

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. He must put up a \$200 deposit, which is returned to him if he wins the election or polls half as many votes as the winner. This is to discourage frivolous nominations.

Parties Everyone is free to form a political party and to join or support any party he chooses.

Two parties have hitherto shared the allegiance of most Canadian voters. They are the Progressive Conservatives, usually called simply the Conservatives, and the Liberals. Every Canadian Government up to now has been formed by one or other of these parties or a merger of elements of both. On occasion, other parties have succeeded in winning provincial elections, and other parties regularly elect groups of Members to the House of Commons. Two of the most prominent in this respect are the New Democratic and the Social Credit Parties.

On entering a polling booth, the voter is handed a ballot listing the candidates (by name) and -- in the case of qualified, registered parties, at present numbering four -- party affiliation.

The principal political parties function through voluntary associations with headquarters in the national capital but in more-or-less intimate association with organizations at the provincial and constituency levels.

The constituency association is responsible for selecting the candidate who will contest that seat in the election. (It also sends delegates to national assemblies where the party leader is chosen and party policies formulated.)

As the time for an election approaches, party associations launch massive campaigns aimed at publicizing the party's policies and the personality of its leader. These campaigns reach their peak in the weeks immediately preceding an election, as the leaders move across the country addressing meetings and meeting individual voters.

Expenses Canadian elections are expensive. The country is vast and many parts are sparsely populated. Yet, as far as possible, every voter, no matter where he lives, must be given a chance to vote.