



# **OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER**

**2004–2005  
ESTIMATES**

## **A REPORT ON PLANS AND PRIORITIES**

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Jean-Pierre Kingsley  
Chief Electoral Officer of Canada

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The Honourable Mauril Bélanger  
Deputy Leader of the Government in the  
House of Commons, Minister responsible for  
Official Languages, Minister responsible for  
Democratic Reform and Associate Minister of  
National Defence



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## I. THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER'S MESSAGE



This *Report on Plans and Priorities* describes the three strategic outcomes that we plan to achieve during 2004–2005, focusing on our most significant priorities and the benefits that Elections Canada provides to Canadians.

First, we are committed to delivering federal elections that maintain the integrity of the electoral process – providing elections that are fair, transparent and accessible to electors. We have already strengthened these foundations by implementing Parliament's major changes to Canada's system of political financing on January 1, 2004.

Second, we must be ready to deliver electoral events whenever they may be called, and to improve their delivery. As of April 1, 2004, we are ready to conduct a general election under 308 ridings. Our priorities for 2004–2005 include reviewing all aspects of elector registration to see how it might be streamlined, and improving our services to the public.

And finally, we are responsible for providing public education and information programs, and support on electoral matters to the public, parliamentarians, Cabinet, political entities, our partners and other stakeholders. As a priority in 2004–2005, we will focus on special outreach efforts targeting young voters, Aboriginal electors, electors with special needs and ethnocultural minorities with significant numbers of new Canadians.

Our aim is to remain the most modern and innovative electoral agency in the world, and I am personally committed to the continuing process of electoral reform that has earned Canada its reputation around the world as a model of electoral democracy.

It is a privilege for me to serve Parliament and the Canadian people, and to lead a dynamic, multi-talented team whose dedication to strengthening and upholding Canada's democratic system is exceptional.

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Jean-Pierre Kingsley  
Chief Electoral Officer of Canada



## **Management Representation Statement**

I submit, for tabling in Parliament, the 2004–2005 *Report on Plans and Priorities* for the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer.

We have prepared this document based on the reporting principles and disclosure requirements contained in the *2004–2005 Departmental Report on Plans and Priorities: Preparation Guide*:

- it accurately portrays the agency's plans and priorities;
- the planned spending information is consistent with the directions provided in the Minister of Finance's Budget and by the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat;
- it is comprehensive and accurate; and
- it is based on sound underlying agency information and management systems.

The reporting structure on which this document is based has been approved by Treasury Board Ministers and is the basis for accountability for the results achieved with the available resources and authorities.

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Jean-Pierre Kingsley  
Chief Electoral Officer of Canada

April 2004





## II. OUR PURPOSE

Elections Canada is dedicated to helping Canadians exercise their democratic right to vote. We want to make voting as accessible as possible, by reaching out to all potential voters and by using modern technology creatively.

## III. PLANNING OVERVIEW

As an independent agency of Parliament, the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada is funded by an annual appropriation (which essentially provides for the salaries of permanent full-time staff) and the statutory authority contained in the *Canada Elections Act*, the *Canada Elections Act as Adapted for the Purposes of a Referendum* and the *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act*. The statutory authority provides for all other expenditures, including the costs of electoral events, maintenance of the National Register of Electors, quarterly allowances to eligible political parties, redistribution of electoral boundaries and continuing public education programs. It serves to recognize that the Chief Electoral Officer's independence from the government and from the influence of political parties is a critical component in maintaining the integrity of the democratic process in Canada.

### Risks and challenges

Under our parliamentary system of representative democracy, the length of time between federal electoral events is not a set period (the *Constitution Act 1867*, as well as the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, provides only that the House of Commons cannot continue to sit for longer than five years from the date fixed for the return of the writs at a general election, a period that may be lengthened in time of real or apprehended war, invasion or insurrection). This means that the length of our business cycle varies – uncertainty that makes planning a challenge, since we must be ready at all times to deliver an electoral event, whether it be a by-election, general election or referendum. Consequently, we must continually react to parliamentary and political events and trends, so that we can take into account contingencies that might affect our electoral readiness and preparations for electoral events.

The sheer size of the country, the second largest in the world, and our responsibility to provide some 22 million registered electors with timely information and an opportunity to vote conveniently, dramatically affects the size

of the agency from time to time. As an electoral event approaches, the staff at Elections Canada may grow from 330 to more than 800 people. Returning officers hire an additional 160,000 temporary workers to support the electoral process in some 18,000 polling places across the country, and we must plan to provide all of these people with training, supervision, supplies and administrative support. To respond to these challenges, our team must be multi-skilled and multi-talented.

Other factors that influence our planning include high mobility rates (more than 40% of all Canadians change their addresses every five years), increased social diversity, rapidly evolving technology, and judicial decisions that change the interpretation or application of the *Canada Elections Act*.

Another factor that affects our planning is legislation on electoral matters. In 2003–2004, for example, six bills to amend the *Canada Elections Act* or the *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act* were tabled in Parliament. For each bill, the agency prepares a thorough analysis, and the Chief Electoral Officer is usually called to appear before the relevant committee of the House of Commons and/or the Senate.

Returning officers, who are appointed by the Governor in Council, not by the Chief Electoral Officer, have the responsibility of recruiting enough temporary workers to conduct an event in their electoral districts. Nevertheless, the Chief Electoral Officer is responsible for the overall conduct of elections, a challenge that we manage by providing the returning officers with appropriate training, tools and support.

## **Trends and issues**


A trend affecting our planning is the declining proportion of Canadians who cast their ballots in federal general elections. Voter turnout for the 2000 general election (which we previously reported as 61.2%) was approximately 64% after removing duplicates from the final lists of electors – still the lowest turnout since the general election of 1896. By-elections usually have a lower turnout than general elections: turnout averaged 35.8% for the eight by-elections held in 1999 and 2000, and 31.4% for the nine by-elections held in 2002. For the three by-elections in 2003, turnout ranged from 23.5% to 44% and averaged 31.2%.


Research commissioned by Elections Canada and other studies indicate that the decline in turnout since 1988 is largely confined to young Canadians – those born after 1970. For example, a major study based on new survey research showed that only 25% of 18–24-year-olds voted in the 2000 federal election. As mandated by the law, we make special efforts to reach out to electors whose participation rate has historically been lower than that of the electorate

generally, and we have developed action plans focused on youth and Aboriginal people. We also have a clear responsibility for making sure that electors understand the voting process, and that registration and the exercise of the franchise are as easy as possible.

## Strategic relationships

The co-operation of many partners is important to achieving our strategic outcomes successfully. In our discussion of each strategic outcome in section IV, we identify our specific relationships with federal departments and agencies, community partners, international organizations, provincial, territorial and municipal governments and electoral agencies, and research institutes and centres. We have also developed strategic partnerships with the private sector in areas where we require specialized resources and expertise to assist us in the delivery of electoral events.

 This symbol of a computer mouse indicates that more detailed information is available at [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca) or in one of our printed publications.

 Recent *Official Voting Results* reports are available on our Web site: [CLICK HERE](http://www.elections.ca/content.asp?section=gen&document=index&dir=rep/re2&lang=e&textonly=false#officialvoting). [http://www.elections.ca/content.asp?section=gen&document=index&dir=rep/re2&lang=e&textonly=false#officialvoting] For two Elections Canada research studies on electoral participation, [CLICK HERE](http://www.elections.ca/intro.asp?section=loi&document=index&lang=e&textonly=false). [http://www.elections.ca/intro.asp?section=loi&document=index&lang=e&textonly=false]



## IV. PLANS AND PRIORITIES BY STRATEGIC OUTCOMES

### Summary

Strategic outcomes	Associated resources 2004–2005	Priorities 2004–2005	Type of priority
1. To deliver federal elections, by-elections and referendums that maintain the integrity of the electoral process, and to administer the political financing provisions of the Act	\$9,181,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administer the provisions of the <i>Canada Elections Act</i> related to political financing, which include providing quarterly allowances to qualifying political parties</li> </ul>	New
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to investigate and rule on complaints related to the 2000 general election and subsequent by-elections</li> </ul>	Previous
2. To achieve and maintain a state of readiness to deliver electoral events whenever they may be called, and to improve the delivery of electoral events	\$32,398,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review voter registration and electoral geography</li> </ul>	New
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review information technology systems</li> <li>Improve service delivery</li> </ul>	New Continuing
3. To provide timely and high-quality public education and information programs, and assurance that support on electoral matters is available to the public, parliamentarians, Cabinet, political entities, federal electoral boundaries commissions, partners and other stakeholders	\$8,596,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve communications with electors</li> </ul>	Previous

## Our evolving priorities

During 2002–2003 and 2003–2004 we consistently focused on five specific priorities that we discussed in the respective *Reports on Plans and Priorities*:

- to improve the currency and coverage of the National Register of Electors;
- to improve the accuracy of voter information cards;
- to improve communications with electors;
- to improve our public enquiries system; and
- to administer the *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act* (in 2002–2003, supporting redistribution commissions, and in 2003–2004, implementing redistribution decisions).


Our priorities largely resulted from our extensive evaluations of every facet of our work after the November 2000 general election, which we have already discussed in our performance reports for 2001–2002 and 2002–2003, in two reports (see below) to Parliament by the Chief Electoral Officer and in our *2000 General Election Post-event Overview*. As our *Performance Report* for 2002–2003 demonstrated, and as our performance report for 2003–2004 will show, we made substantial progress on all of our priorities during the past three years, which have been implemented in our event readiness activities.

To monitor progress, senior management reviews priority activities weekly.

✎ The *Report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada on the 37th General Election Held on November 27, 2000* (March 2001) and *Modernizing the Electoral Process: Recommendations from the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada following the 37th general election* (November 2001) are available in print form and on our Web site: [CLICK HERE](http://www.elections.ca/content.asp?section=gen&document=index&dir=rep/re2&lang=e&textonly=false). [http://www.elections.ca/content.asp?section=gen&document=index&dir=rep/re2&lang=e&textonly=false] For the *Performance Reports* and our previous *Reports on Plans and Priorities*, [CLICK HERE](http://www.elections.ca/content.asp?section=gen&document=index&dir=rep/est&lang=e&textonly=false). [http://www.elections.ca/content.asp?section=gen&document=index&dir=rep/est&lang=e&textonly=false] For the *2000 General Election Post-event Overview*, [CLICK HERE](http://www.elections.ca/content.asp?section=loi&document=index&dir=rec&lang=e&textonly=false). [http://www.elections.ca/content.asp?section=loi&document=index&dir=rec&lang=e&textonly=false]

## A new strategic plan

As one aspect of modernizing our management practices, in 2004–2005 we will develop a new strategic plan. Our former plan, *Serving Democracy: A Strategic Plan*, was instrumental in guiding our projects to achieve common goals. We will base the next plan on more sophisticated procedures for securing accurate and targeted feedback from our various stakeholders.

 Our strategic plan is available on our Web site: [CLICK HERE](http://www.elections.ca/eca/pln/plan_e.pdf). [http://www.elections.ca/eca/pln/plan\_e.pdf]

## Modern comptrollership

Following a capacity assessment that we commissioned in 2002–2003, we developed an action plan for implementing modern comptrollership principles throughout the agency. In 2004–2005, we will continue to focus on management areas that will improve election readiness and delivery.

## On-line services

Our Web site has become an increasingly important means of making our information accessible, and many of our services are available on-line. Elections Canada has received some 500,000 visits to our Web site for the period of January 1 to March 31, 2004.

In 2004–2005 we will continue to refine our integrated voter information services (one component of which is a self-service approach to voter information on our Web site) and to move forward in the implementation of on-line voter registration.


## 1. Event delivery and political financing

Strategic outcome	Allocation of resources	Priority
	2004–2005	
To deliver federal elections, by-elections and referendums that maintain the integrity of the electoral process, and to administer the political financing provisions of the Act	\$9,181,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Administer the provisions of the <i>Canada Elections Act</i> related to political financing, which include providing quarterly allowances to qualifying political parties</li><li>• Continue to investigate and rule on complaints related to the 2000 general election and subsequent by-elections</li></ul>

## ***Political financing***

On January 1, 2004, substantial amendments to the *Canada Elections Act* came into effect, changing the rules on who can make political donations, of how much and to whom, and expanding reporting requirements to cover a broader range of political entities, namely electoral district associations, nomination contestants and leadership contestants.

As a new priority, during 2004–2005 we will administer the new provisions of the Act in terms of registering political entities; reviewing, auditing and publishing the financial information; and ensuring that the Act is complied with and enforced.


 Information on the changes to the Act appears on our Web site: [CLICK HERE](http://www.elections.ca/content.asp?section=loi&document=index&dir=re3&lang=e&textonly=false). [http://www.elections.ca/content.asp?section=loi&document=index&dir=re3&lang=e&textonly=false]


## ***Event-delivery activities***

Whether or not an electoral event is held, we continue two activities related to event delivery as part of our normal work. In 2004–2005, the Commissioner of Canada Elections will continue to investigate and rule on complaints concerning contraventions of the *Canada Elections Act* that arose from previous electoral events, and we will continue to publish comprehensive electoral information on past electoral events on our Web site.

We monitor our compliance activities by tracking our complaint and investigation files using our database, and by monitoring all enforcement cases as they proceed through the courts or mediation. We also undertake media monitoring for relevant information. We measure our effectiveness by comparing data for cases received with cases successfully completed.

Some of the electoral information that we publish comes from reports required under the *Canada Elections Act*, with specific deadlines. We monitor its timely appearance by comparing the deadline dates with the dates of publication.

 Details of convictions appear on our Web site: [CLICK HERE](http://www.elections.ca/content.asp?section=loi&document=index&dir=sen&lang=e&textonly=false). [http://www.elections.ca/content.asp?section=loi&document=index&dir=sen&lang=e&textonly=false] For summaries of the terms of compliance agreements, [CLICK HERE](http://www.elections.ca/content.asp?section=loi&document=index&dir=agr&lang=e&textonly=false). [http://www.elections.ca/content.asp?section=loi&document=index&dir=agr&lang=e&textonly=false]

 For links to searchable databases of candidates' and political parties' financial returns and statements, and to third parties' election advertising reports, [CLICK HERE](http://www.elections.ca/intro.asp?section=fin&document=index&lang=e&textonly=false). [http://www.elections.ca/intro.asp?section=fin&document=index&lang=e&textonly=false] Print versions of the annual *Registered Political Parties' Fiscal Period Returns* are available for sale.



## ***Relationships with other organizations***

Our relationships with several federal government organizations assist us in delivering electoral events: the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, by helping overseas electors; the Department of National Defence, by aiding Canadian Forces electors; the Correctional Service of Canada and provincial corrections authorities, by assisting incarcerated electors; and Canada Post Corporation, by delivering election material to returning officers and information to electors in the form of the voter information card and the reminder card.

## **2. Event readiness and improvements**

<b>Strategic outcome</b>	<b>Allocation of resources</b>	<b>Priority</b>
	<b>2004–2005</b>	
To achieve and maintain a state of readiness to deliver electoral events whenever they may be called, and to improve the delivery of electoral events	\$32,398,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review voter registration and electoral geography</li><li>• Review information technology systems</li><li>• Improve service delivery</li></ul>

In our *Report on Plans and Priorities* for 2003–2004, we continued the priorities from our report for 2002–2003: improving the coverage and currency of the lists of electors, and improving the accuracy and effectiveness of the voter information card sent to each registered elector before election day.

In last year's report we noted that the priority identified in our 2002–2003 report of supporting the 10 independent federal electoral boundaries commissions would be modified to implementing those commissions' reports in 2003–2004. The proclamation of the representation order resulting from the reports of the commissions was made on August 25, 2003, and comes into effect on the date of the first dissolution of Parliament on or after April 1, 2004 as a result of Bill C-5, *An Act respecting the effective date of the representation order of 2003*, which received royal assent on March 11, 2004. Because our work in this area was completed by that time, implementation of the representation order is not a priority for the 2004–2005 period.

## ***Voter registration and electoral geography***

The National Register of Electors has evolved to include regular reviews by returning officers and increased sharing of data with the provinces. As a new priority in 2004–2005, we will begin a strategic review of all aspects of voter registration, including registration on-line. The partnership between Elections Canada and Statistics Canada to maintain a national geographic database has proven very effective in meeting the needs of both agencies while reducing costs and duplication. Recent developments in this area at the federal and provincial levels call for us to review this initiative to ensure that the current partnership is the most effective means of delivering this service.

We will also incorporate these reviews into the strategic evaluation that we will conduct during and after the next general election.

Information on the Register appears on our Web site: [CLICK HERE](http://www.elections.ca/intro.asp?section=ins&document=index&lang=e&textonly=false).  
[http://www.elections.ca/intro.asp?section=ins&document=index&lang=e&textonly=false]  
e] For a summary of our 2003 *On-line Voter Registration Feasibility Study*, [CLICK HERE](http://www.elections.ca/content.asp?section=loi&document=index&dir=fea&lang=e&textonly=false).  
[http://www.elections.ca/content.asp?section=loi&document=index&dir=fea&lang=e&textonly=false]

## ***Information technology***

In 2004–2005, a new priority is to develop a strategy to replace the computer hardware in returning offices that will fully support future innovation and integrated systems supporting the delivery of electoral events.

## ***Service delivery***

Elections Canada has made a commitment to Parliament to continuously improve our services to the public, parliamentarians, political entities, our partners and other stakeholders. As a priority that continues our earlier work, during 2004–2005 we will:

- continue to improve the accessibility of electoral geography products and services by making more maps and other products available in digital form and through the Internet;
- improve the planning and delivery of elections by expanding our support, training and communications programs for returning officers and other electoral officers between and during elections; and
- continue to develop and maintain strategic partnerships with other federal government organizations and the electoral bodies of other orders of government for sharing data and products to improve service to the electorate, and maintain our relationships with data suppliers such as vital statistics and driver's licence bureaus.

### ***Relationships with other organizations***

Partnerships assist us in maintaining election readiness. We share the maintenance of the National Geographic Database with Statistics Canada. The Canada Revenue Agency and Citizenship and Immigration Canada provide data to update the National Register of Electors, as do provincial and territorial drivers' licence and vital statistics bureaus. We may share, for electoral purposes, lists of electors produced from the Register with provincial and territorial chief electoral officers as well as with municipal electoral agencies, who in turn provide revised lists that we use to update the Register.

### **3. Public education and information, and support**

<b>Strategic outcome</b>	<b>Allocation of resources</b>	<b>Priority</b>
	<b>2004–2005</b>	
To provide timely and high-quality public education and information programs, and assurance that support on electoral matters is available to the public, parliamentarians, Cabinet, political entities, federal electoral boundaries commissions, partners and other stakeholders	\$8,596,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improve communications with electors</li></ul>

In the summary table of priorities for our *Report on Plans and Priorities* last year, we listed three priorities for this strategic outcome. Two of these – improving our public enquiries system and supporting the 10 independent federal boundaries commissions – have since been completed. The third remains as our 2004–2005 priority.

#### ***Communications with electors***

To improve communications with electors, a priority that we established last year, in 2004–2005 we will focus on special outreach efforts targeting young voters, Aboriginal electors, electors with special needs and ethnocultural minorities with significant numbers of new Canadians. With more effective communications, Canadians will be better informed about the electoral process and the importance of exercising the right to vote. In some cases – with youth, for example – we are working with non-governmental organizations to achieve our objectives.

📎 Our Young Voters site includes downloadable publications for young people and a link for teachers to order two CD-ROMs for classroom use: [CLICK HERE](http://www.elections.ca/content_youth.asp?section=yth&document=index&lang=e&textonly=false).  
[http://www.elections.ca/content\_youth.asp?section=yth&document=index&lang=e&textonly=false]

We will continue to provide expert advice and support on electoral matters, the application of relevant court decisions, and the development of legislative and other proposed changes presented to Parliament, stakeholders and the Canadian public.

### ***Relationships with other organizations***

We have close relations and a number of partnerships with youth, Aboriginal, educational, ethnocultural and special-needs associations, which help us to provide public education and information about the electoral process; with the Canadian International Development Agency, which assists us in furnishing technical and professional electoral assistance to other countries; with the United Nations, the International Foundation for Election Systems, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance and other international organizations, which provide resources for electoral studies, conferences and research; and with research institutes and centres in Canada and other countries.

## **V. ORGANIZATION**

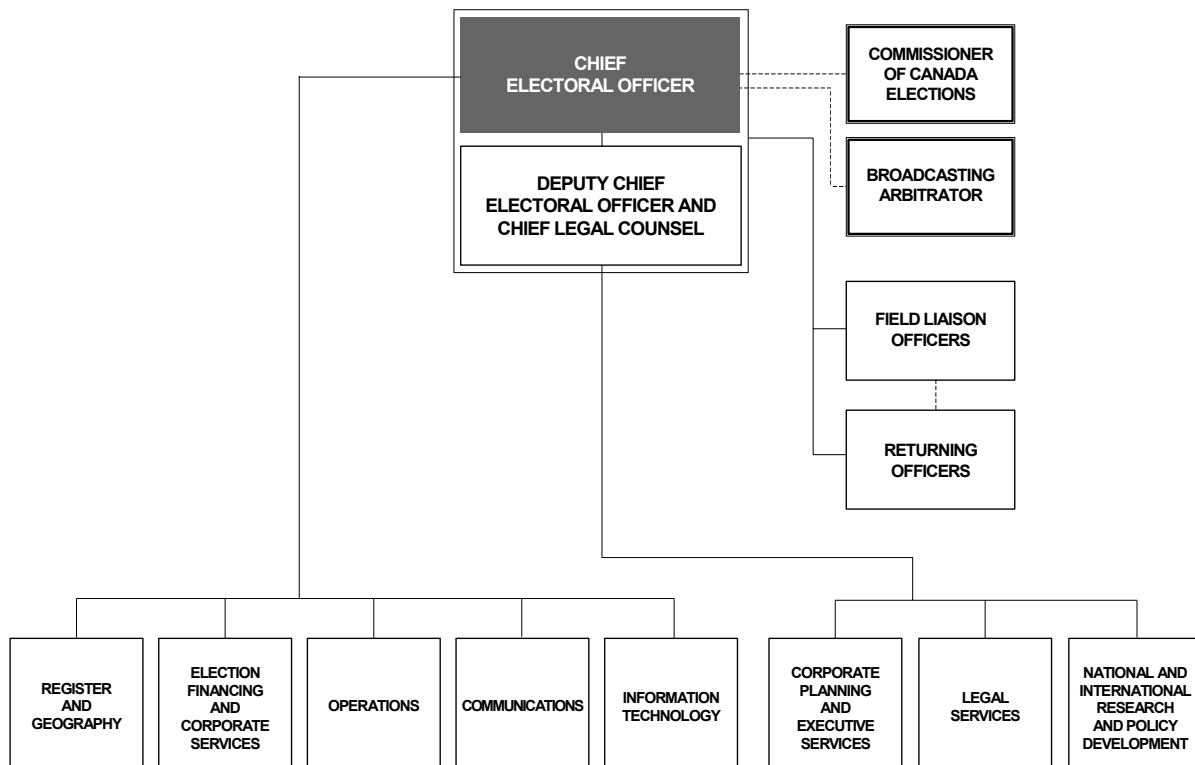
### **Elections Canada's organization and accountability**

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, commonly known as Elections Canada, is headed by the Chief Electoral Officer, who is appointed by resolution of the House of Commons. Reporting directly to Parliament, the Chief Electoral Officer is independent of the federal government and political parties.

The Chief Electoral Officer appoints the Commissioner of Canada Elections and the Broadcasting Arbitrator. The Chief Electoral Officer is seconded by the Deputy Chief Electoral Officer and Chief Legal Counsel, and is supported by eight directorates. Returning officers, appointed by the Governor in Council, administer the electoral process in each of the 308 electoral districts. Elections Canada provides extensive technical expertise and services to federal electoral boundaries commissions, and authorizes the amounts required for the payment of commissions' expenditures.

Elections Canada also retains the services of 24 field liaison officers who are accountable to the Chief Electoral Officer and the Deputy Chief Electoral Officer. Field liaison officers support the work of returning officers in the field as functional leaders, quality enhancers and troubleshooters. Field liaison officers are also responsible for liaising with the media at the local level.

This figure illustrates the agency's organizational structure and reporting relationships.



## Strategic outcomes and funding authorities

Elections Canada operates under two funding authorities: an annual appropriation (which essentially provides for the salaries of permanent full-time staff) and the statutory authority (which provides for all other expenditures).

Strategic outcomes for 2004–2005				
(\$ thousands)	1. Event delivery and political financing	2. Event readiness and improvements	3. Public education and information, and support	Total
Vote 25 – Program Expenditures	245	9,993	2,948	13,186
Statutory – Expenses of Election	8,936	22,405	5,648	36,989
Total	9,181	32,398	8,596	50,175

## Agency planned spending

(\$ thousands)	Forecast spending 2003–2004	<b>Planned spending 2004–2005</b>	Planned spending 2005–2006	Planned spending 2006–2007
Budgetary Main Estimates:				
– Administration	15,660	<b>16,238</b>	16,174	16,174
– Elections	34,149	<b>33,937</b>	–	–
Total Budgetary (gross)	49,809	<b>50,175</b>	16,174	16,174
Non-budgetary Main Estimates (gross)	–	–	–	–
Less: Respendable revenue	–	–	–	–
<b>Total Main Estimates</b>	<b>49,809</b>	<b>50,175</b>	<b>16,174</b>	<b>16,174</b>
Adjustments:				
– Vote 20 – Program Expenditures	267	–	–	–
– Statutory – Expenses of Election	57,628	–	–	–
Total Adjustments	57,895	–	–	–
<b>Net planned spending</b>	<b>107,704</b>	<b>50,175</b>	<b>16,174</b>	<b>16,174</b>
Less: Non-respendable revenue	–	–	–	–
Plus: Cost of services received without charge	4,520	<b>4,678</b>	4,777	4,877
<b>Net cost of program</b>	<b>112,224</b>	<b>54,853</b>	<b>20,951</b>	<b>21,051</b>
<b>Full-time equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>330</b>

In this planned spending table:

- *Adjustments* accommodate approvals we obtain after the Main Estimates, and include Supplementary Estimates.
- *Net planned spending* for 2003–2004 reflects our best forecast to the end of the fiscal year.
- *Full-time equivalents (FTEs)*: staff requirements are measured in terms of full-time equivalents. The FTE is based on the length of time that an employee works during each week of the year, calculated from the number of assigned hours actually worked divided by the scheduled hours of work. The FTE requirements under the statutory authority for the fiscal years beyond 2004–2005 are based on the 2004–2005 level as an indicator. We will draw any FTE requirement needed to carry out our statutory responsibilities under the statutory authority, if necessary.





## ANNEX: FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### Net cost of program

**Table 1 – Net cost of program by funding authority for 2004–2005**

(\$ thousands)	Administration	Elections and referendums	Total
Vote 25 – Program Expenditures	13,186	–	13,186
Statutory – Expenses of Election	3,052	33,937	36,989
<b>Net planned spending</b>	<b>16,238</b>	<b>33,937</b>	<b>50,175</b>
<i>Plus: Services received without charge</i>			
Accommodation provided by Public Works and Government Services Canada	3,602	–	3,602
Contributions covering employer's share of insurance premiums and expenditures paid by Treasury Board Secretariat	1,055	–	1,055
Workers' Compensation coverage provided by Human Resources Development Canada	4	–	4
Salary and associated expenditures of legal services provided by Justice Canada	17	–	17
	4,678	–	4,678
<i>Less: Non-respendable revenue</i>	–	–	–
<b>2004–2005 net cost of program</b>	<b>20,916</b>	<b>33,937</b>	<b>54,853</b>

In this table, the *Statutory* funding authority includes the expenses of elections, the employee benefits plan and the salary of the Chief Electoral Officer.

### Summary of transfer payments

The forecast spending for 2003–2004 is the best forecast of total net planned spending to the end of the fiscal year.

**Table 2 – Summary of transfer payments**

(\$ thousands)	Forecast spending 2003–2004	Planned spending 2004–2005	Planned spending 2005–2006	Planned spending 2006–2007
<b>Other transfer payments</b>				
Reimbursement of candidates' and political parties' election expenses	264	– <sup>1</sup>	– <sup>1</sup>	– <sup>1</sup>
Political parties' quarterly allowances	21,993	<b>6,000</b>	–	–
<b>Total transfer payments</b>	<b>22,257</b>	<b>6,000</b>	–	–

<sup>1</sup> No amount has been provided for the fiscal periods beyond 2003–2004 because dates of future elections are unknown. When funds are needed to carry out the agency's legislated responsibilities, they will be drawn under the statutory authority, as required.

**Table 3 – Details of transfer payment programs**

<i>Objective</i>	<p>Elections Canada's role is to administer the <i>Canada Elections Act</i>, which has three main objectives: fairness, transparency and participation. To promote electoral fairness and participation, the Act provides for eligible political parties the payment of quarterly allowances according to the following formula:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>□ registered political parties that obtain at least 2 percent of the total valid votes cast in a general election, or 5 percent of the valid votes cast in the ridings where they are presenting candidates, have the right to a quarterly allowance that is calculated as the product of \$0.4375 multiplied by the number of valid votes cast in the most recent general election preceding that quarter and the inflation adjustment factor that is in effect for that quarter</li></ul>
<i>Planned Results</i>	<p>Electoral events that are fair and accessible within the context of, and in accordance with, constitutional and legal requirements.</p>
<i>Milestones for 2004–2005</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>□ calculating quarterly allowances for eligible political parties and making payments of approximately \$6 million by March 31, 2005</li></ul>

## Contacts for further information

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