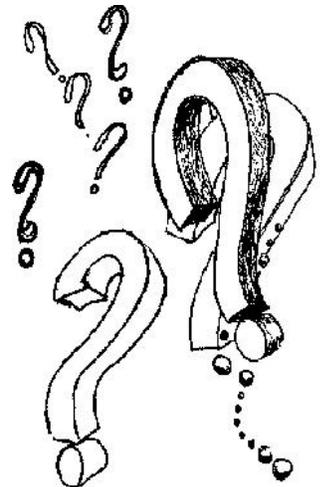
Elections PEI
94 Great George Street,
P.O. Box 774
Charlottetown, PEI C1A 7L3

Another way to vote

Elections PEI also arranges a mobile poll for people in nursing homes and hospitals.

To find out more, get in touch with your MLA or call Elections PEI at 1-888-234-8683.

You can also visit the web site at www.electionspei.ca



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