

Bring photo ID, address to vote: Elections Canada

Last Updated: Tuesday, October 14, 2008 | 4:23 AM ET [Comments 19](#) [Recommend 17](#)
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Elections Canada is reminding voters to bring photo identification when they go to the polls on Tuesday.

New rules require voters to prove their identity and address with approved photo documents.

That may deter some students from voting, said Montreal-based voting advocacy group Apathy is Boring.

"It's just a challenge sometimes, when you're in a student residence, or you've just moved somewhere, and you might not have a lot of bills in your name to provide that proof of address," spokeswoman Ilona Dougherty said.

Some native leaders and advocates for the homeless have also expressed concern about the new requirements.

But people have options, Elections Canada spokesman Gilles Paquin said.

"We make it very accessible" by giving people the option of bringing a driver's licence and proof of address such as a utilities bill, he said. "There is no reason you could not be able to vote."

Would-be voters can also choose to have a second person vouch for their identity, as long as their designate has proper identification, Paquin added.

The new regulations may create longer waits to vote "because actually, it takes a minute or two for people to find their cards in their pockets, and their wallets."

Polls open at 9:30 a.m. and close at 9:30 p.m. ET Tuesday.

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[lighteningbolt](#) wrote: Posted 2008/10/15

at 1:35 AM ET Now that this is all over, I cannot help but wonder how many who voted Conservative; would have done so, had realized the full implications of Harper's intentions as regards the SPP. Regardless of all my efforts to have this brought up in the election, I was completely ignored and

unfortunately for some reason, it is also being ignored by the media. In sheer frustration, all I can say at this point, is that if you really care about your Country, you will immediately contact your MP, or preferably your Party Leader and demand full details of what has already transpired and what is planned by the Conservatives; for the future of Canada, as from what I have read; final negotiations will be concluded sometime in 2010. With the possibility of our becoming part of what is to be called "The North American Union", with a different flag, currency and our valuable resources, including water which is currently being negotiated, we cannot afford to sit around and do nothing. We need to keep the pressure on and unless we do it together now, our children and Grandchildren will lose everything our ancestors worked so hard to leave us and for which so many died to keep us free. Out of respect and for love of our Country, we owe it to them all to act now before it's too late. At least; look up "Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America" and "The North American Union" on the web and bring the subject out into the open. Thank You.

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[neochu](#) wrote:Posted 2008/10/14

at 8:23 PM ETMy poll station was inside of a MAJOR university (as I live 3 blocks from it) and I had no problems AT ALL with ID requirements It was quick fast and efficient and the electoral office at least at this station was already given a list of all residential students, hence their proof of address requirements were already pre cleared. The student card is sufficient and acceptable forms of picture ID and is on Elections Canada's list. Given this is a fairly large university I wouldn't be surprised if this is the norm across Canada. Students can also vote at their home addresses should they possess other proof of address or have parents swear the oath.

Elections Canada has a list that they mailed out and published with acceptable forms of ID (you don't necessarily have to have a picture ID (only proof of address, identity and your signature are needed) and their alternatives. As I am looking at this list I see nearly 30 different forms of identification and proof of address elements. It is extensive enough that anyone eligible to vote will possess at least something from inside of this list.

The only Picture ID I have for example is my OHIP card and that was plenty acceptable and the only thing I needed to cast my ballot.

Essentially the list is so extensive that if you maintain your own independence and manage your own affairs and have sufficient residence (and meet eligibility) you can probably scrounge sufficient identification to vote.

But to digress I do agree Ontario needs a general purpose ID card that can be accepted by everything. Since I cannot obtain a licence and many places don't accept all forms of ID it can be very troubling to scrounge for alternatives. All the other provinces have non-licence general Picture ID there's no reason Ontario cannot.

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Craig O. wrote:Posted 2008/10/14

at 6:22 PM ETNB_Unplugged, if you had read the rules for voting ahead of time (they're on the internet, were sent out to practically every address in Canada, and on TV/Radio often enough), you could have had one of those people who had known you all your life vouch for you. All they'd need is appropriate identification themselves and you'd need to swear an oath asserting your identity.

While a few select people may have a legitimate complaint here (mostly the homeless), you most certainly do not.

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jwas65 wrote:Posted 2008/10/14

at 6:20 PM ETFor NB, some clarification

I agree with OhMeOhMy not Harper's fault Elections Canada is an independent arms-length agency they recommend what changes they would like to see in Election laws, of which these changes are sent to Parliament on the whole to discuss - so ALL PARTIES, not just Harper's CPC, agreed to pass these changes to the Election Act legislation.

No offence, but at 46, I am surprised that you have NO picture identification. With greatest respect, I am somewhat shocked.

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OhMeOhMy wrote:Posted 2008/10/14

at 5:01 PM ETNB_Unplugged... get a grip! I also live in NB and it's been well documented that photo id is necessary... you could have gone to Services NB and get an ID card with your photo on it... all my kids have one & they don't drive. Sheesh, you' re behaving like you live beyond the sticks.

you live with your parents? doesn't matter, does it?! any government correspondence addressed to you would have the necessary data on it, now wouldn't it? ever filed an income tax return? you would have received gov't correspondence in your name, at your parents address. get over it.

it's not Harper, as you say, or anybody else. It was & is YOUR responsibility. It's a safeguard against fraud.... you know, there's plenty of that going around! Get a grip, get your proper papers & GO VOTE!

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- [2](#)
- [3](#)
- [4](#)
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