

# **Advisory Committee of Political Parties**

Conference call – General election readiness September 3, 2008

#### ISSUE

## **Approach to Proof of Identity and Address**

#### **DESCRIPTION**

### Administration of identification requirements in the forthcoming by-elections

From an operational point of view, the following approach will be taken with respect to proof of identity and address at the polls:

- 1. Only original documents will be accepted (no photocopies or downloaded documents).
- 2. An expiry date on the card or document is of no concern as long as information on the identification document matches information on the list of electors.
- 3. The document(s) must be in either English or French.
- 4. Before polling day, community relations officers will be required to obtain signatures from administrators of homeless shelters, soup kitchens, seniors residences, student residences and Aboriginal bands for onward delivery to deputy returning officers to allow the validation of Attestations of Residence on polling day.
- 5. If an elector presents an Attestation of Residence, a second document with the elector's name must also be provided to the deputy returning officer in order to be given a ballot. The formerly used affidavit is no longer acceptable for identification or proof of residence.
- 6. When an elector proves his or her identity using two acceptable pieces of identification, the two identification documents provided must be issued by independent sources (i.e. bank statements for two different months are not sufficient).
- 7. Electors with no civic address or electors whose identification documents do



## **Advisory Committee of Political Parties**

Conference call – General election readiness September 3, 2008

not contain a residential address:

An elector who is already registered and shows a piece of identification on which the address is consistent with information contained on the list of electors will be deemed (by operation of the law) to have established his/her address (all other requirements of the Act will also need to be satisfied, e.g. only one piece of ID required if government-issued and contains a photo, or two authorized pieces, etc.).

An elector who is not registered and whose piece of identification does not show a residential/civic address will need to be vouched by an elector in the same polling division who has proven his/her identity either with documents showing a civic address or with documents consistent with information contained on the list. Both electors will need to take an oath as to their residence.

### 8. Electors with face coverings:

The same procedure as was used in the 2007 and 2008 by-elections will be followed. Electors presenting themselves with face coverings will be asked, before being given a ballot: (a) to provide piece(s) of identification to establish their identity and residence, and (b) to show their face in order to establish their eligibility to vote. If they refuse to show their face, they will be asked to swear an oath of eligibility before the deputy returning officer. If they refuse to swear the oath of eligibility, they will not be given a ballot. Special attention will be devoted to this issue in training sessions for election officers.