

The voters

Every Canadian citizen 18 years of age or over and resident in Canada has the right to vote.

6

Persons born in Canada or born in a foreign land of Canadian parents are automatically Canadian citizens. Persons born in a foreign country may acquire Canadian citizenship after living three years in Canada.

Among those deprived of their franchise — but only so long as the cause of the deprivation lasts — are prisoners in penal institutions and persons restrained in their liberty of movement or deprived of the management of their property by reason of mental disease. Certain classes of person are deprived of their vote because of their official functions: the chief electoral officer and his assistant, federally-appointed judges (except for citizenship judges), and returning officers. The last-mentioned must cast the tie-breaking ballot if two candidates for election receive the same number of votes. Finally, any person found guilty of electoral fraud may lose the franchise for a specified period.

Voters who for any reason feel they cannot get to the polls on election day — for example, because they plan to take a trip or attend a wedding — can vote in advance polls held on the ninth, seventh and sixth days before polling day. Those who are unable to cast their vote at an advance poll or on election day may do so in the office of the returning officer from the twenty-first day before polling day, excepting Sundays, advance polling days and the last Saturday before polling day (making 18 days total).

Fishermen, mariners, prospectors, physically-incapacitated persons, members of air crews, forestry crews, topographical survey crews, or trappers and students away from home have, under certain conditions, the right to vote by proxy.

Canadian public servants posted abroad, such as the staffs of embassies, and their dependants posted abroad, vote before election day. The total in the thirty-fourth election is expected to be about 2 000.

In the same category for voting purposes are all 85 000 members of the regular armed forces in Canada and abroad plus their dependants posted abroad.

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