

Chief Electoral Officer Directives for Electors Unable to Physically Access a Polling Station

(Elections Act, R.S.N.B. 1973, c.E-3, s.2 and 83, and ss.59(1.1), 59(2) and 80(1))



P 01 415
(2022-02-08)

Selection of Polling Stations

The returning officer shall designate for each polling division a suitable polling station or stations having regard to the convenience of the voters in such polling division. Each polling station in the electoral district shall, if possible, be barrier free for wheelchairs and accessible without the use of stairs.

Transfer Certificates

In the event that an elector is required to vote at a polling station that is not physically accessible by the elector, the elector may vote at the returning office or the returning officer or election clerk may issue a transfer certificate to the elector entitling the elector to vote at another polling station in the same electoral district that the elector is able to access.

Curbside Voting

In the event that an elector is designated to vote at a polling station that is not physically accessible by the elector, and has not obtained a transfer certificate, the elector or someone on their behalf may request that the Poll Supervisor of that polling station assist them to vote at the curbside.

If a Poll Supervisor receives a request from an elector who is physically unable to access the polling station or someone on behalf of such an elector, they shall complete the following procedures:

1. Meet with the elector at the curbside.
2. Ask the elector to state their name and address.
3. Determine if the elector has a Voter Information Card, and if the elector's information on it is correct:
 - a. If the elector has a Voter Information Card and the information on it is correct, the Poll Supervisor will take the card.
 - b. If the elector has a Voter Information Card and the information on it is not correct, the Poll Supervisor will make the corrections required on the card and will take the card.
 - c. If the elector does not have a Voter Information Card, the Poll Supervisor will write down the elector's name and address.
4. Provide the elector's name and address, and updated information if required, to a Voters List Officer or a Poll Revision Officer, to be struck off the List of Electors and receive a Voting Token.
5. Take the completed Voting Token to a free Ballot Issuing Officer and obtain a ballot, a secrecy sleeve and a ballot marker for the elector.

6. In polling stations where tabulation machines are being used, carry the traditional ballot box designated for curbside voting outside of the polling station, accompanied by a Constable.
 - a. At no time shall the ballot boxes that remain inside the polling station be left unattended by an election officer.
 - b. The Poll Supervisor and an election officer must remain with the ballot box while it has been carried to the curbside.
7. In polling stations where tabulation machines are not being used, have a Constable or Ballot Box Officer accompany the Poll Supervisor and carry the appropriate ballot box outside of the polling station to the curbside.
 - a. At no time shall the ballot boxes that remain inside the polling station be left unattended by an election officer.
 - b. The Poll Supervisor and an election officer must remain with the ballot box while it has been carried to the curbside.
8. Explain how to mark the ballot, by instructing the elector:
 - a. To make their choice by filling in completely or making an X in the designated area to the right of the chosen candidate's name, using the ballot marker provided.
 - b. To not vote for more candidates than may be elected or the vote will not be counted.
 - c. To not bend, mutilate, or make any other marks on the ballot.
9. Explain spoiled ballot procedures to the elector, stating that in the event that the elector makes a mistake on the ballot, the elector may return the mismarked ballot in its secrecy sleeve to the Poll Supervisor to receive a new clean ballot.
10. Give the elector the ballot in its secrecy sleeve, directing the elector to put the ballot back in the secrecy sleeve the same way after marking it.
11. Allow the elector to vote in privacy.
12. If an elector makes a mistake in marking the ballot, they may return it to the Poll Supervisor. In this case, the Poll Supervisor shall:
 - a. Return the spoiled ballot in its secrecy sleeve to the Ballot Issuing Officer who issued it.
 - b. Receive a new ballot and return to the elector.
 - c. Clarify the instructions for voting if necessary.
13. After the ballot has been marked, assist or have the elector deposit the ballot into the ballot box.
14. Collect the secrecy sleeve and ballot marker.
15. Return the ballot box, secrecy sleeve and ballot marker to the polling station.
16. All ballots cast in this manner will be deposited through the tabulation machine at 8 p.m. when the poll is closed.