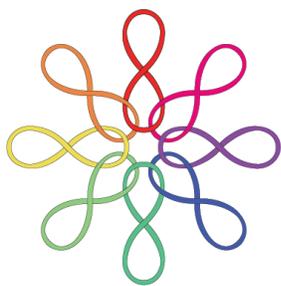


#AutisticsVote

Federal Election

Toolkit 2019

An Autistic Advocacy Guide to Voting and the Election



AUTISTICS UNITED
CANADA

Introduction

The 2019 federal election in Canada is happening on **Monday, October 21**.

Our **#AutisticsVote Toolkit** is a guide to help autistic people vote at the upcoming federal elections and advocate on issues that impact our community.

There are two major goals of this guide:

- 1) For autistic people to understand how the electoral system and voting process works
- 2) To promote dialogue and conversation about federal issues concerning the rights of autistic people and people with disabilities.

We recognize that our community is diverse and that **autistic people often face multiple barriers to voting**, related to poverty, disability, gender, race, and other marginalizations. We have included links to resources for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people, people with physical disabilities, people with cognitive disabilities, non-native speakers of English or French, and youth.

Elections Canada is the official source of information about voting at the 2019 federal election. Visit their website ([English version](#) / [version française](#)), check out their [Voter's Guide](#), and find updates on Twitter ([English version](#) / [version française](#)).

Join the conversation on social media! Use the hashtags **#elxn43**, **#AutisticsVote** and **#cdnpoli** when posting about the election.

Autistics United Canada is the first national advocacy organization by and for autistic people. We are a grassroots collective of autistic youth and adults in what is colonially known as Canada. Autistics United Canada currently consists of five chapters and a network of self-advocates across the country.

All our leadership positions are held by Autistic people, reflecting our core value: “Nothing About Us, Without Us!” We build community, promote disability justice, foster pride and acceptance, and advocate for a better world for all autistic people. From local initiatives to national issues, Autistics United Canada has been at the forefront of Autistic-led advocacy in Canada. To learn more about us, visit AutisticsUnitedCA.org.

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1. Introduction to the Federal Election

a. The Federal Government

i. Types of governments

- There are three levels of government:
 - Municipal (cities)
 - Provincial or territorial (provinces or territories)
 - Federal (the whole country)
- There are also First Nations governments. Band councils govern First Nations communities across the country. They are similar to municipal governments.
- All of these governments have different jurisdictions. This means they are in charge of different issues.

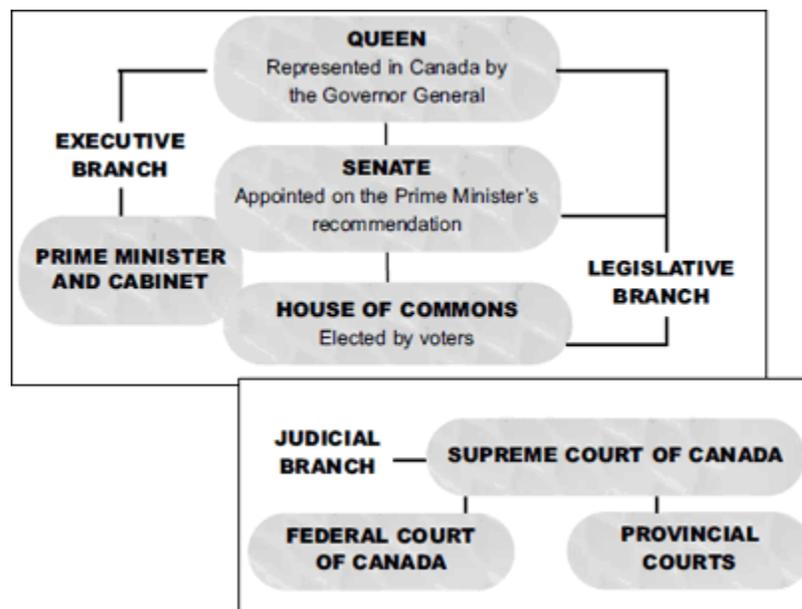
ii. Which issues are the federal government's responsibility?

- The federal government is responsible for issues that affect the whole country such as:
 - Mail
 - Telephones
 - Shipping
 - Railways
 - Taxes
 - Money
 - Banking
 - Criminal Law
 - Pipelines
 - Foreign Affairs
 - National Defence
 - Employment Insurance
 - Indigenous Rights and Land
- The federal government also transfers money to the provinces and territories to help them provide services to us.
 - This includes money that goes towards specific policy areas such as health care, post-secondary education, social assistance and social services, early childhood development, and child care.
 - This also includes extra money to less wealthy provinces and to the territories (where it is more expensive to provide services), so that there is the same level of services across Canada.

iii. Who is part of the federal government?

- There are three branches of the federal government:
 - Legislative (law-making)
 - Executive (decision-making)

- Judicial (court system)
- The legislative branch is made up of:
 - The monarch (represented by the governor general)
 - The Senate, which is made up of 105 appointed senators
 - The House of Commons, which is made up of 338 elected Members of Parliament (including the prime minister and Cabinet)
- The executive branch is made up of:
 - The monarch (represented by the governor general)
 - The prime minister
 - The Cabinet (made up of members of Parliament and sometimes senators invited by the prime minister to lead major government departments)
- The judicial branch is made up of a series of courts that interpret the laws passed by the other two branches.



b. The Federal Election

i. What is the federal election?

- The federal election is the process where we choose members of Parliament (MPs) to represent us in the federal government.
- This is done through a secret ballot vote.

ii. **How often does the federal election happen?**

- By law, the federal election must happen every four years on the third Monday in October.
- However, the prime minister can advise the Governor General to dissolve the government and call an election at an earlier time.

iii. **What are we voting for?**

- You are voting for a Member of Parliament (MP).
 - MPs are elected officials in federal House of Commons. They meet in Ottawa to create laws. They also have offices in the areas they represent.
 - The people trying to get elected are called candidates.
 - Each area (or riding) in Canada will vote for one MP to represent them in the federal House of Commons.
- You are also voting for the prime minister of Canada.
 - The prime minister is the leader of the political party that has the most candidates elected.
 - You do not vote for a prime minister directly (unless he/she/they is also a candidate in your riding).
 - When you vote for a candidate of a certain party, you are also supporting the leader of that party to become prime minister.

iv. **Who are the parties and candidates?**

- The four main parties are the [New Democratic Party](#), the [Liberal Party](#), the [Conservative Party](#), and the [Green Party](#).



NDP Party Leader: Jagmeet Singh



Liberal Party Leader: Justin Trudeau



Conservative Party Leader: Andrew Scheer



Green Party Leader: Elizabeth May

- Here is a [full list of parties](#) in the upcoming election.
- Here is a [full list of candidates](#) in the upcoming election.
- Some candidates are not in any party, and are called independents.

v. What are ridings?

- Ridings are geographical areas represented by one member of Parliament. Your riding is the one where your home address is.
- A riding is also called an electoral district.
- Each riding will select one candidate to be the new MP for that area.
- You can look up which candidates are running for election in your riding [using the Elections Canada tool here](#).

vi. How do candidates get elected to Parliament?

- Canada’s electoral system is a “single-member plurality” system. It is often called the “first-past-the-post” system.
- In every riding, the candidate with the most votes wins a seat in the House of Commons and becomes the MP that represents that riding.
- This is a “winner takes all” approach. An absolute majority (more than 50% of the votes) is not needed for a candidate to become the new MP.
 - Example:
Candidates A, B, C, and D are all running to become the new MP in a riding.

Candidate	Number of Votes
Candidate A	16
Candidate B	24
Candidate C	32

Candidate D	15
-------------	----

- In this case, Candidate C will win the seat and become the MP because they have the most votes.
- The party who wins the most seats across Canada wins the election.
 - If they have more than 50% of the seats in the House of Commons, they will form a majority government.
 - If they have less than 50%, they will form a minority government.
- Sometimes if the count is really close, a judicial recount may be ordered, where the ballots are counted again.

c. To Learn More

- i. How Government Works (Government of Canada):
<https://www.canada.ca/en/government/system/how-government-works.html>
- ii. Our Country, Our Parliament (Parliament of Canada):
<https://bdp.parl.ca/About/Parliament/Education/ourcountryourparliamen/home-e.aspx>
- iii. [/home-e.aspx](https://bdp.parl.ca/About/Parliament/Education/ourcountryourparliamen/home-e.aspx)
- iv. The Electoral System of Canada (Elections Canada):
<https://www.elections.ca/content.aspx?section=res&dir=ces&document=index&lang=e>
- v. Your Canadian Federal Election Glossary (CBC):
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-federal-election-2019-glossary-1.5278308>

2. Possible Questions to Ask Your Candidates

These are questions on federal issues that impact autistic people. You will not have time to ask all of them to a candidate, but you can choose the ones that mean the most to you.

a. Consultation - Nothing about us without us!

- Will your party commit to **meaningfully consulting with autistic people of diverse backgrounds** whenever creating national autism and disability policy?

b. Health care and well-being

- Will your party implement a **universal, single-payer public pharmacare system**?

- Will your party commit to creating a **national mental health strategy** to address gaps in the current system in consultation with people with disabilities and mental illnesses?
- Will your party change the Medical Assistance in Dying law to **comply fully with the safeguards and requirements of the Vulnerable Persons Standard**?
- Will your party commit to **implementing the full meaning and scope of Jordan’s Principle** to ensure First Nations children equitable access to government services?”

c. Violence towards autistic people

- Will your party commit to working with provincial governments to **prohibit seclusion and restraint in schools**, strengthen reporting and accountability requirements, and provide conflict and de-escalation training for school staff?
- Will your party resolve to take **stronger measures against deadly non-evidenced “treatments”** for autism such as *Miracle Mineral Solution* and chelation?
- Will your party commit to **reducing police brutality towards autistic people** by funding first responder training led by autistic people?

d. Stigma & “awareness” vs. acceptance

- Will your party resolve to end stigma towards autism, combat harmful awareness campaigns that further stigmatize autistic people, and **work with autistic people to instead promote autism acceptance**?

e. Equitable and affordable housing

- Will your party **fund affordable and accessible housing** for people of all disabilities?
- Will your party adopt legislation to **protect the right to independent supported living**?
- Will your party **commit to desegregated housing** by closing institutions and re-routing funding towards independent supported living?

f. Employment and poverty

- Will your party work with autistic people to **adopt more equitable hiring practices**?

- Will your party create a national strategy create opportunities for **competitive integrated employment**?
- Will your party **make changes to the benefits system** so that disabled people are not forced to live in a cycle of poverty?"
- Will you **reform the Disability Tax Credit**: addressing high rejection rates, making it refundable, and protecting recipients from clawbacks?

g. Communication access

- Will your party create a **national education program** to train health care professionals on how to communicate with autistic patients, including Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) users?
- Will your party commit to providing **plain language** versions of legislation, policies, and services that impact people with disabilities?

h. Research

- Will your party invest in **participatory autism research** that requires autistic co-design, consultation and input?
- Will your party invest in **research on supports rather than cures**, such as AAC supports, integrated employment supports, supports in educational settings, and autistic burnout and mental health?

i. Beyond the Accessible Canada Act

- Will your party commit to creating a **national disability strategy** with consultation of diverse disabled people, including autistic people?

3. How to Find Out More About Policy Issues and Candidates

- Visit the websites of the major political parties:
 - [Liberal Party of Canada](#)
 - [Conservative Party of Canada](#)
 - [New Democratic Party of Canada](#)

- [Green Party of Canada](#)
- Read the party platforms:
 - All political parties release a platform before the election.
 - A party's platform is the policies and values that it promises to carry out if elected. It tells voters where the party stands on major issues.
 - You can read the platforms on each party's website.
- Read, listen, or watch the news coverage of the election:
 - You can find updates about the election on the TV news, radio stations, and print and online newspapers.
 - For example, news media will have summaries of party platforms. These are some news sites that we found as examples, but this is not a full list:
 - [CBC News](#)
 - [Maclean's](#)
 - [CTV News](#)
 - [The Globe and Mail](#) (note: You must create an account to access this page)
 - Warning: All news media have their own bias and perspective. When reading articles in the news about candidates, parties, and their platforms, keep in mind that journalists summarize and paraphrase what they think is important.
- Attend or watch a debate:
 - Televised Federal Leader's debates
 - There are two organized by the Leaders' Debates Commission:
 - English: October 7th, 2019
 - French: October 10th, 2019
 - The debates are aired on major television networks. Full videos can be found online on news media websites afterwards.
 - Local town halls (also called All Candidates Debates)
 - You can find your where your all candidates debates is by searching "[your riding's name (eg: Vancouver South), all candidates debate].
 - They may also be listed in local newspapers.
- Visit the websites and social media of the candidates in your riding:
 - You can do this by looking up the candidate's name. Find out who is running for MP in your riding [using the Elections Canada tool here](#).
 - If one of the candidates is currently an MP, find out how they have talked about and voted on issues in Parliament in the past.
 - Some resources for finding this out are:
 - The Parliament of Canada website: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/en>
 - Open Parliament, an independent website: <https://openparliament.ca/>
- Check the facts:

- Not everything that a political candidate or party says is true. Sometimes what they say can be misleading or outright false.
- Do research to check if what they are saying is true. Make sure you check that your sources are credible and reliable.
- News media will sometimes do fact checks.
- FactsCan is an independent and non-partisan fact-checking organization: <http://factscan.ca/>

4. How to Get More Involved

- Check out our guide to [Talking to MPs about Autistic Self-Advocacy](#).
- During elections, candidates often have “Meet and Greet” style events, where you may be able to ask them questions
 - For a list of questions, see the “possible questions to ask your candidate” section of this toolkit.
 - You can ask your candidate questions on any issue.
- You can also ask questions during Town Hall Debates. Sometimes, you will ask online, which can be done during the debate using a smartphone, and sometimes, you will hand write your question on a piece of paper and give it to a volunteer or worker at the debate.
 - Note that if you ask a question during a debate, it may not get answered depending how many questions are asked. Candidates often stay behind afterwards if you want to go up to speak to them in person and ask questions.
- Phone or email your candidates to ask them questions and learn more about them. You can also visit the candidate’s office to see how they are running the campaign and meet the volunteers and staff.
- Ask questions on your candidates’ social media pages (eg: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram). Engagement via social media will vary by candidate.
- Write letters to the candidates and newspapers about issues that matter to you. Candidates have an email address and office address you can send electronic or written mail to. Newspapers will have a page on their websites where you can submit Letters to the Editor.
- Join the conversation online. There are hashtags used on social media when people talk about Canadian politics and the upcoming election:
 - #Cdnpoli
 - #Canpoli

- #elxn43
- Talk to family and/or friends you trust about how voting works. Encourage and support each other to vote!
- Practice voting by using a practice ballot to roleplay with. You can phone or email Elections Canada to ask them to send you a kit. Elections Canada also has teaching resources on the Elections and Democracy website, including printable resources: <https://electionsanddemocracy.ca>
- Volunteer for a candidate that you support. You can find out volunteer opportunities by visiting the candidate's website or contacting their campaign office.

5. How to Vote

a. Requirements to Vote

i. Who can vote

- You must be a Canadian citizen
- You must be at least 18 years old on election day (Oct 21, 2019)
- You must provide proof of your identity and address

ii. What you need to bring

- Option 1: A valid piece of photo ID such as:
 - Driver's license
 - Any other photo ID issued by the government (federal, provincial/territorial, or local), with your photo, name and current address
- Option 2: two pieces of ID, both with your name, and at least one with your address. Examples include:
 - Voter information card and bank statement
 - Utility bill and student ID card
 - Other options include:
 - Canadian passport
 - Canadian citizenship card
 - Liquor identity card
 - Canadian Armed Forces ID card
 - Birth certificate
 - Health card
 - Band membership card
 - Indian status card or temporary confirmation of registration

- Métis card
 - Card issued by an Inuit local authority
 - For a full list of accepted pieces of identification, [visit the Elections Canada website](#) (available in other languages).
- Option 3: A person who can vouch for your identity and address.
 - The person who vouches for you must be an eligible voter assigned to the same polling station as you. They can only vouch for one person.
 - If you are in a senior's residence, group home, or other long-term care institution, an employee at the institution can vouch for you. They can vouch for more than one person.

b. Registering to Vote

- i. Do I have to register to vote?
 - Yes, you have to register to vote.
 - You can register ahead of time, before you go to vote.
 - You can also register at the polling station, when you go to vote either on advance polling/voting days or on Election Day.

- ii. How do I register to vote?
 - Before you go to vote:
 - Use the [Online Voter Registration Service](#) until Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 6 p.m.
 - In person at any [Elections Canada office](#) until Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 6 p.m.
 - When you go to vote:
 - At your assigned polling station on election day, Monday, October 21, 2019.
 - At your assigned polling station on advance polling days:
 - Friday, October 11
 - Saturday, October 12
 - Sunday, October 13
 - Monday, October 14
 - At any [Elections Canada office](#) across Canada before Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 6 p.m.
 - You will register by bringing your ID or a person to vouch for you.

- iii. For more information
 - Visit the registration section of the Elections Canada website.
<https://www.elections.ca/content2.aspx?section=faq&document=faqre>

c. Different Ways to Vote

You can vote in person at various times and locations or you can vote by mail. There is also information for youth, indigenous people, new Canadian citizens, and disabled people on how to vote.

i. Voting in person

- **When to Vote:**

- **On Election Day at your assigned polling station**
 - Monday, October 21st
 - Polls are open for 12 hours
 - [Click here to find out when the polls are open in your time zone](#)
- **In advance at your assigned polling station from 9:00 AM-9:00 PM on the following days:**
 - Friday, October 11th
 - Saturday, October 12th
 - Sunday, October 13th
 - Monday, October 14th
- **At any Elections Canada Office:**
 - There are 500 election offices.
 - The deadline to vote at an Elections Office is October 16th, 2019 at 6:00 PM
 - **NOTE: Voting at an Elections Canada Office and on campuses is different than voting on election day or at advance polling stations. You will use the [Special Ballot Process](#). You will write down the candidate's name on the ballot. You can ask to see a list of candidate names for your riding.**
 - Here is a [video with transcript](#) from Elections Canada about voting at an Elections Canada office ([ASL version](#)).
- **At a University or College Campus:**
 - Though this service is intended for students, you do not have to be one to vote on campus.
 - Students can also vote in their home riding.
 - [Click here for a list of schools offering this service](#) as well as time and dates for voting on campus.
 - **NOTE: Voting at an Elections Canada Office and on campuses is different than voting on election day or at advance polling stations. You will use the [Special Ballot Process](#). You will write down the candidate's name on**

the ballot. You can ask to see a list of candidate names for your riding.

- Here is a [video with transcript](#) from Elections Canada about voting on campus ([ASL version](#)).

- **Finding Your Polling Station:**

- A polling station is a place where voting occurs during an election.
- Examples of locations that may be used as polling stations include:
 - Schools
 - Community centres
 - Common rooms in apartment buildings
- If you registered ahead of time, your polling stations (for both advanced voting and voting on election day) will be listed on the voter's card mailed out to you.
- You may also find your polling station by entering your postal code on the [Voter Information Service website here](#). This will direct you to an information page for your riding.
- After you enter your postal code and are directed to voter information service page for your riding, click on the "where do I vote" tab.
- There may be one than one polling station associated with your postal code. If this is the case, you will be redirected to a page asking you to enter your full address.
- If you do not know your postal code, you can find out on the [Canada Post website](#).

- **The Voting Process for Election Day and Advanced Voting**

- You will be greeted by an elections worker, who will show you to the right table, where another elections worker will assist you.
- You will be asked to prove your identity and address.
- The elections worker will give you a folded ballot.
- You will go behind a voting screen to vote.
- Mark and refold your ballot to keep it secret.
- After voting, give your ballot to an elections worker, who will tear off the tab.
- Put your ballot in the ballot box.

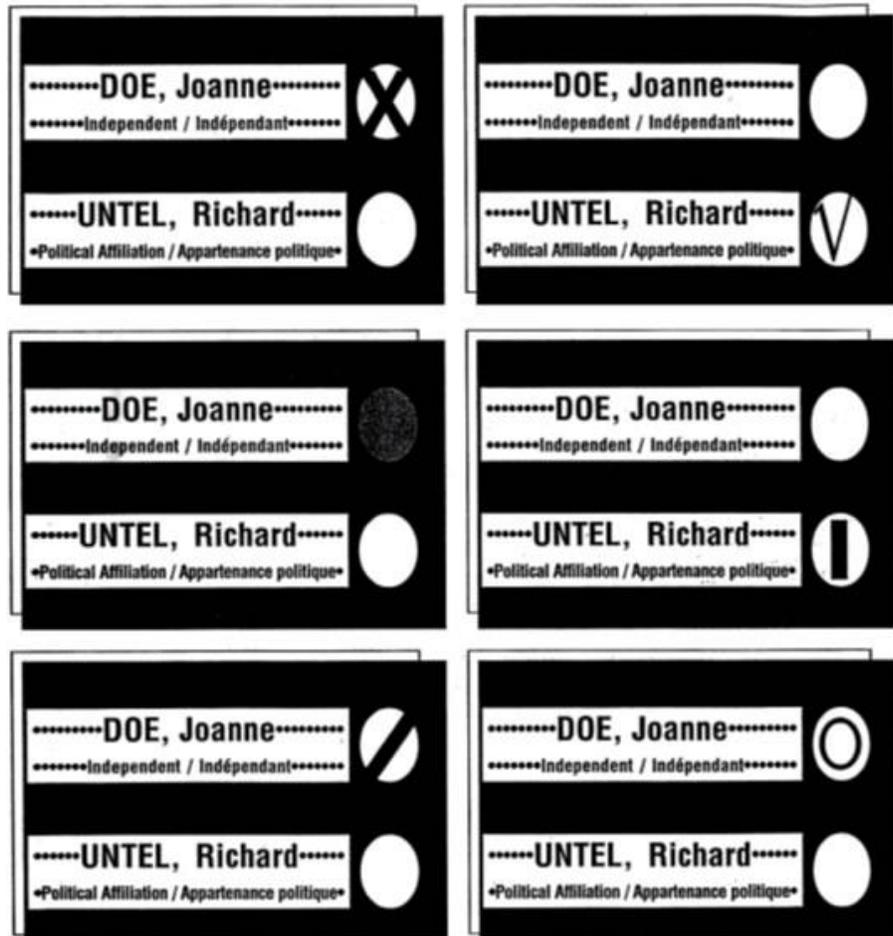
- For more information on voting procedures, you can visit Election Canada's website for a [video with a transcript](#) ([ASL version](#)).

- [How to Vote in 6 steps!](#)

- Mark your ballot correctly! You need to make a mark in the ONE circle next to the name of the candidate you choose. Examples of correctly marked ballots:

- Cross (x)
- Checkmark
- Filling in the circle
- Straight line
- Diagonal line

○ Circle



○

ii. Voting by mail

- If you cannot vote in person during the election, you can also vote by mail.
- You should apply as early as you can so there is enough time to receive and send the ballot!
- Voting by mail uses the [special ballot process](#).
- For people living in Canada:
 - To vote by mail, you need to apply on [Elections Canada website](#) or at an Elections Canada Office.
 - You must apply by **Tuesday, October 15th, 6:00 PM EST** if you apply online, or **Tuesday, October 15th, 6:00 PM local time** if you apply at an Elections Canada office.
 - You need to provide documentation prove your identity, either by sending a copy in the mail or uploading a digital image. You need to provide any one of these:
 - 1 piece of government ID OR

- 2 pieces of ID, both with your name and at least one with your address OR
 - An affidavit, signed before a person authorized to receive oaths in the province or territory, showing your name and home address.
- For people living abroad:
 - You can apply on [Elections Canada Website](#).
 - Your most recent address in Canada determines your electoral district.
 - You can provide your current address to Elections Canada to receive your ballot by mail.
 - Deadline to apply is **Tuesday, October 15th, 2019 at 6:00 PM EST**.
 - You need to provide documentation to prove your identity, either by sending a copy in the mail or uploading a digital image. You need to provide a copy of any one of these:
 - Pages 2 and 3 of your Canadian passport OR
 - Tour Canadian citizenship certificate or card OR
 - Your birth certificate showing that you were born in Canada.

iii. Voting information for specific groups

- [Youth \(aged 18-24\)](#)
- [Indigenous People](#)
- [New Canadian Citizens](#)
- [Disabled People](#)

d. Accessibility During Voting

i. Videos about accessibility

- Elections Canada has a [video and transcript](#) about accessibility at the polling station ([ASL version](#)).
- They also have a [video and transcript](#) about services offered at the polling station ([ASL version](#)).

ii. Accessibility information

- Elections Canada requires all polling stations to meet 15 mandatory criteria to be considered “accessible”:
 - Exterior
 - There must be no obstacles on the pathway to the polling station.
 - The pathway to the polling station must be at least 36” wide.
 - There must be step-free access to the polling station.
 - There must be good exterior lighting.

- There cannot be any protruding objects at the entrance to the polling station.
 - Entrance
 - The door to the entrance must be at least 32” wide.
 - The door threshold must be a maximum 1/4" tall.
 - The door to the polling station must not be too heavy to open.
 - Interior
 - Any doors inside the polling station be at least 32” wide.
 - The doors inside the polling must not be too heavy to open.
 - The door thresholds inside must be a maximum 1/4" tall.
 - The corridors inside the polling place must be at least 36”.
 - There must not be any protruding objects inside the polling station.
 - The voting room and the entrance must be on the same level.
 - The interior lighting must work.
- Accessibility tools and services provided:
 - Large print/braille list of candidates at the polling station
 - Magnifiers with a light
 - Large-grip pencil
 - Braille and tactical voting templates
 - Elections Canada has increased the ballot since the last election. You find more information about the ballot size on the [Elections Canada website](#)
 - Voting screen do not have an overheard cover anymore; this will let in more light
- Information for people with sensory sensitivities:
 - It may be loud in the polling station
 - You can bring earplugs or ear-defenders if you are concerned about sound.
 - Polling stations are less busy during working hours (9:00 AM-5:00 PM local time), with the exception of lunch hour (12:00 PM-1:00 PM).
 - You may be provided with a sharpie to vote that has a strong scent. You can ask for something that smells less strongly.
 - Some polling stations may use fluorescent lighting.
- Line-Ups:
 - There may be a long line to vote at times.

- Mid-morning and mid-afternoon tend to be less busy.
- If the polling station looks too busy, try coming back later if possible.
- You can also consider voting in advance to give yourself more time and options to vote.
- ASL / LSQ interpretation:
 - ASL / LSQ interpretation can be provided by Elections Canada on request.
 - To request sign language interpretation, call 1-800-463-6868 or TTY 1-800-361-8935.
 - ASL / LSQ interpretation must be requested by **Tuesday, October 15, 6:00 p.m (local time)**.
- Information for people who may need assistance voting:
 - You may take a support person with you to help you vote.
 - This person will take an oath to protect the secrecy of your vote
 - An election worker can also help you vote. In this case, a second election worker will be a witness.

iii. Getting to the polling station

- If transportation to the polling station is an issue, here are some things you can do:
 - Ask a friend or family to drive you / carpool
 - Some organizations (including candidates) may be offering rides to polling stations on election day. You do not need to vote for a candidate if they help provide rides.
 - Vote in advance if an advance polling station is easier to get to
 - Vote at an Elections Office
 - Vote by mail
 - Request a transfer to a different polling station

iv. Finding out if your polling station is accessible

- There are many ways to find out how accessible your polling station is:
 - Check by entering your postal code on [Voter Information Service](#)
 - This website will tell you which if the 15 mandatory criteria your polling station meets
 - Call the Elections Canada office in your riding
 - Check your Voter's Card for the accessibility (wheelchair) symbol:
 - If there is no symbol, it means the site is not wheelchair accessible.

- If there is a symbol with a phone number, the site is wheelchair accessible, but does not meet the 15 mandatory criteria.
 - If there is a symbol, along with the words “This site meets the 15 mandatory criteria”, the site meets all the mandatory criteria listed above.
- If your voting place is not accessible:
 - Check to see if your advanced polling station is more accessible.
 - Vote at an Elections Office that is accessible.
 - Vote by mail.
 - Request a transfer by visiting an Elections Canada Office or calling at 1-800-463-6868, (TTY: 1-800-361-8935).

v. Additional accessibility resources

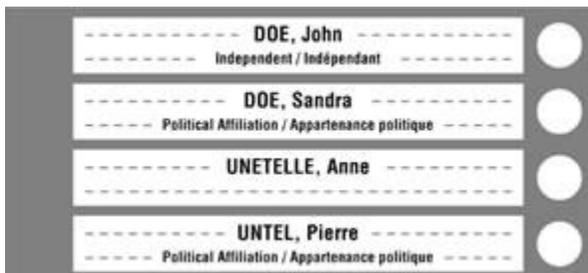
- [Information for People with Disabilities](#)
- [Accessible Polling Places](#)
- [List of Services Offered at Polling Stations](#)
- [Full Accessibility Criteria List](#)
- [Information in Alternative Formats](#)

6. Glossary

All Candidates Meeting: A meeting where all the candidates of an area come together to discuss the issues important to them and the people living in the area. It is also sometimes called a town hall.

Ballot: The paper where you mark your choice of which candidate you would like to be MP for your riding. It has all the names of the candidates for your riding.

It looks like this:



However, if you are voting by [special ballot](#), you will not see a list of candidates on the ballot. Instead, you will see a blank space where you will write the first and last name of the candidate you choose.

Candidate: A person who is trying to get elected.

Elections Canada: The official organization that runs the federal election.

Election day: The main day when people vote. This year, it is Monday, October 21, 2019.

Independent: A candidate or politician that is not part of any political party.

Member of Parliament (MP): MPs are elected officials in federal House of Commons. They meet in Ottawa to create laws. They also have offices in the areas they represent. Each area (or riding) in Canada will vote for one MP to represent them in the federal House of Commons.

(Political) party: A group of people who have similar ideas and stances on issues. Some of their members are candidates trying to get elected, so that when elected, they can carry out their party's ideas.

Platform: A party's or candidate's platform is the policies and values that they promise to carry out if elected. It tells voters where the party or candidate stands on major issues.

Polling station: The place where you can go to vote.

Riding: Ridings are geographical areas represented by one member of Parliament. Your riding is the one where your home address is. A riding is also called an electoral district. Each riding will select one candidate to be the new MP for that area.

Special ballot: If you are voting by [special ballot](#), you will not see a list of candidates on the ballot. Instead, you will see a blank space where you will write the first and last name of the candidate you choose.

Voter (information) card: If you registered ahead of time, you will receive a voter card by mail that tells you where you can vote. If you bring it with you when you vote, it helps the election workers know that you are registered.

This is how it looks like:

Voter Information Card / **Carte d'information de l'électeur**

Federal Election / **Élection fédérale**
Monday, October 21, 2019 / **Le lundi 21 octobre 2019**

To vote, you must: / **Pour voter, vous devez :**

- be a Canadian citizen / • être citoyen canadien
- be at least 18 years old on election day / • avoir au moins 18 ans le jour de l'élection
- prove your identity and address / • prouver votre identité et votre adresse

Visit elections.ca to know what ID is accepted. / Visitez elections.ca pour connaître les pièces d'identité acceptées.

Bring this card with you, along with ID, to make the voting process easier. / Apportez cette carte et vos pièces d'identité pour faciliter le vote.

To the Elector : / **À l'électeur :**
 DOE, JOHN
 123 MAIN STREET
 ANYTOWN ON K1A 5T7

elections.ca

Your riding: / Votre circonscription : **Leeds-Grenville**

Election day / **Jour de l'élection**
Monday, October 21, 9:30 a.m. – 9:30 p.m. / **Le lundi 21 octobre, 9 h 30 – 21 h 30**
 Oxford-on-Rideau Public School / Oxford-on-Rideau Public School
 50 Water Street / 50, rue Water
 Oxford Mills / Oxford Mills

Advance voting days / **Jours de vote par anticipation**
October 11, 12, 13 and 14, 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. / **Les 11, 12, 13 et 14 octobre, 9 h – 21 h**
 North Grenville Municipal Centre / North Grenville Municipal Centre
 285 Country 44 Road / 285 Country 44 Road
 Kemplville / Kemplville

Other ways to vote / **Autres façons de voter**
 By special ballot at an Elections Canada office before Tuesday, October 15, 6:00 p.m. / Par bulletin spécial, à un bureau d'Élections Canada avant le mardi 15 octobre, 18 h.
 For information on other voting options, visit elections.ca or call us. / Pour de l'information sur d'autres façons de voter, visitez elections.ca ou appelez-nous.

Accessibility / Accessibilité
 If you need language or sign language interpretation, or other assistance, call the number below before Tuesday, October 15, 6 p.m. / Si vous avez besoin d'un interprète linguistique ou gestuel ou d'un autre service, appelez au numéro ci-dessous avant le mardi 15 octobre, 18 h.

Your Elections Canada office / **Votre bureau d'Élections Canada**
 Open 7 days a week / Ouvert 7 jours sur 7
 TD Canada Trust Building / TD Canada Trust Building
 133 King Street West / 133, rue King Ouest
 Brockville ON / Brockville ON
 K6V 6Z1 / K6V 6Z1
1-866-241-7765
 TTY / ATS 1-800-361-8935

Vouch: To confirm that something is true. If you do not have acceptable ID or if you are living in a long-term care institution, someone can vouch for your identity and address. See details in the “what you need to bring” section.

The Elections Canada website has a [more detailed glossary](#) (not in plain language).

Thank you for participating in the election process! Voting is only the first step in making a more democratic and just Canada. There are many other ways for autistic people to be engaged in political processes throughout the year. Join your local Autistics United chapter to learn more about how you can get involved!