

2024 September 18



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The official newsletter of the RoadSafetyBC Staff Branch

B.C. Election

WHAT YOU NEED TO
KNOW AS A PUBLIC
SERVICE EMPLOYEE

Spotlight:
B.C. Election
2024



FROM WRIT To Win

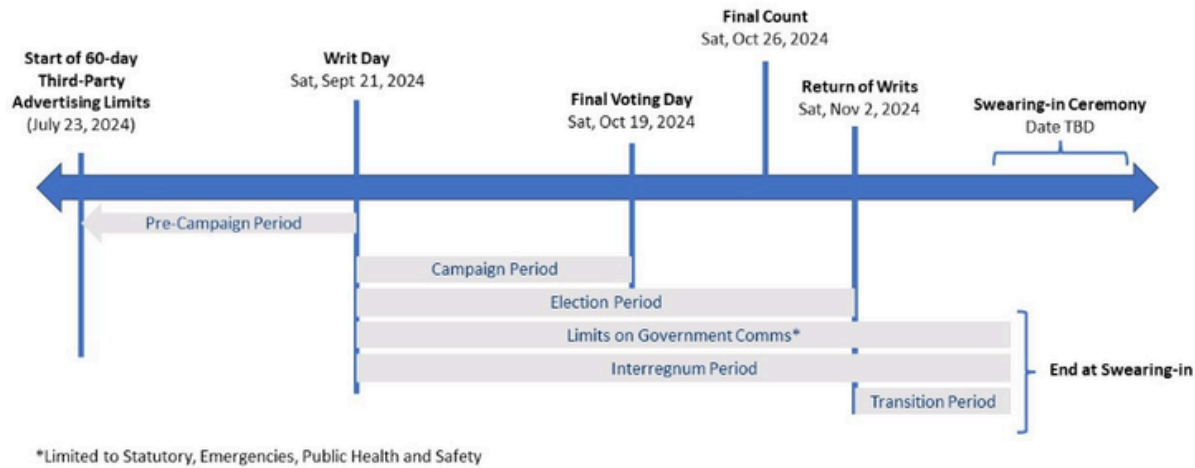
NAVIGATING
B.C.'S ELECTION
PROCESS LIKE
A PRO

WRITTEN BY
JILLIAN MITCHELL

Mark your calendar: British Columbia's next provincial general election is coming up on October 19, 2024! For some of you, especially those new to the team, this might be your first time navigating an election period while at work. Don't worry—here's what you need to know.

[Read more >>](#)

Mark your
calendars!
Vote on
October 19th.



WHEN DOES THE ELECTION PROCESS START?

The official election process kicks off on September 21 with the issuance of the writ. This is an important step because it dissolves the Legislative Assembly—meaning the current Cabinet members are no longer considered MLAs (Members of the Legislative Assembly). It's like hitting the reset button for the government, and from here, we enter a period called the "interregnum."

WHAT'S THE INTERREGNUM PERIOD?

The interregnum is the time between the dissolution of the government and when a new government is formed after the election. This transition typically lasts until the new Cabinet is sworn in. During this phase, the government goes into caretaker mode, which means it avoids making major decisions or taking any actions that could impact or tie the hands of the next government.

While in caretaker mode, government operations continue but are more restricted. For example, communications from government are limited to public health and safety updates, statutory requirements, and responding to public inquiries. This careful approach runs from September 21 (the issuance of the writ) until a new government has been sworn in.



- A [short video](#) (4 minutes) that shows examples of how to ethically engage with politics as a public servant.
- [Resources](#) on how elections and transitions in government can influence our work.
- Town Hall: September 17th



HOW SHOULD EMPLOYEES CONDUCT THEMSELVES DURING THIS TIME?

As public servants, it's essential to stay non-partisan and maintain professionalism during the election period. Be mindful of how political discussions in the workplace are handled and ensure that you're following the Standards of Conduct. These guidelines will help you navigate political activity both in and out of the office during this time.

In short, it's all about staying neutral and keeping the focus on doing your job professionally during this exciting time!

From the Collective Agreement:

Any employee eligible to vote in a federal, aboriginal community government, provincial, or municipal election or a referendum shall have three or four consecutive clear hours, as prescribed by the applicable statute, during the hours in which the polls are open in which to cast their ballot.



DID YOU KNOW?

QUICK TIPS

FROM ETHICS ADVISOR, MEGAN HARRIS, ADM

- **Political Activities:** If you choose to participate in political activities, ensure that these are done on your own time and without the use of government resources. It is critical to maintain a clear boundary between personal political involvement and professional duties to avoid any perception of bias. To illustrate this point, here's a short video (4 minutes) that shows examples of how to ethically engage with politics as a public servant.
- **Political Conversations:** While private, informal conversations with colleagues are fine, overtly partisan discussions should be avoided in the workplace. You're welcome to express personal opinions on public matters but be careful to avoid giving the impression you are speaking in your capacity as a government employee.
- **Social Media and Politics:** During election periods, please exercise additional caution when posting on social media. Our Oath requires us to maintain the public's confidence in the BC Public Service, which means separating personal and professional online activity to prevent conflicts of interest. For additional guidance, please review the BC Public Service Social Media Guidelines.

If you're unsure about anything or need further clarification, feel free to reach out