



## REGIONAL DISTRICT OF EAST KOOTENAY

### RESIDENT ELECTORS: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### Who is eligible to be a resident elector?

To vote as a resident elector, you must meet ALL of the following requirements:

- ✓ You will be age 18 or older on general voting day (November 15, 2008).
- ✓ You are a Canadian citizen.
- ✓ You have been a resident of B.C. for at least 6 months immediately before the day you register to vote.
- ✓ You have been a resident of the Electoral Area for at least 30 days immediately before the day you register to vote.
- ✓ You are not disqualified by the *Local Government Act*, the *School Act*, or any other enactment from voting in an election nor are you otherwise disqualified by law from voting.

#### What does “resident” mean?

Section 52 of the *Local Government Act* contains the rules for determining residence:

52. (1) The following rules apply to determine the area in which a person is a resident:
- (a) a person is a resident of the area where the person lives and to which, whenever absent, the person intends to return;
  - (b) a person may be the resident of only one area at a time for the purposes of this Part;
  - (c) a person does not change the area in which the person is a resident until the person has a new area in which the person is a resident;
  - (d) a person does not cease being a resident of an area by leaving the area for temporary purposes only.

#### Are landed immigrants eligible to vote?

No. You must be a Canadian citizen to vote.

#### Am I eligible to vote if I live on a First Nation reserve?

If you meet the requirements of a resident elector, as a member or non-member of a First Nation residing on a reserve located within an Electoral Area, you can vote at the RDEK election for that Electoral Area.

#### If I am attending an educational institute away from my normal place of residence, where do I vote?

You may choose to vote at either your normal place of residence or at the place where you are attending school, but not both.

#### What does “disqualified from voting” mean?

You may not vote in a British Columbia local government election or other voting if you:

- have been convicted of an indictable offence and are in custody; or
- have been found guilty of an election offence.

#### Do I have to be on the voters list to vote?

Yes, you must be a registered elector to vote. Advance registration is available until September 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you missed the advance registration, you may register to be on the list of electors when you go to vote; however, you must have two pieces of identification (at least one with a signature) proving your identity and residency.

**For a School Trustee that represents both a municipality and an electoral area, if I live in the municipality and own property in the Electoral Area, can I vote for that Trustee in both areas?**

In some cases a School Trustee is elected to represent both a municipality and all or part of the adjacent regional district electoral area. In these cases:

- If you are a resident of the municipality and own property in the regional district electoral area, you must vote as a resident elector in the municipality; you cannot vote as a non-resident property elector in the electoral area.
- If you are a resident of the regional district electoral area and own property in the municipality, you must vote as a resident elector in the electoral area; you cannot vote as a non-resident property elector in the municipality.

The rule is one vote per person in an election.

**How do I vote if I cannot attend on general voting day (November 15, 2008)?**

Two advance voting opportunities are available: Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. Voting places are listed in the Notice of Voting published in the newspapers and on the RDEK website ([www.rdek.bc.ca](http://www.rdek.bc.ca)).

**How do I vote if I am out of town on advance and general voting days?**

Voting by mail is available to qualified electors for the RDEK elections and other voting and for School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) elections. Information on the mail ballot voting process is available on the RDEK website ([www.rdek.bc.ca](http://www.rdek.bc.ca) – Elections and Other Voting page) or you can call the RDEK for more information (250-489-2791 or 1-888-478-7335).

**Who can vote by mail?**

Voting by mail is available to qualified electors with a physical disability, illness or injury that affects their ability to vote at any voting opportunity or electors who expect to be absent on all voting days. Information on the mail ballot voting process is available on the RDEK website ([www.rdek.bc.ca](http://www.rdek.bc.ca) – Elections and Other Voting page) or you can call the RDEK for more information (250-489-2791 or 1-888-478-7335).

**Is voting by proxy permitted?**

No. You must either vote in person on advance or general voting days or, if you are away or have a physical disability or injury that affects your ability to vote at any voting opportunity, you may vote by mail (see above).

**What are the penalties for not following elections laws?**

Anyone who commits an election offence, such as double voting or signing a false statement, is liable to a fine of up to \$5,000 and/or up to one year in prison. They may also be prohibited from holding office and/or voting in local government elections for up to six years. Anyone convicted of a more serious election offence, such as vote buying or intimidation, could be subject to a fine of up to \$10,000 and/or up to two years in prison.