



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ELECTIONS BC PREPARING FOR NEW ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES**

VICTORIA – Elections BC has started to prepare for implementation of the province’s 85 electoral districts following royal assent of Bill 19, the *Electoral Districts Act*.

The new electoral districts officially take effect on April 14, 2009, the day the writs are issued for the May 12, 2009 General Election.

“A redistribution of electoral districts triggers a number of large-scale activities,” Chief Electoral Officer Harry Neufeld explained. “Elections BC staff create detailed maps and recruit and appoint additional district electoral officers and deputies. Staff also work with political party and constituency association officials to ensure they are properly aligned with the new electoral districts.

“The work is painstakingly detailed,” Neufeld added. “For example, with new electoral districts, we need to identify new voting areas with no more than 400 registered voters in each area. Under the new electoral map, there will be approximately 10,000 voting areas province-wide. Each of these areas must be carefully defined and mapped.”

The *Election Act* requires the creation of voting areas to establish manageable units for voting purposes.

Elections BC staff are also recruiting and hiring additional district electoral officers and deputies to deliver the May 12, 2009 General Election and Referendum on Electoral Reform to B.C.’s communities. District electoral officers and deputy district electoral officers are Elections BC’s local election leaders and the on-the-ground election administrators.

“With the addition of six electoral districts, our staff are looking to fill a number of vacancies for these key leadership positions,” Neufeld said. “We invite interested persons to visit our website for further information on the job posting.”

Information on the district electoral officer positions and copies of the new electoral district maps are available on the Elections BC web site at [www.elections.bc.ca](http://www.elections.bc.ca). Elections BC will continue to add maps and information materials to the website over the coming months.

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# Backgrounder

## Implementation of New Electoral Boundaries

### Electoral maps and products

B.C.'s new electoral boundaries will come into effect on April 14, 2009, the day the election writs are issued for the May 12, 2009 General Election. Elections BC produces a range of maps and information materials in support of the changes to B.C.'s electoral boundaries. These products include:

**Electoral district maps** – These maps show the boundary of each electoral district and the major communities and roads within each district. Initial maps showing the boundaries of the new districts are on the Elections BC website at [www.elections.bc.ca](http://www.elections.bc.ca)

**Voting areas** – The *Election Act* requires the province to be divided into voting areas of no more than 400 registered voters per area (unless the chief electoral officer determines a different number will facilitate voting). With six new electoral districts, the province is expected to have about 10,000 voting areas. Each voting area must be carefully defined and then mapped.

**Conversion tables** – These documents compare electoral district voting areas from one boundary redistribution to the next.

**Location index** – Following a redistribution of electoral boundaries, Elections BC develops a new location index. This document is a comprehensive listing of communities and locations in B.C. and which electoral district they are in.

**Street index** – This index breaks down each electoral district into communities, streets and a range of building numbers. This ensures every address in the province is assigned to an electoral district and voting area. This document assists election officials, candidates and political parties.

### Electoral district officials

Elections BC hires an estimated 30,000 temporary employees to administer election activities throughout the province. District electoral officers and deputy district electoral officers are Elections BC's local election leaders and the on-the-ground election administrators.

With the addition of electoral districts, a few more district electoral officers and deputies are needed for the 2009 election. The positions typically appeal to semi-retired or retired persons who have leadership or management experience.

Many of the 170 positions have been filled but vacancies still remain. Interested persons are invited to visit the Elections BC employment web page for more information on these positions: [www.elections.bc.ca/employment/employment.htm#F](http://www.elections.bc.ca/employment/employment.htm#F)

## **Political parties**

The new electoral districts mean changes for political parties and their local political organizations. Once new electoral districts are passed into law, political parties may register constituency associations in the pending new electoral districts. All existing constituency associations will automatically be de-registered when the new boundaries come into effect at the next election. Political parties should contact Elections BC as soon as possible for detailed information.