

VOTE

Canadian expats get right to vote



For the first time, Canadian citizens living overseas, including those in Hong Kong, will be able to vote in the next Canadian federal election.

The Commission for Canada in Hong Kong have coordinated a voter registration campaign to encourage as many Canadians as possible to register for the vote. They have also distributed registration forms at various Canadian events in Hong Kong and to Chamber members.

Recent changes to the electoral act mean that Canadian citizens, over the age of 18, who have been living outside of Canada for less than five consecutive years, are now eligible to vote.

On the registration form, you must also state when you intend to return to Canada. Barry Macdonald, a principal at Coopers & Lybrand, is cautious about this aspect: "If there's evidence that a return to Canada is planned, Revenue Canada could assume the registered voter is still a resident for tax purposes."

Vacationing Canadians or those working outside of Canada on election day may also vote using this new method.

Potential voters must complete a registration form and supply supporting documentation to Elections Canada. This step can be done by fax. If approved, the elector will be placed on an international registry of voters. A voting kit will be sent when the election is called.

The registration form urges potential voters to register early. The ballot must arrive in Ottawa before 4 pm Ottawa local time on the Friday before the election.

Canadians who would like to have a voter registration form sent directly to them should contact the Canadian Commission at 867-7398 or write to the Voter Registration Office, GPO Box 11142, Hong Kong. Registration forms can also be picked up on the 16/F, Exchange Square One, Commission for Canada, Consular Section. ♦



S. E. A. CANADIAN OVERSEAS SECONDARY SCHOOL (C. O. S. S.)

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Students who attend C. O. S. S. study from a Canadian curriculum with Canadian textbooks. The teachers use Canadian teaching strategies. On the successful completion of their courses students are given Ontario high school credits and awarded an Ontario Secondary School Diploma. On graduation students are assisted by guidance counsellors to gain entrance to a university.

Applications are invited for admission to C. O. S. S. in each of the two semesters, September 1993 and January 1994.