

MODERN ELECTIONS FOR MODERN TIMES

2019/20 Annual Report &
2020/21-2022/23 Service Plan

Modern Elections for Modern Times

2019/20 Annual Report &
2020/21-2022/23 Service Plan

December 15, 2020

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Honourable Raj Chouhan
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Province of British Columbia
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia
V8V 1X4

Dear Mr. Speaker:

It is my pleasure to submit Elections BC's Annual Report for the 2019/20 fiscal year and Service Plan for the 2020/21 – 2022/23 fiscal years.

This report outlines the significant work of my office during fiscal year 2019/20. Our efforts during this period focused on modernizing voting administration to improve services, preparing for the 42nd Provincial General Election, and contingency planning around the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am also happy to take this opportunity to outline how my office will continue to provide a high level of service to British Columbians in the years ahead.

Respectfully submitted,



Anton Boegman
Chief Electoral Officer
British Columbia

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Chief Electoral Officer.....	v
SECTION 1	
Strategic priorities	1
Who we are	2
Priorities and activities	4
Our plans and priorities	11
Disclosure report.....	11
Stakeholder feedback.....	12
In memoriam: Karalyn Walker	13
SECTION 2	
Modernizing our elections in 2019/20	15
Working to modernize our elections	16
SECTION 3	
General election readiness activities in 2019/20.....	19
42 nd Provincial General Election	20
COVID-19 preparedness	20
Addressing disinformation and cyber threats.....	20
SECTION 4	
Finances	23
Financial reporting	24
Financial outlook	29

Appendices	33
Appendix A: Our priorities	34
Appendix B: Political party registrations and deregistrations.....	36
Appendix C: Constituency association registrations and deregistrations	37
Appendix D: Orders of the Chief Electoral Officer.....	39
Appendix E: Activities of the Chief Electoral Officer.....	40
Appendix F: Reports of the Chief Electoral Officer.....	41
Appendix G: Local by-elections and referenda (non-election assent voting) .	42
Appendix H: Minutes of Election Advisory Committee meetings	44



Chief Electoral Officer, Anton Boegman, outside the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia.

Report highlights

**VOTING
MODERNIZATION**

**PAGE
16**

**DISINFORMATION
& CYBER THREATS**

**PAGE
20**

**ELECTION
READINESS**

**PAGE
20**

**COVID-19
PLANNING**

**PAGE
20**

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

I am pleased to present Elections BC's Annual Report for 2019/20 and Service Plan for the 2020/21–2022/23 fiscal years, *Modern Elections for Modern Times*.

The year 2020 has been unprecedented for all British Columbians, and the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on us all. For Elections BC, it has affected every aspect of our mandate. We have had to adapt our workplace and operations to ensure workplace safety and business continuity. We also had to prepare for and administer an unscheduled election, with significant changes to ensure a safe and accessible process for voters, election workers and political participants. Much of this work was completed beyond the time period for this report and will be reported on in 2020/21. However the approach and planning to lay the foundation for this work began in 2019/20.

Prior to the onset of the pandemic, 2019/20 was already a year of tremendous activity and change for Elections BC, highlighted by the passage of the *Election Amendment Act, 2019* in November 2019. The changes incorporated in this legislation represent the most significant modernization of electoral legislation in B.C. in over two decades, and will greatly improve our ability to enhance accessibility and services for voters in future elections.

In 2019/20, we also undertook research on emergent risks to electoral integrity in the modern age: disinformation and cyber-security threats. Our report, *Digital Communications, Disinformation and Democracy: Recommendations for Legislative Change*, explores the vulnerabilities, opportunities and best practices to strengthen our democracy in a digital world, and offers recommendations for future legislative change in B.C. to address these risks.

As I look back at the work of my office over the past year and consider the work that lies ahead, I am exceptionally proud that my staff continue to excel at meeting Elections BC's mandate of administering electoral processes in British Columbia. Our five priorities are to deliver events, modernize electoral services, improve accessibility and inclusivity, build organizational capacity and protect electoral integrity. All Elections BC staff are focused on, and take pride in their efforts towards these goals.

The 2019/20 year has been one of significant change and challenge. The exceptional dedication, effort and resilience of my staff has been key in our response to these themes, and bodes well for the future. As the nautical proverb goes, rough seas make for excellent sailors. I am confident that the work outlined in this annual report and service plan will allow Elections BC to deliver on its priorities, achieve its goals and provide responsible, independent, non-partisan electoral administration for British Columbians.

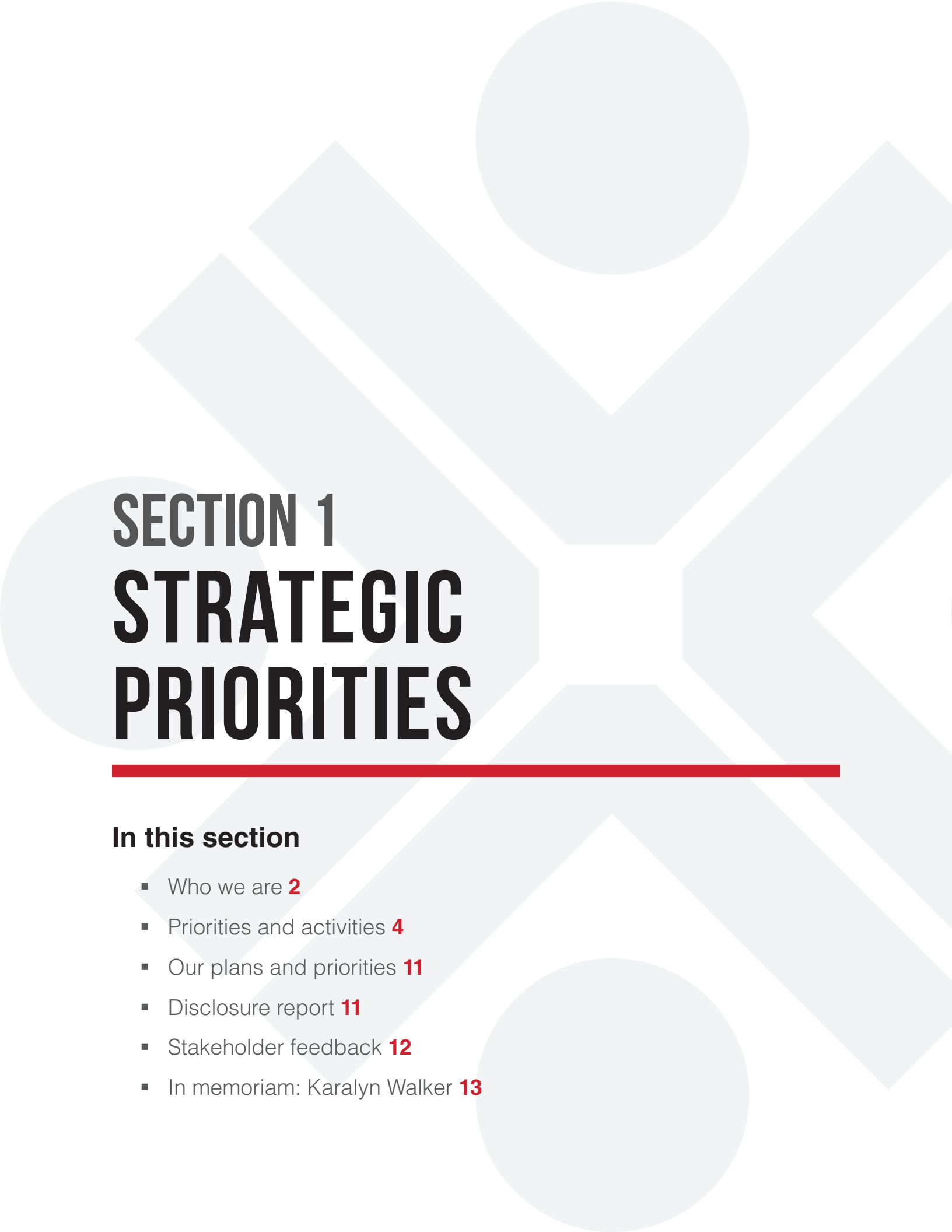


Anton Boegman
Chief Electoral Officer
British Columbia
December 2020



EO
Election Official

2017 Provincial General Election
General Voting Day: Tuesday, May 6, 2017



SECTION 1

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

In this section

- Who we are **2**
- Priorities and activities **4**
- Our plans and priorities **11**
- Disclosure report **11**
- Stakeholder feedback **12**
- In memoriam: Karalyn Walker **13**

Who we are

Our mandate

Elections BC is the independent, non-partisan Office of the Legislature responsible for administering electoral processes in British Columbia in accordance with the *Election Act*, *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, *Recall and Initiative Act* and *Referendum Act*. Together, these Acts define our responsibilities and set out the duties of the Chief Electoral Officer.

At the provincial level, we administer general elections, by-elections, referenda, recall petitions and initiative petitions. We also oversee campaign financing and advertising rules at the local level.

Our vision, mission and values

Our vision is to be leaders in electoral administration through the delivery of modern, accessible and trusted electoral services designed with British Columbians at the centre.

Our mission is to serve democracy in British Columbia through the fair and impartial administration of electoral processes.

Our seven core values are:

- *Accountability*: We take responsibility for our actions and decisions, and make effective use of resources.
- *Impartiality*: We treat all voters, candidates, political parties, elector organizations and other stakeholders fairly.
- *Innovation*: We explore new ways to improve service levels and respond to change.
- *Integrity*: We are honest, and our decisions and actions are consistent with our values.
- *Respect*: We value the diversity of our colleagues and stakeholders, build collaborative relationships based on an understanding of our differences, and maintain dignity in all our interactions.

- *Service*: We strive to anticipate and meet the diverse and evolving needs of our stakeholders.
- *Transparency*: We are open about how we work and communicate issues that may impact our stakeholders.

Our team

Elections BC's organization chart includes the CEO and 69.5 core positions, organized into program areas and work units.

The Chief Electoral Officer oversees two Deputy Chief Electoral Officers and four staff in Communications.

The Deputy CEO, Corporate Services oversees nine staff in Information Technology, two staff in Investigations, five staff in Finance and Administration, 4.5 staff in Human Resources and Development Services, and six staff in Corporate Planning and Strategic Initiatives.

The Deputy CEO, Electoral Finance and Operations oversees 18 staff in Electoral Finance, split between Provincial Electoral Finance and Local Elections Campaign Financing, and 19 staff in Electoral Operations, organized into Electoral Operations, Voter Services and Electoral Geography.

Our business cycle

We have a four-year business cycle. At the end of the 2019/20 fiscal year, we were looking ahead to the previously scheduled general election in fall of 2021. With the unscheduled election called in the fall of 2020, Elections BC's business cycle will now reset to a four year period covering 2020-2024.

Key milestones 2019-2022



Ongoing Activities

- On-demand general election readiness
- Administering campaign financing rules for local by-elections and non-election assent voting
- Annual financial reports for political parties and constituency associations
- Financial reporting for leadership contests
- Initiative petitions
- Investigations
- Liaising with federal and provincial electoral offices
- Political entity registration and education programs
- Providing voters lists to municipalities, political parties and MLAs
- Provincial by-elections
- Recall petitions
- Referenda
- Responding to public inquiries
- Strategic planning
- Voter education programs
- Voter registration and updates

Priorities and activities

Elections BC has five operational priorities: to deliver events, modernize electoral services, improve accessibility and inclusivity, build organizational capacity and protect electoral integrity.

To ensure we meet these priorities, we identify performance indicators related to each one. We then set targets by fiscal year, and measure and report on our performance in each Annual Report. Some indicators only apply to elections and are reported after an election is held.

The sections below outline our performance measures, activities and results for the 2019/20 fiscal year (April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020) in each priority area.

Deliver events

Delivering electoral events is our top priority. We remain ready at all times to administer scheduled and unscheduled events, including provincial general elections and by-elections.

Provincial general elections are scheduled to take place on the third Saturday in October every four years but unscheduled provincial elections, by-elections, recall petitions and initiative petitions can occur at any time. We also administer campaign financing and election advertising laws for local by-elections and referenda (non-election assent voting) throughout the year.

To maintain a constant state of readiness, we filled vacancies for district electoral officers and deputy district electoral officers on a rolling basis. We also held one in-person and one virtual training session to ensure newly-appointed field staff would be ready to administer an election at any time, and completed five general election readiness planning assignments, including measuring the cellular and wifi signal strength at potential electoral offices and voting places, to support both election readiness and modernization efforts.



MODERNIZE ELECTORAL SERVICES

Find new opportunities to enhance service and increase efficiency to meet the changing needs of our stakeholders



IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY

Engage all eligible voters in the electoral process



DELIVER EVENTS

Be ready for and successfully deliver electoral events



BUILD ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Build strength and resiliency by managing strategically, enhancing internal and external relationships and enabling employee development



PROTECT ELECTORAL INTEGRITY

Address challenges to democracy, trust and electoral integrity posed by cyber threats and other coordinated inauthentic behavior

In the 2019/20 fiscal year, we administered:

- the completion of campaign financing and advertising requirements for one provincial by-election,
- the campaign financing and advertising requirements for 19 local by-elections,
- the campaign financing and advertising requirements for four local referenda, and
- one initiative petition.

Performance indicator #1: Quality of the Provincial Voters List

The Provincial Voters List is an essential tool we use to deliver the events we administer. The list contains the names and residential addresses of voters registered in each electoral district. In provincial elections, it is used to ensure that only eligible voters vote, and that they only vote once. It is also used to deliver other events such as referenda and initiative petitions.

The quality of the list is assessed based on coverage, currency and net currency.

- **Coverage** measures how many voters are on the list as a percentage of the eligible voters in B.C. It is calculated by dividing the number of registered voters by the estimated number of eligible voters.
- **Currency** measures how many voters are registered at their current address (how up-to-date the list is). Currency is estimated as the percentage of registered voters who are registered at their current address.
- **Net currency** combines coverage and currency. It measures how many eligible voters are registered at their current address. It is calculated by multiplying coverage by currency.

A high-quality voters list makes it easier to administer voting, and helps us contact voters with information about when, where and how to vote. It also makes voting faster and easier for voters.

	2017/18 Actual	2018/19 Actual	2019/20 Target	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
Coverage*	94%	93%	91%	95.5%	95%	91%
Currency**	94%	N/A	N/A	N/A	95%	N/A
Net Currency**	89%	N/A	N/A	N/A	90%	N/A

* All voters list quality indicators are based on population projections or surveys conducted on behalf of Elections BC by an independent third party.

** Voters list quality surveys occur after general elections. The next voters list quality study will take place in 2021.

Currency estimates are generated by BC Stats after each provincial general election using survey research and an analysis of Elections BC data.

Performance indicator #2: Stakeholder satisfaction

Elections BC surveys voters after provincial general elections to obtain feedback and determine how to better deliver electoral events. Stakeholder satisfaction is assessed based on the percentage of respondents satisfied or very satisfied with Elections BC's service. Following the 2017 Provincial General Election, we achieved a stakeholder satisfaction rate of 90%. This figure will be used as our baseline for measuring stakeholder satisfaction with the 2020 Provincial General Election through a post-election stakeholder satisfaction survey.

Modernize electoral services

At Elections BC, we are always looking for new opportunities to enhance service and increase efficiency to meet the changing needs of our stakeholders.

At the end of the 2019/20 fiscal year, we were working on a Candidate Nominations Application System. This system will allow nominees to complete and submit their nomination packages online. Nomination packages are currently completed using paper forms and manual processing, which makes the process time-consuming and increases the risk of human error. The nomination system will provide candidates with a convenient, accessible and user-friendly way to file their nomination papers. The system will also improve the quality of nomination submissions, minimize data handling, and increase our capacity to process nomination documents quickly. A working version of the system was completed in November 2019, and after conducting user testing in December 2019, the scope of the project was modified to include electronic signatures, online payments, and political party endorsement submissions.

The system was not ready for production at the end of the 2019/20 fiscal year. Operational demands prevented it from being ready for the 2020 Provincial General Election, but system development will resume once operational demands from the 2020 election subside.

The *Election Amendment Act, 2019* was passed in November 2019. This Act provided Elections BC with the legislative framework needed to modernize electoral services in several areas. In the 2019/20 fiscal year, work began on using technology to modernize the voting process, expanding access to data sources to update the voters list, and establishing a List of Future Voters for eligible 16- and 17-year-olds.

Improve accessibility and inclusivity

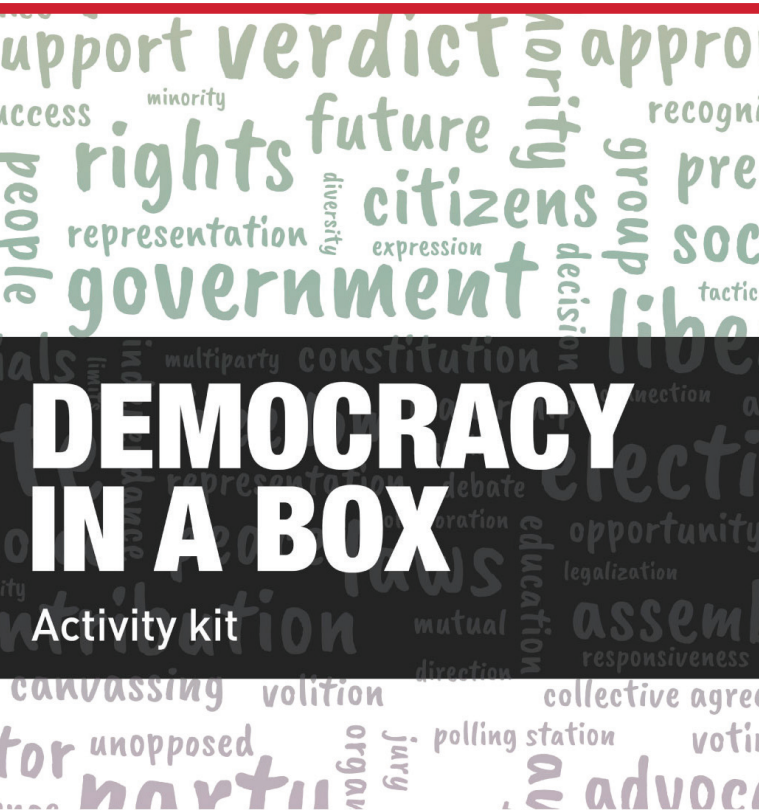
Elections BC is committed to building an inclusive and accessible electoral process for all eligible voters.

Services are available to help voters with disabilities and those who need extra assistance to vote. Election officials are trained on accessibility practices and standards and, if needed, they can provide voters with assistance with marking their ballot. In addition, Elections BC offers resources to allow sight-impaired voters to vote independently, physical accessibility options, including wheelchair access or curbside voting at voting places, assisted telephone voting and language translation.

Outreach and education are an important part of our work during elections and on an ongoing basis. We work with partners to support an inclusive electoral process, reduce barriers to voting, and reach those who need help casting a ballot. We also create and share resources, host events, make connections, and gather feedback so that we can best serve all voters in B.C.

We partner with a number of organizations and institutions to help reach voters who face barriers to participation including:

- youth,
- people with disabilities,
- Indigenous people,
- new Canadians, and
- people living homeless.



In 2019/20, we shared information and resources on voter registration and the voting process with hundreds of participants from these target groups at the:

- Inclusion BC Learning Event,
- BC Elders Gathering,
- BC Social Studies Teachers' Association Conference,
- First Nations Education Steering Committee Annual Indigenous Education Conference,
- Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness' Project Connect, and
- BC Alternate Education Association Conference.

We partnered with the Immigrant Services Society of BC to produce lesson plans and activities about democracy and voting for English language learners. We also produced a Democracy in a Box Kit that educators and community leaders across the province can order for free.

Elections BC is also a member of the Secretariat for Electoral Coordination's (SEC) Outreach and Civic Education Subcommittee. The SEC Subcommittee's purpose is to allow provincial and federal electoral management bodies to coordinate outreach and civic education activities.

The subcommittee created several resources, including the:

- [Educator's resource guide about levels of government and elections](#),
- [New citizen's guide to voting in B.C.](#),
- [Three Levels of Government video](#), and
- [Three Levels of Elections video](#).

All of these resources are designed to make electoral processes accessible and engaging for all British Columbians.

Performance indicator #3: Electoral awareness

Electoral awareness is determined by calculating the percentage of voters surveyed who report that they knew what they needed to do to vote. The next survey will be conducted after the 2020 Provincial General Election.

Build organizational capacity

At Elections BC, we believe we can build organizational strength by managing strategically, enabling employee development and enhancing internal and external relationships.

Elections BC uses several strategies to invest in, develop and retain talent. We use temporary assignments to fill vacant positions as an opportunity for staff to gain new skills and experience while working in different roles. To support leadership skills development and provide opportunities to gain management-level work experience, we offer senior staff temporary assignments to management-level vacancies. These opportunities support knowledge transfer and communication to facilitate cross-program collaboration and to grow our organizational capacity and resilience.

We invest in staff by offering training opportunities and skills development. Management staff have access to executive coaching services and staff in acting management roles receive leadership coaching. All staff have access to skills, knowledge and practical training, such as emergency preparedness and Indigenous relations. In 2019, we developed the “Respect Works Here” training program to improve cross-organizational understanding of diversity and inclusion, ethics and integrity, gender diversity and resilience. We also support staff who receive Pacific Leaders Scholarships to pursue certificate, diploma and degree programs.

In 2019/20, we developed a new performance management process through a pilot program, which sees all staff set work and development goals and have regular performance conversations with supervisors throughout the year.

To enhance external relationships, we participated in several inter-jurisdictional learning and collaborative opportunities in 2019/20, including:

- *The Council on Governmental Ethics Laws (COGEL)*: Elections BC has representatives on both the program committee and the steering committee of COGEL.
- *The Secretariat for Electoral Coordination (SEC)*: Elections BC staff serve on all four SEC subcommittees: the register of electors, outreach and civic education, poll site technology and deceptive online practices.
- *The Canadian Elections Resource Library (CERL)*: Elections BC shares information and best practices with other electoral management bodies.
- *The Canadian Society for Election Official Training (CSEOT)*: Elections BC provided instructional, developmental and administrative support at the following training events: Communications and Information Privacy, Ottawa (April 9-11, 2019), Introduction to Election Administration, Toronto (November 19-21, 2019), and Information Technology, Cybersecurity & Disinformation, Ottawa (January 29-31, 2020).

Elections BC also took part in visitor's programs offered by other electoral management bodies to learn more about electoral processes and lessons learned in other jurisdictions. Members of our Electoral Operations and Information Technology teams visited Elections Alberta from April 10-12, 2019, our CEO, Deputy Chief Electoral Officers and a member of our Information Technology team visited Elections Ontario from April 29-30, 2019, and our CEO visited Elections Canada from October 19-22, 2019 during the federal election.

In 2019/20, we also developed partnerships with the Ministry of Citizens' Services to expand access to data sources allowed under the *Election Amendment Act, 2019*, and increased our collaboration with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner in relation to cross-jurisdictional issues involving the protection of personal information.

**Performance indicator #4:
Stress and workload**

Every two years, public service employees across the province complete a confidential Work Environment Survey. The survey is administered by BC Stats and measures how satisfied employees are with their jobs, their workplaces and the broader organization.

The stress and workload performance indicator is based on staff feedback collected through the Work Environment Survey. The higher the score out of 100, the more supported and able to manage their workload staff feel. After the survey in 2017/18, we set a target of 66 and we have been able to exceed this with a 2019/20 score of 73.

	2017/18 Actual	2019/20 Target	2019/20 Actual	2021/22 Target
Stress and workload*	64 / 100	66 / 100	73 / 100	66 / 100

* The Work Environment Survey is conducted every two years.

Staff are recognized for their contributions to the Provincial Employees Community Services Fund.



Protect electoral integrity

Elections BC actively seeks to address challenges to democracy, trust and electoral integrity posed by cyber threats and other coordinated inauthentic behavior.

The digital communications environment in which modern elections take place has changed dramatically in recent years. In Canada and around the globe, cyber threats have jeopardized the integrity of free and fair elections. These threats include foreign interference, deliberate disinformation campaigns and anonymous digital advertising. In many cases, cyber threats operate in a space not contemplated by current electoral legislation and compromise legislative provisions intended to ensure fairness, transparency and accountability. While these threats have not been widely observed in British Columbia, the risks they present to our electoral process are real.

In 2019/20, we conducted extensive research and consultations on disinformation and cyber threats to elections in Canada and around the world, to learn from the experiences of other jurisdictions and develop recommendations on how to mitigate these threats in B.C. The resulting report, [Digital Communications, Disinformation and Democracy: Recommendations for Legislative Change](#), was released in the 2020/21 reporting year. You can learn more about our proposals to mitigate the risks of cyber threats in future B.C. elections in section 3 of this report.

Our Electoral Finance and Investigations work units are central to protecting electoral integrity on an ongoing basis. We administer campaign financing, disclosure and election advertising rules at both the provincial and local levels. Part of this work is supporting stakeholders like political parties, candidates and third party advertising sponsors, to ensure they understand campaign financing rules and their financial filing obligations. In 2019/20 we held two information sessions for financial agents to respond to questions and provide support.

We have a mandate to enforce the legislation we administer, including the *Election Act*, *Referendum Act*, *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* and *Recall and Initiative Act*. We respond to cases of non-compliance through education and support, or compliance actions as necessary. If there is evidence that a substantial case of non-compliance has occurred, we open an investigation and can administer monetary penalties or refer the matter to the Ministry of the Attorney General to consider offence charges.

In 2019/20, Elections BC opened 25 investigations: 15 in relation to Local Elections Campaign Financing and 10 in relation to Provincial Electoral Finance. Of these, 15 have been completed and closed, and 10 are ongoing.

Ten of the Provincial Electoral Finance files will be subject to administrative monetary penalties. Four have already been issued, including two for accepting a prohibited contribution, one for making a political contribution when ineligible and one for failing to register as a third party advertiser. Two of the Local Elections Campaign Financing files were referred to the Ministry of Attorney General to consider offence charges.

Performance indicator #5: Support compliance

We provide support to political participants at the provincial and local levels to understand the requirements of our legislation and to promote compliance. We measure compliance based on the percentage of financing reports or statements filed on time, compared to the total number due in that fiscal year. The number of reports filed by the deadline includes those filed by the late filing deadline and those granted an extension by Order of the Chief Electoral Officer.

To help political participants understand the filing requirements, Elections BC holds information sessions across the province in the lead-up to a major event or filing deadline.

Of the 230 provincial financing reports required in 2019/20, 229 reports were filed by the deadline.

Of the 72 local campaign financing disclosure statements required in 2019/20, 70 were filed by the deadline. The two candidates who did not file by the deadline were disqualified from seeking office until after the 2022 General Local Elections.

	2018/19 Target	2018/19 Actual	2019/20 Target	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
Provincial and local filing compliance	98%	99%	98%	99%	98%	98%

Our plans and priorities

At the end of 2019/20, election readiness and voting modernization efforts were key areas of focus. Following the unscheduled election in October 2020, Elections BC's business cycle will now reset to a four year period covering 2020-2024. This will impact our office's focus over the coming years and our budgetary requirements. After administration of the 2020 Provincial General Election is complete, we will provide analysis, lessons learned and recommendations through formal reports of the CEO in 2021. Looking ahead to 2022, a major focus will be administering the campaign financing and advertising rules for the 2022 General Local Elections.

Our five priorities—deliver events, modernize electoral services, improve accessibility and inclusivity, build organizational capacity and protect electoral integrity—remain the same, offering continuity and focus to our work.

Disclosure report

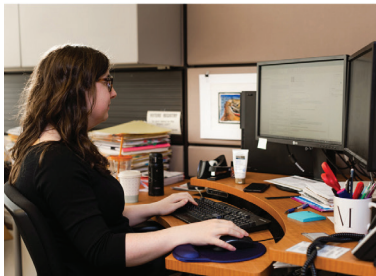
The *Public Interest Disclosure Act* came into force December 1, 2019. This law gives current and former employees of provincial government bodies, including Offices of the Legislature, a way to bring forward concerns about wrongdoing in their workplace. The Ombudsperson has the statutory mandate to conduct whistleblowing investigations if employees do not wish to report those concerns internally to their employer. The Act protects employees from reprisal, and the Ombudsperson has the sole mandate to investigate if an employee believes they have been retaliated against for bringing a concern forward.

Under the *Public Interest Disclosure Act*, the Chief Electoral Officer has the responsibility, as the head of a government body, to post an annual disclosure report on Elections BC's website. The Ombudsperson advises that government bodies can do this as part of their Annual Report.

Between December 1, 2019, and March 31, 2020, Elections BC received no disclosures, including no referrals of disclosures, pertaining to the *Public Interest Disclosure Act*. The Ombudsperson provided no notification to Elections BC of any disclosures made by current or former Elections BC employees directly to the Ombudsperson's office, nor did the Ombudsperson provide notification of any investigations under the Act involving Elections BC employees.

Stakeholder feedback

“I am so glad that B.C. (and Canada) have so much talent and high standards of service and performance.”
- Voter Services stakeholder



“I would like to thank you again for being so diligent and helping me with this process.”
- Local Elections Campaign Financing stakeholder

“I really like how you promote that you’re here to help us comply with the rules. Very unintimidating.”
- Provincial Electoral Finance stakeholder



“Many thanks for the opportunity to teach kids about democracy in B.C.!”
- Outreach stakeholder



In memoriam: Karalyn Walker

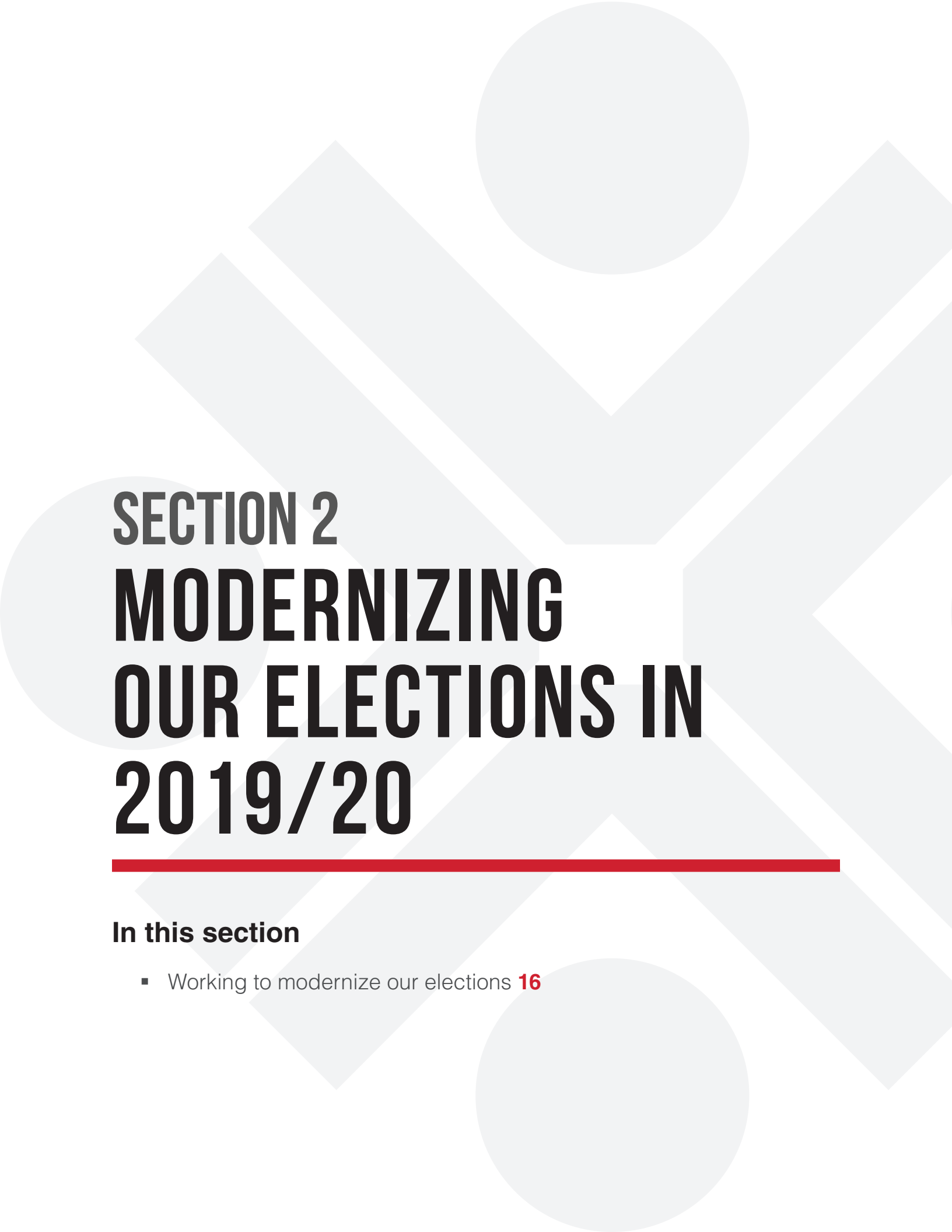


With heavy hearts we said goodbye to a dear friend and colleague in 2020. Karalyn Walker, a long-time Elections BC employee, passed away in June after a courageous one-year battle with cancer.

Karalyn was a kind and generous person who always had time to chat, share a laugh and offer assistance. As Records Management Coordinator for 14 years, Karalyn was someone everyone in our organization relied upon and turned to for her extensive knowledge and expertise. She embodied the term “records management” and had an uncanny ability to find files and documents, whether they were operational or as needed by her colleagues at Elections BC.

Thank you for your many valuable contributions to the public service, Karalyn. We miss you.





SECTION 2

MODERNIZING OUR ELECTIONS IN 2019/20

In this section

- Working to modernize our elections **16**

Working to modernize our elections

Working to modernize the voting process in future elections was a significant focus for Elections BC in 2019/20. The *Election Amendment Act, 2019* provided the legislative framework for greater use of technology to administer voting, including using electronic tabulators to count paper ballots, and using laptops to look up voters and cross them off the voters list. Tabulators are a proven technology used successfully in local elections in B.C. and provincial elections in Ontario and New Brunswick. The changes that the *Election Amendment Act, 2019* allows for do not include online voting or electronic voting machines.

When the *Election Amendment Act, 2019* was passed, key sections allowing for greater use of technology in voting administration did not come into force immediately. These changes were scheduled to be in place for the fixed-date election formerly scheduled for October of 2021. With the call of an unscheduled general election in September of 2020, Elections BC put voting modernization work on hold to focus on administering the general election. Once close-out activities for the general election are complete, Elections BC will return its focus to voting modernization.

Modernizing voting administration through technology will allow for important service enhancements for voters and other stakeholders. Key benefits include:

- Faster results
 - Almost all votes will be counted on election night, including absentee ballots. This means that far fewer ballots will be counted at final count and that final count will occur within approximately one week of Final Voting Day.
 - Preliminary results will be reported very quickly on election night, with almost all preliminary results being known shortly after the close of voting for most voting locations.

- Improved service through a first come, first served model, reducing wait times at voting places
 - More timely provision of voter participation data
 - Real-time strike-off for most voters
 - Close to real-time participation data from most voting opportunities

Developing regulations and procedures

A key focus of our preparatory work in 2019/20 was developing regulations of the Chief Electoral Officer necessitated by the *Election Amendment Act, 2019*. This Act replaced many prescriptive sections of the *Election Act* with CEO regulations, to allow for a greater flexibility to meet the future needs of voters and electoral stakeholders. Following the *Election Amendment Act, 2019* receiving Royal Assent, we began work on these regulations that will set the legal framework for how a modernized voting process will be administered.

Introducing technology impacts many processes affecting voters, political participants and election officials – everything from how voters line up to collect and cast their ballot, to how scrutineers from political parties observe the process, to how election officials issue and count ballots. The regulations that began development in 2019/20 will establish requirements for voters voting away from their assigned voting place during advance voting or on Final Voting Day. The regulations will also establish requirements for alternative voting options, such as voting in the district electoral office before ordinary ballots are available and the timing and requirements for assisted telephone voting. Finally, the new regulations will address the preparation of ballots for counting with technology, quality assurance requirements for vote-counting technology and the structure of District Electoral Officer recounts.

These complex changes necessitate planning, formalizing new processes, producing training materials and resources, and communicating changes to stakeholders. CEO regulations provide the legal framework upon which many of these processes and practices will be built.

In 2019/20, we conducted training on the legislation and its anticipated impacts for all staff at headquarters and the field, but none of the voting modernization regulations were deposited, as the *Election Amendment Act, 2019* provisions empowering these regulations have not yet been brought into force. Elections BC will continue their development in 2020/21 after administration of the 2020 Provincial General Election is complete.

Improving the Provincial Voters List

The *Election Amendment Act, 2019* allows expanded access to data sources for Elections BC to update the provincial voters list, including BC Services Card data from ICBC and data sources held by Provincial Identity Information Service Providers. BC Services Card data is beneficial for updating the list because it includes voters that do not have a driver's licence and, therefore, are not captured through Elections BC's data sharing agreement with ICBC.

This data will be available when an Information Sharing Agreement has been established with the Ministry of Citizens' Services, and work is well underway to move this forward.

Engaging future voters

The *Election Amendment Act, 2019* allowed for the creation of the List of Future Voters. Anyone who is 16 or 17 years old, a resident of B.C., and a Canadian citizen can sign up so they are automatically registered to vote when they turn 18. Once registered, they will receive important information from Elections BC about where, when and how to vote when an election or by-election is called.

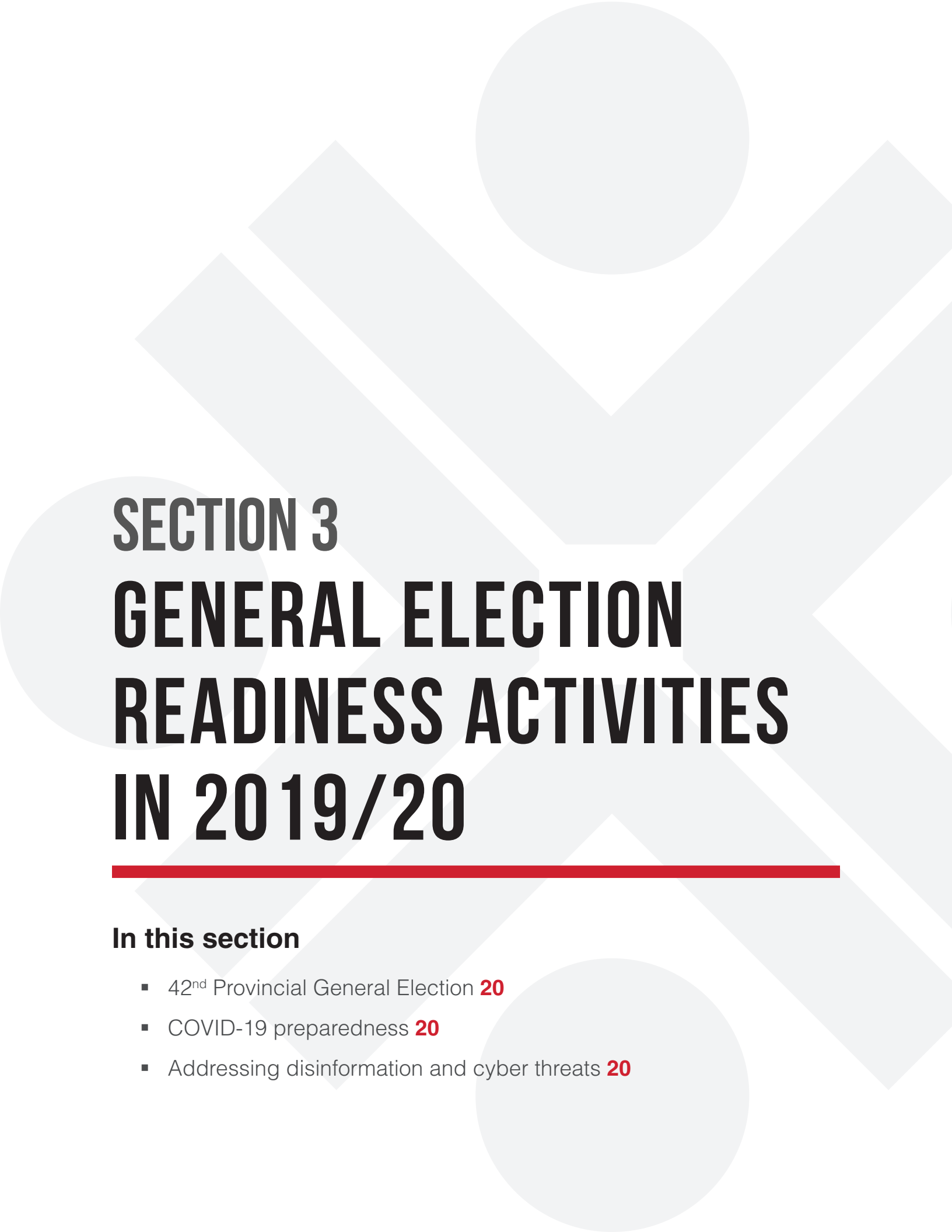
In 2019/20, Elections BC built the administrative and technological processes needed to register and communicate with future voters. The system was launched in spring 2020, and to expand the list, Elections BC has begun conducting outreach to educators and community groups, and promoting it online.





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SECTION 3

GENERAL ELECTION

READINESS ACTIVITIES

IN 2019/20

In this section

- 42nd Provincial General Election **20**
- COVID-19 preparedness **20**
- Addressing disinformation and cyber threats **20**

42nd Provincial General Election

In 2019/20 Elections BC worked to maintain event readiness so that a provincial election could be administered on short notice if necessary. There was a minority government in B.C. throughout the 2019/20 fiscal year. Maintaining this state of readiness proved essential when the 42nd Provincial General Election was called ahead of schedule on September 21, 2020.

While maintaining election readiness under the current voting model, Elections BC also worked to modernize the voting process as outlined previously in this report, following the passage of the *Election Amendment Act, 2019*.

COVID-19 preparedness

Administering an election during a pandemic

Elections BC began contemplating administering a pandemic election at the end of the 2019/20 fiscal year, when it became likely that the province's 42nd Provincial General Election would be held under some level of public health restrictions. At the end of 2019/20, preliminary work began on preparations for a pandemic election, including initial consultations with stakeholders and public health experts.

Operating during a pandemic

Elections BC's office at 1112 Fort St. in Victoria closed to the public on March 17, 2020, to help protect the health of our staff and do our part to promote physical distancing and slow the spread of COVID-19. While the office was closed to the public, services continued to be provided by phone, online and via email. The transition to remote work was largely complete by March 31, 2020, and continued until the 2020 Provincial General Election was called on September 21, 2020.

Addressing disinformation and cyber threats

Preparing to modernize the voting process was a key focus for our office in 2019/20. In addition to modernizing voting administration, we also worked to develop recommendations for legislative change to modernize legislation governing election communications.

The digital communications environment in which elections take place has changed dramatically in recent years. In Canada and around the globe, cyber threats have jeopardized the integrity of free and fair elections. These threats include foreign interference, deliberate disinformation campaigns and anonymous digital advertising.

B.C.'s current legislative framework needs to be modernized to fully address these threats to our democratic process. Digital and social media advertising did not exist when current legislation was drafted, but they are a significant part of political campaigns today.

In 2019/20, our office continued work on a recommendations report for the Legislative Assembly that we began working on in the summer of 2018. This work involved research with experts in disinformation and cyber threats, and consultations with academics, social media companies, and other election management bodies.

The recommendations report was tabled with the legislature in May of 2020. At a high level, the key areas that the report addresses are:

- preventing misleading advertising, disinformation and impersonation,
- increasing transparency around the use of artificial intelligence such as social media bots,
- preventing foreign and out-of-province campaign interference,

- expanding the transparency of digital election advertising, and
- ensuring digital platform compliance with the *Election Act*.

In addition to making recommendations for legislative change, Elections BC is mitigating these risks through ongoing interjurisdictional cooperation, promoting digital literacy and enhancing digital security.

Interjurisdictional cooperation

Electoral management bodies facing similar cyber threats are developing coordinated solutions.

Elections BC sits on the Deceptive Online Practices subcommittee of the Secretariat for Electoral Coordination (SEC). The subcommittee is sponsoring a research project on disinformation in Canadian jurisdictions and developing a collaborative strategy for electoral management bodies across Canada. The goal is to create a set of tools, resources and strategies that all electoral management bodies can draw from to address disinformation within their jurisdiction. These resources are expected to be finalized in late 2020.

Digital security

Elections BC complies with cybersecurity policies and standards set by the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO), and works closely with OCIO and the Canadian Center for Cybersecurity to maintain and enhance digital security and to protect electoral integrity. Systems undergo Privacy Impact Assessments, regular security testing and have backups and redundancies in place. We have also increased staff knowledge in this area.

Throughout the process of electoral change, Elections BC has taken a principled and measured approach to innovation. We understand how important it is to ensure that any changes to processes and tools maintain electoral integrity. We have researched best practices in this area and closely examined lessons learned from the implementation of similar technologies in Ontario and New Brunswick. We are building on these learnings and adding safeguards and redundancies into our systems.

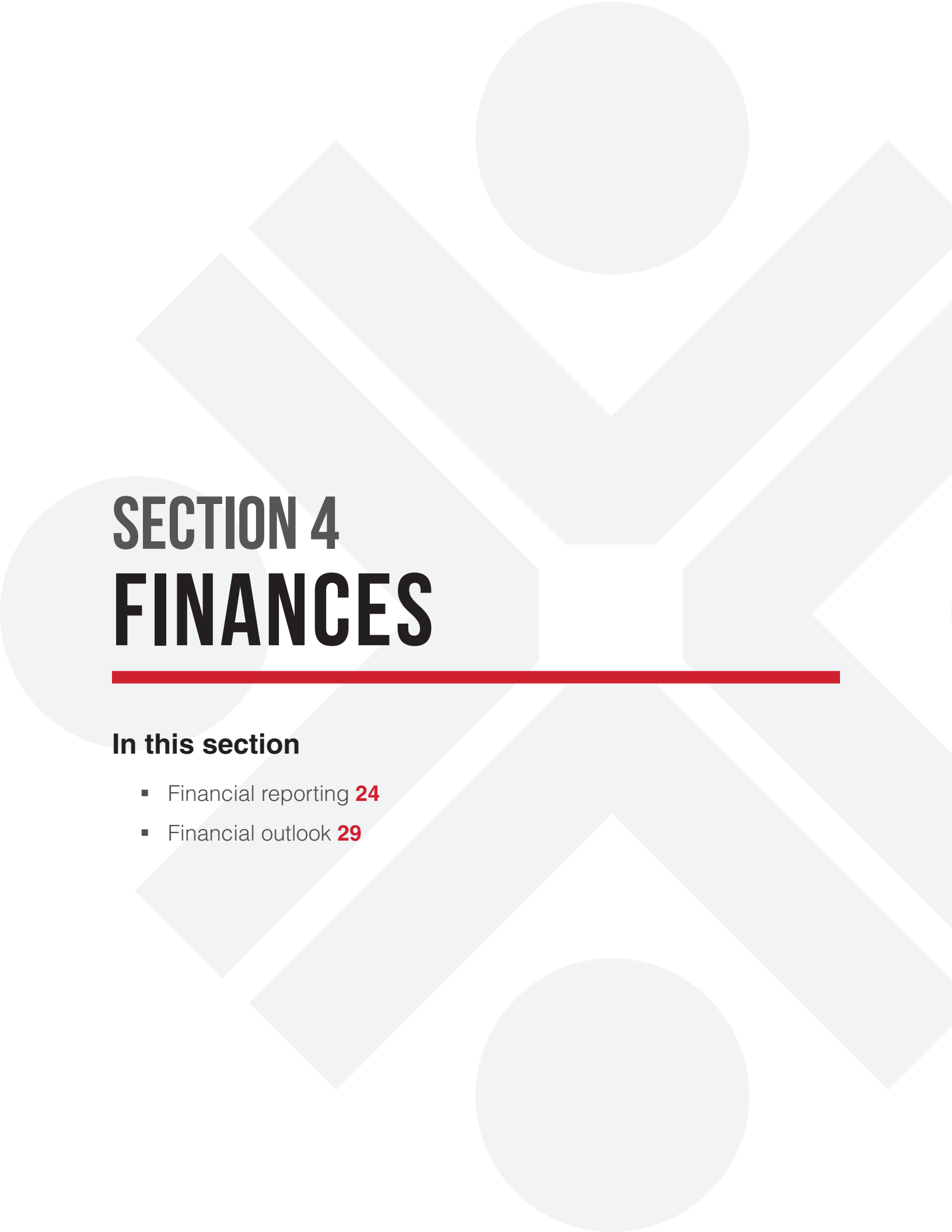
Our voting modernization plans include additional digital security practices. For example, tabulators will undergo full logic and accuracy testing prior to deployment, and will be locked-down with no connection to the internet. Results from tabulation will be encrypted and transmitted using a secure network. If the technology fails, a manual recount can be conducted using paper ballots. All other technology, including voting books, have encryption and security features identified by Privacy Impact Assessments and Security Threat Risk Assessments.

Digital literacy

Widespread public education and digital literacy are important to combat disinformation and protect electoral integrity.

While Elections BC has many [resources on democracy and voting](#), we plan to work with our partners to provide voters with resources to promote digital literacy and how to recognize disinformation. Our Outreach program and partners will be instrumental in helping us promote these resources.





SECTION 4 FINANCES

In this section

- Financial reporting **24**
- Financial outlook **29**

Financial reporting

Budget process

The mandate of the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services includes considering and making recommendations on the annual reports, rolling three-year service plans and budgets of Elections BC. During the budget process each fall, Elections BC meets with the Committee and presents our budget proposal for the next fiscal year and the following two fiscal years.

Elections BC's operating and capital budgets can be planned and presented consistently on an annual basis. Event budget requirements, however, are driven by the legislated requirements for these events and can occur on a scheduled or on-demand basis. While Elections BC has statutory spending authority to administer electoral events, meeting with the Committee on these budget requirements is important for transparency and accountability. The Committee has recognized that the event budget needs of Elections BC are demand driven and has established a process whereby the Chief Electoral Officer advises the chair of the Committee in writing when additional funds are required to administer these events. This process has been followed for all electoral events since 2002.

On January 4, 2019, the Chief Electoral Officer wrote to the chair of the Committee requesting supplementary funding for administering the 2019 Nanaimo By-election, which was held on January 30, 2019. The anticipated cost for the by-election was \$595,000 in 2018/19 and \$10,000 in 2019/20, for a total request of \$605,000. The Chief Electoral Officer and senior staff met with the Committee on January 15, 2019 to review this request. The Committee recommended approval of this request.

On May 9, 2019, the Chief Electoral Officer met with the Committee at the annual spring update and requested additional supplementary funding for 2019/20 of \$108,000. This request was required to cover election expense reimbursements for eligible candidates and political parties that ran in the 2019 Nanaimo By-election. Section 215.04 of the *Election Act* requires the reimbursement of certain election expenses to political parties and candidates who receive at least 10% of the total number of valid votes cast in the election. The Committee recommended approval of this request.

As part of the annual budget development process, the Chief Electoral Officer, Deputy Chief Electoral Officer, Electoral Finance and Operations, and Deputy Chief Electoral Officer, Corporate Services met with the Committee on October 29, 2019. Elections BC provided the Committee with a comprehensive review of the financial results for the previous fiscal year and a budget proposal for fiscal years 2020/21 to 2022/23. The proposal detailed the budget requirements for ongoing operations, capital investments, and event funding needed to cover preparations for the planned 2021 Enumeration and the planned 2021 Provincial General Election. In its report of December 16, 2019, the Committee recommended that Elections BC's ongoing (non-event) operating budget for fiscal year 2020/21 be \$11,320,000. The recommended capital budget for 2020/21 was \$805,000, and the event funding recommendation was \$3,871,000. Elections BC was also granted \$3,610,000 in 2020/21 to fund the annual allowances for political parties required by the *Election Act*.

On March 13, 2020, the Chief Electoral Officer wrote to the chair of the Committee requesting supplementary funding for administering changes to the *Election Act* as a result of the *Election Amendment Act, 2019* which received Royal Assent on November 28, 2019. This Act included the most significant changes to the *Election Act* in almost 25 years. The request for supplementary funding was \$3,597,000 for 2020/21. Additional funding in 2019/20 was not required. The Chief Electoral Officer and senior staff met with the Committee via video conference on April 8, 2020 to review this request. The Committee recommended approval.

The ongoing operating and event funding table (page 26) shows Elections BC's budget for 2019/20 and the actual expenditures for that year. These amounts include funding and expenditures for ongoing work and for events conducted in 2019/20.

The summary ongoing financial outlook table (page 29) illustrates the budgets and planned budgets for ongoing work for each of the three fiscal years beginning in 2020/21. The Select Standing Committee approved these amounts on December 16, 2019. Funding for electoral events, including unscheduled general elections, is not included here.



Ongoing operating and event funding

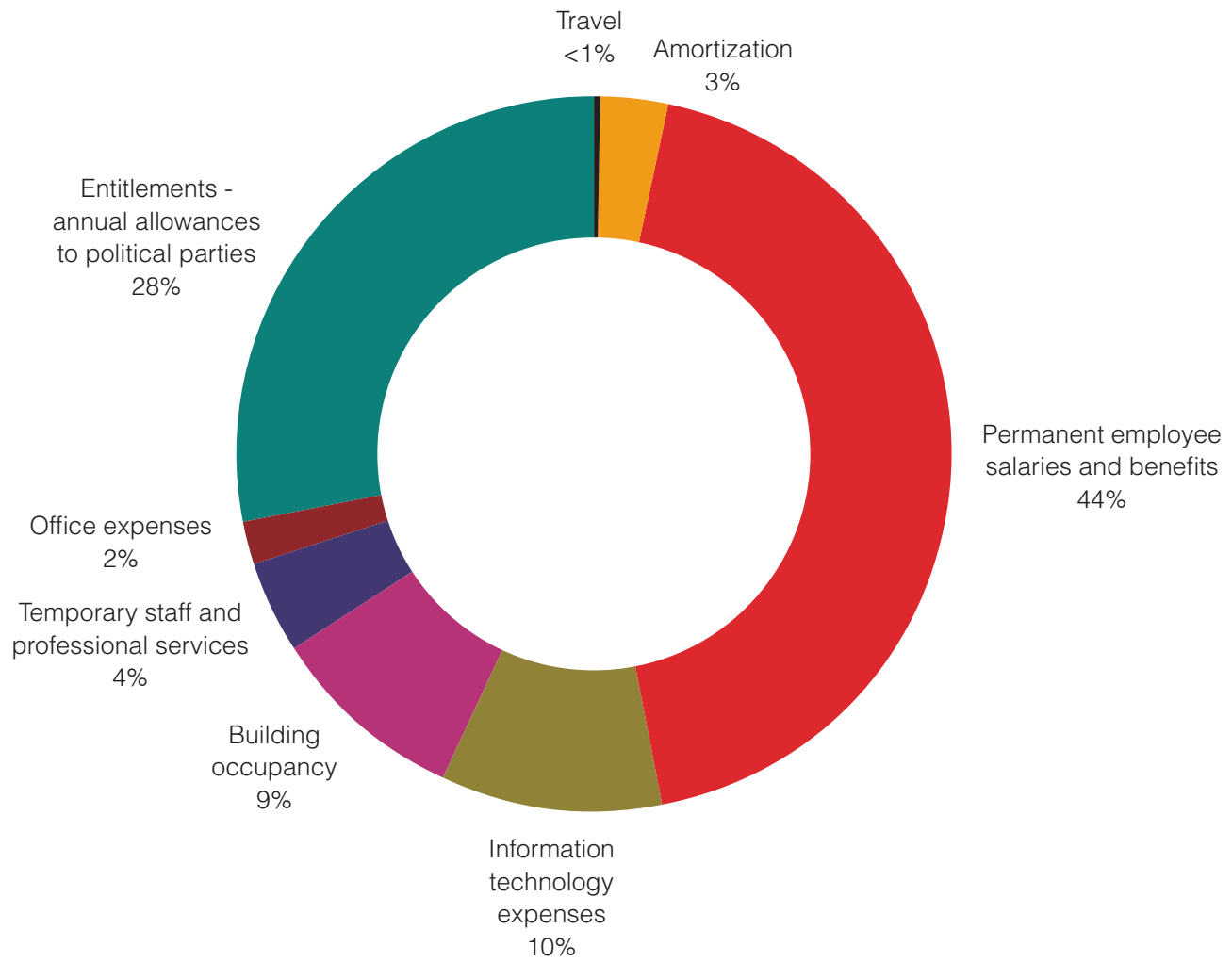
	2019/20 Budget \$	2019/20 Actual \$	Variance \$
Funding			
Estimates (Note 1)	18,151,000	17,177,525	973,475
Other authorizations	-	-	-
Total Funding	18,151,000	17,177,525	973,475
Expenses (Note 2)			
Salaries and benefits for permanent employees and the Chief Electoral Officer	6,690,000	6,773,211	(83,211)
Amortization	562,000	411,024	150,976
Building occupancy charges	1,373,000	1,394,810	(21,810)
Office expenses	547,000	422,189	124,811
Corporate information systems	1,318,000	1,326,464	(8,464)
Address and boundary maintenance	95,000	82,886	12,114
Voters list maintenance	118,000	66,441	51,559
Political entity reporting	270,000	70,526	199,474
Voter education	133,000	103,454	29,546
Scheduled events			
2018 Referendum on Electoral Reform	50,000	28,198	21,802
2018 General Local Elections	772,000	596,631	175,369
Readiness - on-demand provincial general election (Note 3)	2,132,000	1,693,127	438,873
Annual allowances to political parties	4,091,000	4,090,735	265
Unscheduled events			
2019 Nanaimo By-election	-	107,496	(107,496)
Initiative to Allow the Voluntary Formation of Twenty Charter Schools - initiative petition	-	10,333	(10,333)
Total expenses	18,151,000	17,177,525	973,475

Note 1 - Estimates represents Election BC's approved budget as per Estimates. The ongoing (non-event) operating budget for 2019/20 was \$11,106,000. The event budget for 2019/20 was \$7,045,000.

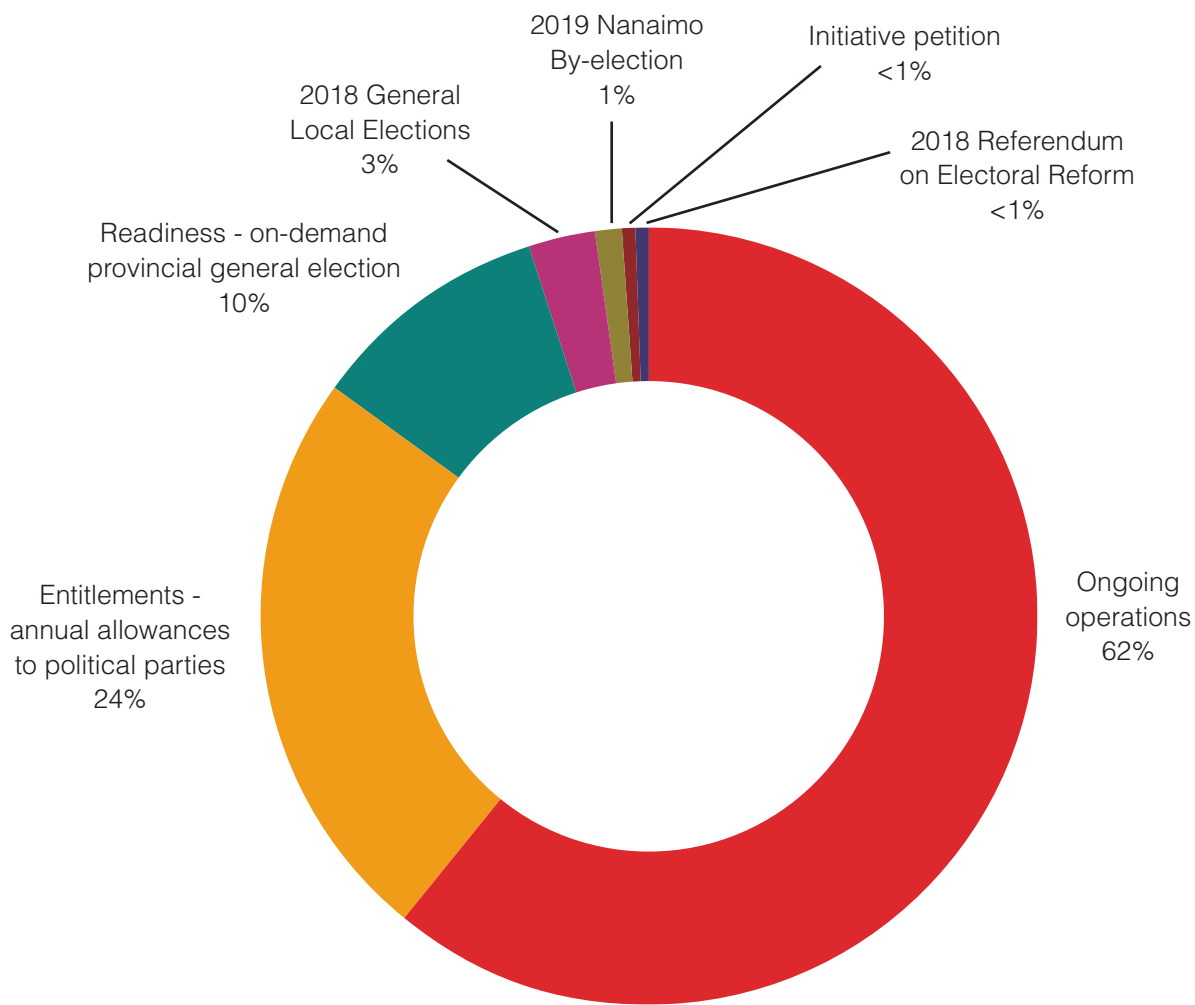
Note 2 - The budget is based upon anticipated activities at the beginning of the year and does not include reallocations of budget made during the fiscal year, hence actual expenses differ from the budget.

Note 3 - Actuals include costs to administer changes as a result of the *Election Amendment Act, 2019* (Bill 43) in preparation for the next scheduled provincial general election.

2019/20 Ongoing operating actual expenditures by type



2019/20 Actual expenditures for ongoing operations and events



Financial outlook

The summary ongoing financial outlook table illustrates the operating and capital budgets for 2020/21 and planned budget for 2021/22 and 2022/23, as presented to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services during the annual budget review on October 29, 2019. The Committee recommended these amounts in their Annual Review of the Budgets of Statutory Offices report, dated December 16, 2019.

Summary ongoing financial outlook

	2020/21 budget \$	2021/22 (planned) \$	2022/23 (planned) \$	
ONGOING OPERATING COSTS				
Approved budget by SSCFGS	11,320,000	11,627,000	11,773,000	
Total funding for ongoing operating costs	11,320,000	11,627,000	11,773,000	
Notes Expenses				
1	Salaries and benefits for permanent employees and the Chief Electoral Officer	6,893,000	7,011,000	7,134,000
2	Amortization	594,000	672,000	671,000
3	Building occupancy charges	1,391,000	1,537,000	1,558,000
4	Office expenses	502,000	487,000	485,000
5	Corporate information systems	1,334,000	1,306,000	1,306,000
6	Address and boundary maintenance	83,000	75,000	78,000
7	Voters list maintenance	127,000	143,000	145,000
8	Political entity reporting	263,000	263,000	263,000
9	Voter education	133,000	133,000	133,000
	Total expenses for ongoing operating costs	11,320,000	11,627,000	11,773,000

See the following pages for detailed information on notes 1 - 9.

	2020/21 (budget) \$	2021/22 (planned) \$	2022/23 (planned) \$
CAPITAL ASSETS			
Approved budget by SSCFGS			
Computer hardware and software	805,000	480,000	700,000
Total funding for capital assets	805,000	480,000	700,000
Expenditures for capital assets			
Computer hardware and software	805,000	480,000	700,000
Total expenditures for capital assets	805,000	480,000	700,000

Notes:

Core services expenses are those incurred to continue operations and ensure readiness for electoral events. These expenses are incurred regardless of electoral events.

Event expenses are those incurred to prepare and deliver events, both scheduled and unscheduled. Such events include provincial and local elections, enumerations, referenda and recall and initiative petitions.

Note 1 - The salaries and benefits line includes salaries and benefits for Elections BC's permanent employees and the Chief Electoral Officer. Employees are paid in accordance with policies established by legislation and the BC Public Service Agency.

Note 2 - Amortization is the allocation of the cost of a capital asset over its estimated useful life, and it is closely tied to capital spending. The major contributors to amortization are capital investments made in the Electoral Information System (EIS), Financial Reports and Political Contributions System (FRPC) and other information systems. For example, the figure in the capital budget represents the actual cost for 2020/21; however, that actual cost must also be paid for out of the operating budgets over a number of years. Amortization rates are government policy established by the Office of the Comptroller General, and Elections BC does not have flexibility to change them.

Note 3 - Building occupancy charges are rental charges for the main office and warehouse space.

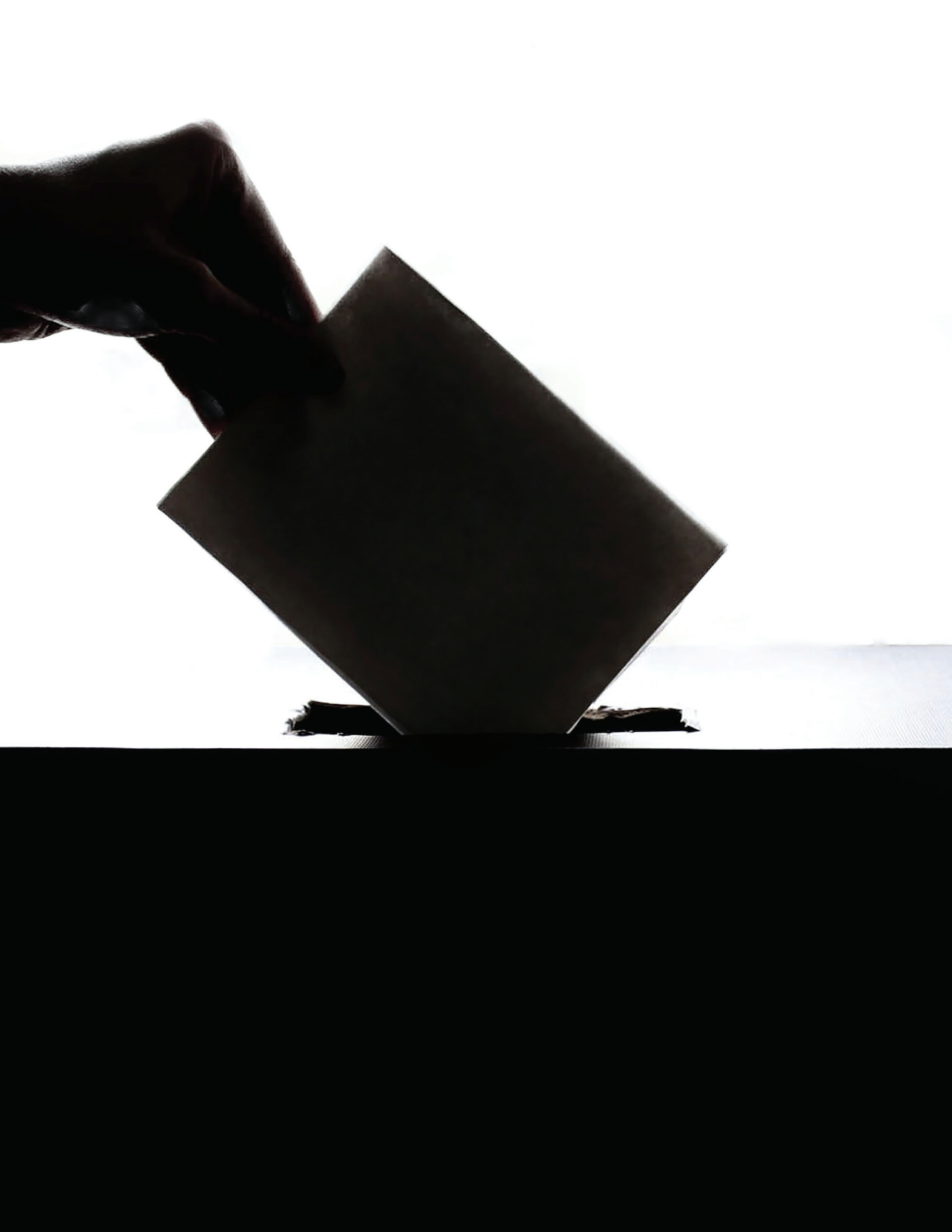
Note 4 - Office expenses includes supplies, equipment, postage, courier, bank charges, permanent staff training, travel, legal fees and statutory advertising.

Note 5 - Corporate information systems include technology services which are provided through a contract with Fujitsu Consulting (Canada), such as support of EBC's servers and applications; maintenance and minor improvements to applications such as the EIS, the Online Voter Registration System, the FRPC and the Recall and Initiative Verification System; and support for technical infrastructure such as shared file storage, printing, firewalls, servers, workstations, local area networks, backup and recovery, and office automation software.

Also included in this budget line is the cost of telecommunications; email accounts; a portion of network costs; licensing and maintenance fees for various software and hardware in use at EBC; costs for purchasing software and repairing hardware; and fees for the internet service that hosts the Elections BC website.

Note 6 - Address and boundary maintenance involves the upkeep of voting area boundaries to satisfy legislative requirements and to enhance the accessibility of voting places to voters. It also includes the production of high quality electoral data and information through the continual custodianship of a geo-spatial database containing B.C.'s electoral boundaries, road network, address data and administrative boundaries. This means to accurately and efficiently derive physical addresses from provided addresses and assign physical addresses to electoral districts and voting areas; to maintain a current and complete register of physical addresses for residential and non-residential properties; to maintain a current and complete road network along with their electoral district and voting area assignments; and to communicate this electoral information through map products and web tools.

- Note 7 - Voters list maintenance includes information technology costs and costs related to the transfer of voter data. The voters list contains the names and residential addresses of all individuals registered to vote in each electoral district. It is a fundamental component of all electoral events and is used to ensure only registered voters vote and to prevent voters from voting more than once. It is also used to ensure that only registered voters sign recall and initiative petitions. The voters list is used by MLAs, parties and candidates to communicate with registered voters and by the Court Services Branch to generate jury selection lists.
- Note 8 - Political entity reporting includes the costs associated with reviewing ongoing disclosure reports filed by provincial political parties and other provincial political entities; administering monetary penalties for non-compliance with the financing provisions; conducting investigations of political entities, candidates and third party advertising sponsors in accordance with section 276 of the *Election Act*; developing and delivering guides, forms and training for political entities, financial agents and auditors; and maintaining the register of political parties, constituency associations and third party sponsors. This budget line does not include costs associated with local campaign finance administration or annual allowance payments to political parties.
- Note 9 - Voter education is a statutory responsibility of the Chief Electoral Officer under section 12(1)(c) of the *Election Act*. It includes costs to conduct public education campaigns and build strategic partnerships. It also includes costs to support B.C. teachers with civic education initiatives.



APPENDICES

In this section

- Appendix A: Our priorities **34**
- Appendix B: Political party registrations and deregistrations **36**
- Appendix C: Constituency association registrations and deregistrations **37**
- Appendix D: Orders of the Chief Electoral Officer **39**
- Appendix E: Activities of the Chief Electoral Officer **40**
- Appendix F: Reports of the Chief Electoral Officer **41**
- Appendix G: Local by-elections and referenda (non-election assent voting) **42**
- Appendix H: Minutes of Election Advisory Committee meetings **44**

Appendix A: Our priorities

Priority	Supporting Activities
<p>Deliver events</p> <p>Be ready for and successfully deliver electoral events.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ maintain a high quality voters list throughout the business cycle ▪ maintain organizational readiness for on-demand events ▪ ensure critical information systems are maintained and ready when events are initiated ▪ develop and maintain a business continuity program to ensure electoral events can be successfully delivered
<p>Modernize electoral services</p> <p>Find new opportunities to enhance service and increase efficiency to meet the changing needs of our stakeholders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ develop processes to enhance service, increase accessibility and encourage compliance ▪ put voters' needs first when designing electoral programs, processes and services ▪ enhance tools to support two-way communication with voters and political participants ▪ seek continuous improvement and make recommendations for legislative change ▪ ensure information systems are enhanced as appropriate and adapted to changing legislation ▪ consider environmental impact of electoral events when designing processes and services
<p>Improve accessibility and inclusivity</p> <p>Engage all eligible voters in the electoral process.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ communicate with voters through multiple channels to increase their knowledge of when, where and how to vote ▪ increase accessibility to voting through stakeholder consultation, communication and partnerships with an emphasis on Indigenous communities ▪ ensure administrative and physical barriers to participation are minimized

<p>Build organizational capacity</p> <p>Build strength and resiliency by managing strategically, enhancing internal and external relationships and enabling employee development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ encourage knowledge transfer and communication to facilitate cross-program collaboration and to grow our organizational capacity and resilience ▪ engage in and nurture partnerships to fill gaps in our capacity and to support effective delivery ▪ continuously improve our processes to ensure we use our resources wisely ▪ maintain a resilient planning framework to ensure strategic projects are prioritized and well managed, and resources are allocated effectively
<p>Protect electoral integrity</p> <p>Address challenges to democracy, trust and electoral integrity posed by cyber threats and other coordinated inauthentic behavior.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ adapt or introduce systems and processes to respond to threats to electoral integrity and ensure transparency and compliance are maintained ▪ support political participants to understand their legislated requirements and promote compliance ▪ ensure we have robust and effective complaints management, investigation, and enforcement practices ▪ build and maintain trust in Elections BC as the province's non-partisan election administrator and authoritative source of information regarding B.C.'s electoral processes ▪ develop and implement public education programs to build voter capacity to navigate this new environment

Appendix B: Political party registrations and deregistrations

As of March 31, 2020, there were 23 political parties registered in B.C.

The following political party registrations and deregistrations occurred between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020.

Registrations

- The BC Ecosocialists
- Wexit BC

Involuntary political party deregistrations

- British Columbia Peoples Party

Voluntary political party deregistrations

- BC Citizens First Party
- B.C. New Republican Party
- BC Marijuana Party
- BC Refederation Party

Appendix C: Constituency association registrations and deregistrations

As of March 31, 2020, there were three constituency associations registered in B.C.

The following constituency association registrations and deregistrations occurred between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020.

Constituency association registrations

Wexit BC

- Boundary-Similkameen Constituency Association Wexit BC

Voluntary constituency association deregistrations

BC NDP

- Abbotsford West Constituency Association BC NDP
- Boundary-Similkameen Constituency Association BC NDP
- Burnaby-Deer Lake Constituency Association BC NDP
- Burnaby-Edmonds Constituency Association BC NDP
- Burnaby-Lougheed Constituency Association BC NDP
- Burnaby North Constituency Association BC NDP
- Chilliwack-Kent Constituency Association BC NDP
- Coquitlam-Burke Mountain Constituency Association BC NDP
- Coquitlam-Maillardville Constituency Association BC NDP
- Delta South Constituency Association BC NDP
- Esquimalt-Metchosin Constituency Association BC NDP
- Fraser-Nicola Constituency Association BC NDP
- Kamloops-North Thompson Constituency Association BC NDP
- Kamloops-South Thompson Constituency Association BC NDP
- Kelowna West Constituency Association BC NDP
- Kootenay East Constituency Association BC NDP
- Kootenay West Constituency Association BC NDP
- Langley Constituency Association BC NDP
- Langley East Constituency Association BC NDP
- Maple Ridge-Mission Constituency Association BC NDP

- Nanaimo Constituency Association BC NDP
- Nanaimo-North Cowichan Constituency Association BC NDP
- New Westminster Constituency Association BC NDP
- North Coast Constituency Association BC NDP
- North Vancouver-Seymour Constituency Association BC NDP
- Parksville-Qualicum Constituency Association BC NDP
- Penticton Constituency Association BC NDP
- Prince George-Mackenzie Constituency Association BC NDP
- Richmond North Centre Constituency Association BC NDP
- Richmond-Queensborough Constituency Association BC NDP
- Richmond-Steveston Constituency Association BC NDP
- Saanich North and the Islands Constituency Association BC NDP
- Saanich South Constituency Association BC NDP
- Shuswap Constituency Association BC NDP
- Skeena Constituency Association BC NDP
- Stikine Constituency Association BC NDP
- Surrey-Cloverdale Constituency Association BC NDP
- Surrey-Fleetwood Constituency Association BC NDP
- Surrey-Newton Constituency Association BC NDP
- Surrey-Panorama Constituency Association BC NDP
- Surrey-White Rock Constituency Association BC NDP
- Vancouver-Fairview Constituency Association BC NDP
- Vancouver-Fraserview Constituency Association BC NDP
- Vancouver-Hastings Constituency Association BC NDP
- Vancouver-Kingsway Constituency Association BC NDP
- Vancouver-Langara Constituency Association BC NDP
- Vancouver-Mount Pleasant Constituency Association BC NDP
- Vancouver-Point Grey Constituency Association BC NDP
- Vancouver-West End Constituency Association BC NDP
- Victoria-Swan Lake Constituency Association BC NDP
- West Vancouver-Capilano Constituency Association BC NDP

Appendix D: Orders of the Chief Electoral Officer

EA-ORD-001

March 25, 2020

Due to the emergency situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the direction of the Provincial Health Officer for physical distancing, the filing deadlines for the annual financial reports and interim financial reports required under the *Election Act* were extended.

In accordance with this Order, the annual financial report filing deadline for registered political parties and constituency associations was extended to April 30, 2020, and the interim financial report filing deadline for registered political parties was extended to June 1, 2020. Extensions to the annual financial report filing deadlines addressed in this Order were subsequently extended for some political parties.

Appendix E: Activities of the Chief Electoral Officer

CEO speaking engagements

- Ontario Legislature Internship Program (Role of Elections BC), BC Legislature, Victoria, BC, June 3, 2019
- Political Party Information Session, Vancouver, BC, September 5, 2019
- BC Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy (Role of Elections BC), BC Legislature, Victoria, BC, October 24, 2019
- BC NDP Caucus Meeting – Presentation on Voting Modernization, BC Legislature, Victoria, BC, October 29, 2019
- BC Liberal Caucus Meeting – Presentation on Voting Modernization, BC Legislature, Victoria, BC, December 11, 2019
- BC Legislative Internship Program (Role of Elections BC), BC Legislature, Victoria, BC, January 8, 2020

CEO event attendance

- Secretariat for Electoral Coordination Cybersecurity Roundtable, Regina, SK, April 3, 2019
- Council on Governmental Ethics Laws (COGEL) Steering Committee meeting, Chicago, IL, May 3-4, 2019
- Elections Saskatchewan Political Party Information Session, Regina, SK, June 11, 2019
- Symposium on the Future of Parliamentary Ombudship, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC, June 20-21, 2019
- Conference of Canadian Election Officials, St. Andrews, NB, July 21 - 24, 2019
- Election Advisory Committee Meeting, Vancouver, BC, September 5, 2019
- Elections Canada Visitors Program, Ottawa, ON, October 20-22, 2019
- Reception in honour of the Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly and farewell to Auditor General Carol Bellringer, Government House, Victoria, BC, November 26, 2019
- Council on Governmental Ethics Laws Annual Conference, Chicago IL, December 15-18, 2019
- Advisory Committee of Electoral Partners (ACEP), Ottawa, ON, January 21-22, 2020

Appendix F: Reports of the Chief Electoral Officer

The following reports were tabled between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020:

- [Annual Report 2018/19 and Service Plan 2019/20-2021/22](#)
- [Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the 2019 Nanaimo By-election - January 30, 2019](#)
- [Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the 2018 Referendum on Electoral Reform – October 22-December 20, 2018](#)

Appendix G: Local by-elections and referenda (non-election assent voting)

Between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020, Elections BC administered the campaign financing provisions of the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* for 19 local by-elections and four referenda (non-election assent votes).

Disclosure statements for by-election and referenda participants are available on the Elections BC website.

All but two participants in 2019/20's by-elections and referenda filed disclosure statements by the filing deadline. As the two also did not meet the late filing deadline, they are both considered non-filers and are disqualified from running again until after the next general local elections in 2022.

The incremental costs to our organization of administering the campaign finance provisions for local by-elections and referenda are included in the ongoing budget of Elections BC.

By-elections

Jurisdiction	General Voting Day	Filing deadline	Candidates	Elector Organizations	Third Party Sponsors	Late/non-filers
Telkwa	2019-11-30	2020-02-28	1	0	0	0
Tofino	2019-11-02	2020-01-31	6	0	0	0
Osoyoos	2019-11-02	2020-01-31	2	0	0	0
Nanaimo Regional District	2019-10-05	2020-01-03	1	0	0	0
Sooke	2019-09-28	2019-12-27	10	0	0	1
Port Alice	2019-09-14	2019-12-13	2	0	1	0
Stewart	2019-09-07	2019-12-06	1	0	0	0
Fraser Cascade School District (SD78)	2019-07-27	2019-10-25	7	0	0	1
Stikine School District (SD87)	2019-07-13	2019-10-11	2	0	0	0
Nakusp	2019-07-13	2019-10-11	2	0	0	0
Metro Vancouver Regional District	2019-06-15	2019-09-13	5	0	0	0
Cranbrook	2019-05-11	2019-08-09	5	0	0	0
Haida Gwaii School District (SD50)	2019-05-11	2019-08-09	1	0	0	0
Powell River	2019-04-06	2019-07-05	4	0	0	0
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District	2019-04-06	2019-07-05	4	0	0	0
North Saanich	2019-04-06	2019-07-05	8	0	0	0
Cariboo Regional District	2019-03-30	2019-06-28	3	0	0	0
Lytton	2019-03-02	2019-05-31	2	0	0	0
Islands Trust (Hornby Island)	2019-03-02	2019-05-31	2	0	0	0

Referenda

Event name	General Voting Day	Filing deadline	Non-election assent vote advertising sponsors	Late/non-filers
2019 Magic Lake Estates Wastewater System Non-election Assent Voting	2019-11-23	2020-02-21	0	0
2019 Cortes Island First Responder and Community Hall Services Non-election Assent Voting	2019-10-26	2020-01-24	3	0
2019 Oona River Community Hall Non-election Assent Voting	2019-10-19	2020-01-17	0	0
2019 Bralorne Wastewater Treatment and Sewer System Conversion Non-election Assent Voting	2019-01-26	2019-04-26	0	0

Appendix H: Minutes of Election Advisory Committee meetings

Election Advisory Committee meeting minutes are available on our website. There were two meetings in the 2019/20 fiscal year in September 2019 and February 2020.

- [EAC Minutes – September 2019](#)
- [EAC Minutes – February 2020](#)

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