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May 1, 2017

## ***Provincial Election Working Hours and Voting***

The provincial election is scheduled for May 9, 2017. There are several ways to vote:

- **Voting at ANY time, in ANY district electoral office between now and 4:00pm May 9th.** To find the office nearest to you, use the app:  
<https://wtvelectionsbc.azurewebsites.net/>
- **Vote by Mail:** Voters can request a voting package from now until 4:00pm on May 9. Packages can be requested by visiting:  
[https://eregister.electionsbc.gov.bc.ca/sform/general/Forms/alt\\_absentee\\_voting\\_request.asp](https://eregister.electionsbc.gov.bc.ca/sform/general/Forms/alt_absentee_voting_request.asp)  
or, by calling Elections BC at 1-800-661-8683, or by visiting any district electoral office.
- **Absentee Voting:** Voters who are unable to attend their assigned voting place on General Voting Day may vote at ANY other voting place in the province on General Voting Day.
- **Alternative Absentee Voting:** An individual may vote by alternative absentee voting if:
  - they expect to be absent from British Columbia on General Voting Day
  - they have a physical disability, illness or injury or their mobility is impaired, or
  - they will be in a location that is remote from a voting place, or will be unable to attend a voting place because of a reason beyond the individual's control.Voters who meet any one of these qualifications can vote at ANY electoral **office between now and 4:00pm May 9th** , or vote by mail using a voting package.
- **Vote on election day**

BC's *Election Act* establishes that an employee who is entitled to vote in the election is entitled to have 4 consecutive hours free from employment during voting hours for the purpose of voting. If an employee's hours of employment cannot be structured to allow for the four consecutive hours, the employer must allow the individual time off from employment to provide those hours. The employer may set time off as best suits the convenience of the employer. Voting hours on General Voting Day are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Pacific Time.

This does not mean a worker is entitled to time off from work. It is up to the employer to decide how to structure the shift to create a 4 hour period where the employee is free from employment during voting hours. If the employee must miss work to have 4 hours free from employment during this period, the employee is entitled to their regular compensation for hours not worked while voting.

The law does provide exceptions. For example, if the voters are in such a remote location that they would be unable to reasonably reach any voting place during voting hours, they are not entitled to time free from employment.

To discuss options and specific situations, please contact your CLR Labour Relations officer.