

Frequently Asked Questions

~ Federal Election 2015 ~



IDENTIFICATION FOR VOTING

Can I just use my Status Card as ID to vote?

No, you need another piece of ID with your home address on it to vote, e.g., a Driver's License, bank statement, utility bill, government cheque stub, etc.

What type of ID do I need to vote?

To vote you must be able to prove your **name** and **home address**. There are three ways to do this:

1

Provide one piece of government-issued ID with your name, photo and home address:

- Driver's License
- Provincial/Territorial Card

2

Have someone swear an oath for you:

- Bring two pieces of ID with your name on them, and have another person (who can vote at your polling station) swear an oath that you live in the same voting district

3

Provide two pieces of ID. Both must have your name, and one must have your home address. Examples include:

- Status card, health card, or birth certificate (name)
- Prescription label or hospital card (name)
- Utility bill or bank statement (name and address)
- Government cheque or cheque stub (name and address)

My ID has a PO Box/Rural Route/General Delivery address on it. Does this prove my home address?

- No, to prove your home address you must have ID with a civic address on it, e.g., 123 Main St.
- **There is one exception:** if you are already registered to vote on the Elections Canada voters list, then you need only have ID that matches the address on the voters list - this could be a PO Box, General Delivery, Rural Route, or civic address.

What if I don't have ID that proves my home address?

You can still vote if you cannot prove your home address with existing ID. You have two options:

OPTION 1

Have your Band issue a **Letter of Confirmation** for you:

- Ask your Band to print and sign a "Letter of Confirmation of Residence" for you. Bring the letter and one other piece of ID when you go to vote.
- Elections Canada has a template Letter of Confirmation that is available online.

OPTION 2

Have someone Swear an Oath for you:

- Bring two pieces of ID with your name on them, and have another registered voter who has the proper ID and who is registered to vote in the same area swear an oath for you.

What is a Letter of Confirmation of Residence?

- A Letter of Confirmation of Residence is a letter from your Band that can be used as ID to prove your home address.
- The AFN has information about the Letter of Confirmation of Residence on its website, along with a template you can use (www.afn.ca).
- The Letter of Confirmation needs to be properly filled-out and signed by your Band administrator in order to be used as ID.

REGISTRATION

What is “Registration”?

- Registration refers to the process of getting your name on the Elections Canada voters list. You need to be on the voters list in order to vote.
- You can register in advance of the election or when you go to vote on Election Day. In either case, you need to have ID to confirm your name and home address.
- As long as you can prove your name and home address you can register and vote in this election.

How can I find out if I am registered to vote?

- Registration often takes place automatically, for example, if you have filed your taxes or have voted in a previous federal election.
- To find out if you are registered to vote and on the voters list, go to the Elections Canada website (www.elections.ca) or phone them at 1-800-463-6868.

How do I register to vote in this election?

There are three ways to register:

1

Online at www.elections.ca – to register online you must have a driver’s license.

2

By mail or phone – you can get a registration form online or by calling 1-800-463-6868.

3

On Election Day – at your polling station with the appropriate ID.

How do I register when I go to vote at a polling station?

To register at the polling station you must prove your name and home address using appropriate ID.

Voter Information Cards / Swearing an Oath

Can I use my Voter Information Card as ID?

No. Recent legislation introduced by the current government eliminated using the Voter Information Card (VIC) as a piece of ID.

Can I still vote if I didn't receive a Voter Information Card?

Yes! The VIC is a useful document that tells you where your polling station is, but you do not need it to vote. Only voters registered in advance receive the VIC.

Can I have someone vouch for me at the polling station?

No. Bill C-23, the "Fair Elections Act", removed vouching as an option. It was replaced with 'swearing an oath'. Swearing an oath is similar to vouching but there are some significant changes:

1. You must have two pieces of ID, both with your name on them.
2. The person 'swearing the oath' for you, must be registered to vote at your polling station, and must have the proper ID.
3. The person 'swearing the oath' for you, cannot 'swear an oath' for more than one person.
4. If someone 'swore an oath' for you, you cannot 'swear an oath' for anyone else.

Letter of Confirmation of Residence

What is a Letter of Confirmation?

- A Letter of Confirmation of Residence is a letter from your Band that can be used as ID to prove your home address.
- The AFN has information about the Letter of Confirmation of Residence on its website, along with a template you can use (www.afn.ca).
- The Letter of Confirmation of Residence needs to be properly filled-out and signed by your Band administrator in order to be used as ID.

Who is considered a Band administrator?

A Band administrator is anyone employed by your Band office and who has been duly designated to fill out and sign the Letter of Confirmation of Residence.

Can a Band provide Letters of Confirmation of Residence for all of its voting members?

- Yes! A Band can download a template version of the Letter of Confirmation of Residence from our website (www.afn.ca), fill it in, and provide it to its voting Band membership.
- A Band can also designate someone to be available of voting day to hand out Letters of Confirmation of Residence to its voting Band membership outside of a polling station (the letter would need to be filled in and signed at that time).

Is my Band on the list of issuing organizations for the Letter of Confirmation of Residence?

- According to Elections Canada, in order for a Letter of Confirmation of Residence to be valid, the issuing organization must be on a list of accepted organizations. Most First Nations will automatically be on that list of accepted organizations; however, to avoid any potential problems on

voting day, the Band administrator should contact his/her local (Elections Canada) Returning Officer to ensure that the Band is on the list.

- You can find contact information for your local Returning Officer online at elections.ca or by calling Elections Canada at 1-800-463-6868.

What's the easiest way for a Band to provide Letters of Confirmation of Residence to all of its voting Band membership?

A Band can provide Letters of Confirmation of Residence to all voting members by doing a mail merge in Microsoft Word. You will need a list of Band membership in Microsoft Excel, a computer and printer.

1. Download the template Letter of Confirmation of Residence from the AFN website at <http://www.afn.ca/index.php/en/federal-election-and-voting-information-v2>
2. Open the template in Microsoft Word.
3. Replace the red text on the template with the following:
 - a. BA_Name – Band administrator's name
 - b. FN_Name – First Nation's name
 - c. FN_Address – First Nation's mailing address
4. Select the **Mailings** tab from the toolbar.
5. Click **Start Mail Merge** and select **Letters**.
6. Click **Select Recipients** and select **Use Existing List**. Find your list of Band membership, click on it and select **Open**.
7. In **Select Table**, click on the name of the sheet that contains the Band member names.
8. Highlight the blue text, **B_Member**, and click **Insert Merge Field**. A list of the field names from your Excel document will pop up. Select the corresponding field that shows the full name of your Band members.
9. Click **Finish & Merge** and then **Edit Individual Documents**. Click OK. A letter will be generated for each record in your Excel Band member list.
10. Print the letters on Band letterhead, sign and date, and provide to Band members upon their request.

Voting in Advance (Advance Polls)

I cannot vote on Election Day, October 19, 2015, can I still vote?

- If you cannot vote on Election Day you can still vote. You have three options:
 - Vote at the advance pools (October 9, 10, 11, and 12)
 - Vote on any day before October 19 at an Election Canada office.
 - Vote by mail

I am not in my community to access the advance polls or to vote on Election Day, how do I vote by mail?

- If you do not have access to the advance polls (October 9, 10, 11 and 12, 2015) and are not able to vote on Election Day (October 19, 2015) you can vote in advance by mail.
- Contact your local returning officer to receive your special ballot and to make sure that you are properly registered so that you can vote by mail. You can find the contact information for your returning officer by visiting www.elections.ca or by calling 1-800-463-6868.