

Canadian public servants posted abroad, such as the staffs of embassies, vote before election day, with their dependants. The total in the next election is expected to be about 3,400.

In the same category for voting purposes are all 83,000 members of the regular armed forces plus the dependants in Germany of about 5,000 Canadian troops stationed there under NATO command.

These special votes usually take place throughout the second week before the election.

The candidates

In general, anyone eligible to vote is eligible for nomination and election to the House of Commons. There are no property or educational qualifications.

Some exceptions to this rule are members of provincial legislatures, judges, persons convicted of corrupt electoral practices, public servants, except those having been granted leave of absence without pay to seek nomination under the Public Service Employment Act, and members of the regular armed forces. None of these may run for election to the House of Commons.

Most candidates are the official representatives of the various political parties, chosen at party-nominating conventions.

Nominations close, in general, 21 days before election day. In a few isolated constituencies, nominations are held 28 days before the voting date. A candidate need not reside in the constituency he is contesting. His nomination, however, must be endorsed by at least 25 electors in the constituency, and must identify the official agent and the auditor he or she is required to appoint. He must put up a \$200-deposit which is returned to him if he wins the election or polls 15 per cent of the total valid votes cast. This is to discourage frivolous nominations.

Parties

Everyone is free to form a political party and to join or support any party he chooses, but only a federally registered political party may enjoy election expenses privileges.

Two parties have hitherto shared the allegiance of most Canadian voters. They are the Progressive Conservatives, usually called