

# Rules for determining residence for the purposes of the *Election Act*

In order to register as a provincial voter in British Columbia, you must be a resident of B.C. for six months. The *Election Act* sets the rules for determining which address to use for voting.

## **What is a residence?**

Your residence is your home. It is the place where you live and where you will return to when you are away. Under the *Election Act*, you can only have one residence at a time, and your address does not change until you have a new residence.

Your residential address is also known as your home address, physical address or civic address. You may not use a work or postal address as your residence.

If you receive mail at a different address from where you live, you must provide this mailing address separately.

## **Temporary absence**

You are still considered a resident if you leave temporarily for travel, school, work or military service, or if you accompany a spouse, child or parent posted outside B.C.

## **Students**

Your residence can be either where you live when you're at school or your permanent address (such as your parent's address).

## **Correctional inmates**

You cannot use the correctional institution address as your residence. You can use your previous address or the address of a spouse, parent or dependent. You can also use the place where you were arrested or the court where you were convicted and sentenced.

## **No fixed dwelling**

If you are experiencing homelessness, you can use your most recent permanent address, the address where you are staying temporarily or the address of a shelter, hostel or similar institution where you receive food, lodging or social services.