

## Changes to the National Register of Electors and lists of electors

An Act to amend the Canada Elections Act and the Public Service Employment Act received royal assent on June 22, 2007. It contains a number of measures changed the rules related to the National Register of Electors and the lists of electors.

To facilitate the direct addition of new electors, especially youth, to the National Register of Electors, voters who communicate their information to Elections Canada through their income tax returns will now be asked to declare explicitly that they are Canadian citizens.

During the revision period prior to election day, an elector who is contacted at his or her residence may register himself or herself and other electors who reside at the same address by completing a registration form and swearing an oath in the presence of the revising agents.

Registered and eligible political parties will receive a copy of the preliminary lists of electors at the beginning of an election campaign. Candidates who already receive a copy of the preliminary list of electors will also receive an updated preliminary list 19 days prior to election day.

The annual list of electors will be provided to members of Parliament and registered parties in November rather than a month earlier, permitting the inclusion of more electors who moved during the previous summer.

The Chief Electoral Officer will assign each registered elector a unique, randomly generated number. This number will be included on lists of electors, and will allow parties, members of Parliament and candidates to match changes made to the lists with names of electors on their own lists.

It should be noted that the Act prohibits the use of personal information recorded in a list of electors for a purpose other than to enable registered parties, members of Parliament or candidates to communicate with electors.

The maximum penalty for the unauthorized use of personal information contained in a list of electors has been increased from \$1,000 or three months in prison to \$5,000 or one year in prison.

We also invite you to consult the document title Guidelines on Disclosure and Use of the Lists of Electors from the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada – 2007, which is available on Elections Canada's Web site at the following address:

http://www.elections.ca/content.asp?section=pol&document=index&dir=pol/LOE&lang=e&textonly=false

## Annex Changes regarding the National register of Electors and lists of electors and coming into force date

The following amendment came into force on royal assent on June 22, 2007.		
Clause	Section of	Description
of Bill	CEA	
39.1	500	Penalty for unauthorized use of personal information contained in lists
		of electors increased to a maximum of \$5,000
The following amendments came into force on July 26, 2007.		
Clause of Bill	Section of CEA	Description
6	46	Ability to retain information (like driver's licence numbers) when
		information provided to EC pursuant to paragraph $46(1)(b)$ of the Act
7	New 46.1 &	Citizen check-off box on income tax returns and deceased taxpayers'
	46.2	information
8	New 47.1	Ability of ROs to perform certain activities between elections as requested by CEO
9	55	Agreements with provincial/territorial authorities that establish lists of electors
10(2)	56 (e) & (f)	Offence provision for misuse of information from the Register
15	New 99.1	Ability for CEO to provide the RO with information contained in the
		Register to update list of electors
16	101(1),	Ability to register another elector living at same residence during
	101(1.1)	revision period
		Ability for RO to add name to list of electors during election from
		information contained in Register
The following amendments came into force on March 1, 2008.		
Section		Description
1, 4	2(1), 44	Stable identifier on lists of electors and on Register
5	45	Annual list of electors distributed on November 15
10(1)	56	Corollary offences regarding identifier (false declaration, misuse)
13	93(2)	Distribution of preliminary list of electors to registered/eligible parties
17	New 104.1	List of electors to candidates on Day 19
18	107	Date of birth on list of electors for election workers
19	110	Technical reference addition to section 104.1 (updated preliminary list)
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