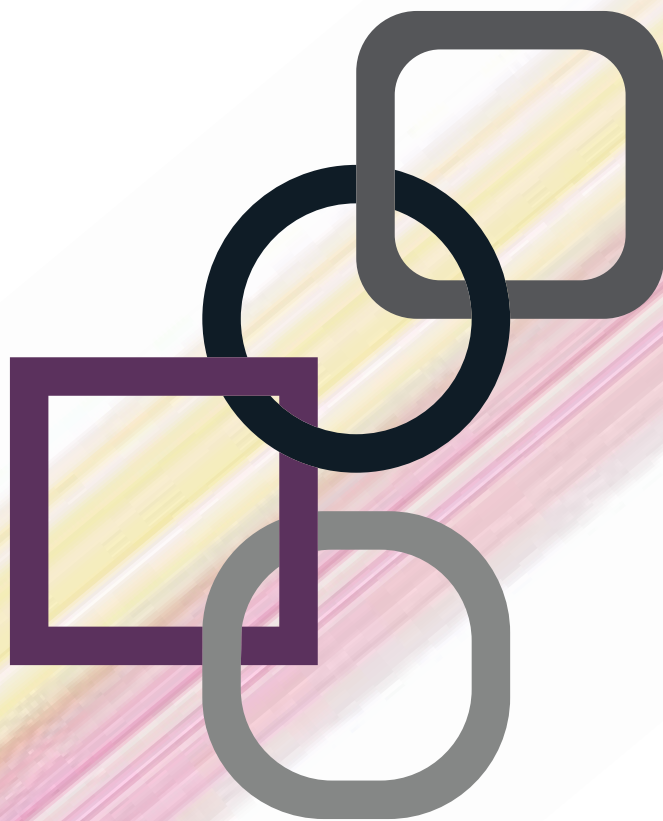




YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE
Manitoba Election 2016
Information Guide

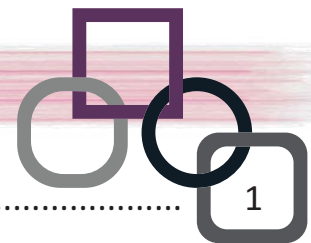




Big thanks to **Inclusion BC** for sharing their election resource materials with us.
Much of this booklet is based on tools prepared for the 2013
BC provincial election and are used with permission.



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ELECTION 2016



This spring there will be a Provincial Election for the Government of Manitoba. The election will be held on Tuesday, April 19, 2016. The voting choices made by the estimated 168,000 Manitoban adults with disabilities (and the hundreds of thousands of their families and friends) will make a **huge difference** – between real progress on disability issues through to 2020 and beyond on the one hand, or more years of inadequate resources and attention on the other.

DMV2016 is a non-partisan cross-disability public awareness campaign. This campaign is a joint initiative of Abilities Manitoba and Barrier-Free Manitoba, that aims to engage people who have a disability, their family, friends and support networks.

DMV2016 has three key goals:

1. To ensure that all Manitobans with disabilities can participate fully in election activities and that those who are eligible to vote are able to do so.
2. To promote attention of five priority disability issues in the election.
3. To support Manitobans with disabilities in making informed voting decisions.

Disability Matters: Vote 2016 is pleased to provide you with this information to assist you in voting in this election. If you have any questions or would like more information about the DMV2016 campaign, please visit www.disabilitymatters2016.ca

During the election, each **political party** can put forward a candidate in every voting region (called **Constituencies**).

You vote for the candidate you want. The candidate that gets the most votes becomes a **Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA)**. That MLA represents the people in your Constituency. The party that gets the most MLAs elected forms the Government. The parties with less MLAs elected form the Opposition.

Everyone who is a Canadian Citizen, has lived in Manitoba for the last six months, and who is 18 years of age or older on voting day has the right to vote in this election.



This package gives you some ideas about how to get involved in the election. It explains some things about how an election works. This package has:

- Written information in plain language and large print,
- A small poster that you can put up where people gather in your community.

Please make copies of this information and give it to your friends.

Voting allows you to choose who you think will best represent you and your community. Your choice helps decide who will form the government in Manitoba.

Voting for the first time can be intimidating because often people do not know what to expect. This guide will help you understand what voting is about.

We hope this information will help make your voting experience a good one.



Questions & Answers About Voting



Who can vote?

Every person who is a Canadian citizen, 18 years or older on voting day and has lived in Manitoba for the last six months can vote in this election. You also have to live in the constituency where you are voting. Voting is easiest if you are on the voters' list.

How do I get on the voters' list?

Between February 4 and March 7, Elections Manitoba is sending enumerators door to door to create a full list of voters. If you are not home, they will leave a "Sorry we missed you" door hanger with instructions about what to do to be added to the voting list. If this happens you may need to register at your returning office. A list of returning offices is posted on the Elections Manitoba website:

<http://www.electionsmanitoba.ca/en/Voting/ReturningOfficers/1>.

You can also call Elections Manitoba (1-866-628-6837 or email election@elections.mb.ca). They will give you more information to help you get on the voters' list. This needs to be done before April 7.





If I am not on the voters' list on Election Day can I still vote?

Yes. If you do not get on the voters' list before the election, you can register to vote at voting place. However, there may be line-ups and you will need two pieces of I.D. with your name, address, and signature. They will accept Hydro bills, rent receipts, health cards, etc. Check this link to see the list of documents that are acceptable:

www.electionsmanitoba.ca/en/Voting/IDRequirements

Where do I vote on Election Day?

On Election Day you vote at a place called a “**voting place**”. The address of the voting place will be on your enumeration record. Voting places can be schools, town halls, or other places in your community where people gather. If you don't have this information, call your Elections Manitoba office and ask them where you should vote: Call 1-866-628-6837 or www.electionsmanitoba.ca/en/Voting/VotingInfo





Can I vote on any other days?

Yes. You can vote in advance of Election Day at any advance voting place in the Province of Manitoba. ID is required to vote in advance. Advance voting runs for eight days beginning the 2nd Saturday (April 9, 2016) before the election. Advance voting locations are open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday to Saturday and noon to 6:00 p.m. Sunday.

Check the Elections Manitoba website for advance voting locations:

www.electionsmanitoba.ca/en/Voting/VotingInfo or call 1-866-628-6837.

Can I vote at home?

Homebound voting is an opportunity that allows voters and their caregivers to vote at home.

You can use homebound voting if you are:

- A voter who is unable to go in person to a voting station due to a disability
- A voter who is providing care to a person who is unable to leave home

How do I apply for homebound voting?

Option 1: Enumerators carry homebound voting applications when they visit your home to add your name to the voters list.

The enumerator can complete the application for you at the door. He or she will read aloud the declaration on the application and you will be asked to sign it. ID is not required as part of the application.

Option 2: You can apply by contacting your returning office. Your returning office phone number can be found on the Elections Manitoba website:

www.electionsmanitoba.ca, or you can call toll-free: 1-866-628-6837.

Once you have applied for homebound voting the returning officer will make an appointment with you to administer the vote in your home. The appointment will take place after March 29.

Two voting officials will visit you to administer the vote. They will explain the process to you and may assist you to vote, if required. You vote using a regular ballot. The voting officials will take your completed ballot kit to the returning office where they will place your ballot in a ballot box.



What if I can't get inside the voting place?

You can curbside vote if you are unable to go inside the voting place because of a disability. A voting officer will bring the ballot box to your vehicle. You need to make arrangements by contacting your returning office. Your returning office phone number can be found on the Elections Manitoba website: www.electionsmanitoba.ca or you can call toll-free: 1-866-628-6837.

What if I live in a personal care home, hospital or large residence?

All people who live in these settings have the right to vote. Sometimes they will offer on-site voting places for seniors' residences and hospitals. Ask the staff if this is going to happen where you live.

What if I don't have a permanent address?

You can vote if you do not have a permanent address. If you are staying at a shelter or hostel, you vote in the electoral division in which your shelter is located. Many shelters have voting places set up on Election Day.

What if I need a ride?

- Ask a friend or person you trust to take you.
- Phone one of your local candidates and tell them you need a ride. You don't have to vote for the person who gave you a ride.

For a list of candidates go to: www.electionsmanitoba.ca/en/Voting/Candidates/1



What if I still can't get to the voting place to vote?

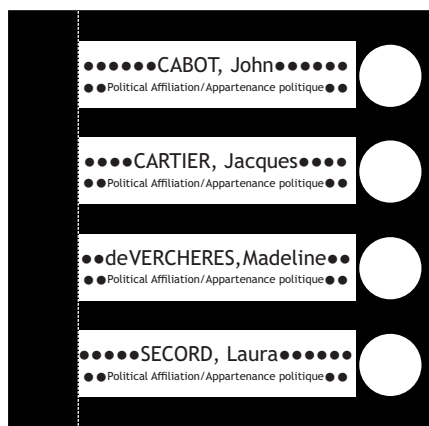
If the above options are not available to you because you will be out of the province on Election Day or inside Manitoba but a long distance away from any voting place, you may be able to vote by mail. This is called “absentee voting.” Phone Elections Manitoba to see if you can apply to vote by mail at 1-866-628-6837.

How do I vote at the voting place?

1. On Election Day or at the advanced polls, go to the voting place on your enumeration record. If your name is on the voters list, you do not need to bring any ID. You will be directed to your voting station. If you are not on the voters list, you will need to show your I.D. and take an oath confirming your identity. You can bring either one piece of I.D. issued by the Government that has your name, photo and address OR you can bring two documents that have your name on them. One of those must have your address too. Check this link to see the list of documents that are acceptable:

www.electionsmanitoba.ca/en/Voting/IDRequirements

2. An election worker will give you a piece of paper with the names of all the people you can vote for. This is called a “ballot”.



3. Go behind the screen and pick one person you want to vote for and mark an (X) beside their name. Remember, you can only vote for one person.

4. After you mark your ballot put it in the box.



What if I need help when I vote?

You can bring someone you trust with you to help you vote. The person you choose has to be over 18 years of age and sign a declaration that they are there to assist a voter with a disability. Or, you can ask one of the staff at the voting place to help you. This person can read you the names or help you mark your ballot.

The following help is also available:

- Braille ballots templates and a Braille list of candidates
- Magnifying lenses and a large print list of candidates
- Elections Manitoba can provide an ASL interpreter. This requires advance notice to the returning officer. There is no cost to the voter.

How do I get information about voting?

Phone Elections Manitoba and ask them to send you information. Tell them if you want: LARGE PRINT or CD. Phone: 204-945-3225 or toll-free: 1-866-628-6837

Visit the Elections Manitoba website: www.electionsmanitoba.ca

Elections Manitoba is also on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/ElectionsManitoba>

Elections Manitoba





Political Parties & Their Leaders

In this election, people vote for the person they want to speak for them in the Manitoba Legislature. This person usually belongs to a “political party”.

Every political party has a Leader, but the Leader's name is not on the ballot (except in their own constituency). The ballot only has the names of the local persons who are candidates in your area and the name of the political party they are with.

If you want to know more about the candidates who are running for election in your community, visit their campaign offices or go to an all candidates meeting. If you have access to the Internet you can look up websites for each party. These websites will have information on each party's platform. A platform talks about what the party believes and the things that they will do if they are elected.

The platforms of each of the major parties will also be posted on the Disability Matters: Vote 2016 website: <http://www.disabilitymatters2016.ca>





Participating in the Election

There are lots of ways to learn about voting and how the election works. Here are some ideas you can do on your own or with a group.

1. You can ask someone to give you a workshop on voting. Or, you can get together with a friend that you trust to explain how it all works.
2. Pay attention to the local TV news, radio stations, newspapers and Internet. They will have updates on the election campaign. They will also have regular election specials.
3. Self-advocates can get together and invite all the candidates to come and attend a "Question and Answer" meeting on your issues.
4. You and your friends can go to an "All Candidates Meeting" in your area to meet the candidates and ask questions on issues that are important to you.
5. You can practice voting by role-playing with practice ballots.
6. You can phone or email your candidate and get him or her to answer your questions.
7. You can visit all the candidates' offices in your area to see how they are running their campaigns; you can learn a lot and meet new people.
8. If you know who you want to vote for, you can volunteer to help them at their campaign office.
9. You can check out where your polling place is before Election Day.
10. The candidates and their helpers may come to your place to give you information and talk to you about why you should vote for them. This is OK, BUT you don't have to talk to anyone you do not want to. And you do not have to let anyone into your house who you don't want to talk with.
11. Be a letter writer. Tell candidates and newspapers about the issues that are important to you.



Rights & Responsibilities

Why you should vote?

Your right to vote is one of the most important rights you have. It is the way you help choose who will represent you in Manitoba's government. When you vote you are participating as a full citizen in Canadian society.

Your Rights

1. You have the right to get on the voters' list.
2. You have the right to vote.
3. Your vote is your own personal choice.
4. Your vote is a secret - you don't have to tell anyone who you vote for if you don't want to.
5. You have the right to talk to the candidates and ask them questions.
6. You have the right to put a sign on your lawn or window for the candidate of your choice. You also have the right to refuse.
7. No one can tell you who to vote for.

Your Responsibilities

1. Get your name on the voters' list.
2. Find out who the candidates are.
3. Know the issues. Get the information you need.
4. Make arrangements to get to the place where you vote.
5. Bring a friend who you trust to help you vote if you need it.
6. Try to get the candidates to talk to you and your friends – phone calls, meetings, etc.
7. Keep informed after the election is over. Find out if the person who got elected in your area is keeping the promises they made during the election.



Glossary of Terms

All Candidates Meeting: A meeting where all the people who want to be elected come together to talk about the issues.

Ballot: The piece of paper with the names of all the people who are trying to get elected in your area.

Candidate: A person who is trying to get elected.

Constituency: The area you live and vote in.

MLA: Member of the Legislative Assembly: the person who represents your Constituency.

Platform: What the party believes and the things that they will do if they are elected.

Political Party: An organization which has certain ideas about how to run the province. A candidate usually belongs to a political party. For example, The Green Party of Manitoba (GPM), Manitoba Liberal Party (Lib), New Democratic Party of Manitoba (NDP), The Progressive Conservative Party of Manitoba (PC), etc.

Provincial Election: Voting for the Members of the Legislative Assembly who will represent each constituency to determine which party forms the Government of Manitoba.

Provincial Government: The people who are elected to run the province of Manitoba.

Returning Officer: The person in your community who is in charge of making sure the election is fair and everyone gets to vote.

Voting: Choosing the person you want to speak for you in the Legislative Assembly.

Voting place: The place where you go to vote on Election Day.

You *can* Vote



Tuesday, April 19, 2016

*It's Your Right
It's Your Choice*

Phone Elections Manitoba for more information:

1-866-628-6837 (this call is free)

