

## The Elections Are Coming Let's be sure everyone is registered to vote

By the time you receive this Newsletter, we may well be into a federal election. If not, one will be coming soon and we know that the next provincial election will be held on **May 17, 2005**.

If we want to elect governments that are committed to publicly funded child care, we need to mobilize our constituency to get out and vote! We need to show politicians that we are a political force to contend with.

Yet, too often the people who are directly affected by child care policy are too busy, too cynical, too apathetic or too overwhelmed to cast their vote. This leaves the voting process wide open to those who don't share our values.

It's time to make sure that every person who cares or should care about progressive child care policies is **registered to vote both federally and provincially**.

As the first step in our Election Strategy, the Coalition is launching a '**child care voter registration drive**'. We are asking our members to proactively support and encourage co-workers, families and others to get on the voters' lists.

There are lots of creative ways to be part of this drive:

- ✓ Talk about the importance of being on the voters' list at parent meetings and with staff
- ✓ Set up a parent display about getting on the voters' list
- ✓ Put voter registration information in your program Newsletter
- ✓ Have a 'Lets Vote' party where everyone completes the forms together
- ✓ Take the voter registration drive to other groups in your community.

Here is some information about getting on the voters' lists:

**Provincial Voter Registration** (From Elections BC Website [www.elections.bc.ca/](http://www.elections.bc.ca/))  
Elections BC - Toll Free: 1-800-661-8683 / TTY 1-888-456-5448

To vote in a BC electoral district for a provincial election, an individual must:

- be a Canadian citizen;
- be 18 years of age or older on General Voting Day for the election;
- be a resident of the electoral district;
- have been a resident of BC for at least 6 months immediately preceding General Voting Day;
- be registered as a voter for the electoral district, or register in conjunction with voting; and
- not be disqualified from voting in the election.

To register as a BC voter, a qualified individual must complete an “Application for Registration” as a Provincial Voter. To register as a new voter, you can

- Visit your local [Government Agent](#) office; or
- Visit the Elections BC [Victoria office](#); or
- Visit <https://vov.com/home/electionsbc/reg.sform.html> to update your registration. Once you have fully completed and signed your application form, forward it to Elections BC by:
  - **Mail:** Elections BC, PO Box 9275 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9J6
  - **Fax:** 250-387-3578     **Scan and mail:** [electionsbc@gems3.gov.bc.ca](mailto:electionsbc@gems3.gov.bc.ca)

(Include a phone number on the Form so that Elections BC can contact you)

Voters who change their name or address must notify Elections BC to have their registration updated.

**Federal Voter Registration** (From Elections Canada website [www.elections.ca/](http://www.elections.ca/))  
Elections Canada - Toll Free: 1 800 463-6868/TTY 1 800 361-8935

To be eligible to vote in federal elections and referendums you must be a Canadian citizen, who will be 18 or older on polling day.

The federal government maintains a **National Register of Electors** of Canadians who are qualified to vote. This Register is used to produce a voters' list when an election is called.

The Register is updated regularly using sources such as motor vehicles registrars, vital statistics and permanent provincial voters' lists.

To find out if you are on the National Register of Electors, call Elections Canada at 1 800 463-6868. (TTY 1 800 361-8935)

If you are **not** on the National Register, you will be able to register with your local Returning Officer once the election has been called.