



Office of the
Chief Electoral Officer
of Canada

Report on the 2018 By-elections

March 2019



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Chief Electoral Officer
of Canada

Report on the 2018 By-elections

For enquiries, please contact:

Public Enquiries Unit
Elections Canada
30 Victoria Street
Gatineau, Quebec
K1A 0M6
Tel.: 1-800-463-6868
Fax: 1-888-524-1444 (toll-free)
TTY: 1-800-361-8935
elections.ca



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@ElectionsCan_E



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Elections Canada



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Le directeur général des élections • The Chief Electoral Officer

March 29, 2019

The Honourable Geoff Regan, P.C., M.P.
Speaker of the House of Commons
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I am pleased to provide my report on the by-elections held in 2018 in the following electoral districts:

On June 18, 2018: Chicoutimi–Le Fjord (Quebec)

On December 3, 2018: Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes (Ontario)

I have prepared the report in accordance with subsection 534(2) of the *Canada Elections Act*, S.C. 2000, c. 9. Under section 536 of the Act, the Speaker shall submit this report to the House of Commons without delay.

The report includes a summary of the official voting results and other information on the by-elections.

For more information, please see the Elections Canada website at elections.ca.

Yours sincerely,

Stéphane Perrault
Chief Electoral Officer

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Foreword

Under the *Canada Elections Act* (CEA), if one or more by-elections are held in a year, the Chief Electoral Officer must, within 90 days after the end of the year, produce a report that sets out “any matter or event that has arisen or occurred in connection with the administration of the Chief Electoral Officer’s office since the last report and that he or she considers should be brought to the attention of the House of Commons.”

In 2018, by-elections were held in the electoral districts of Chicoutimi–Le Fjord (Quebec) and Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes (Ontario). This report discusses the conduct of these two by-elections, as well as administrative changes and improvements implemented since the agency last reported to Parliament in March 2018.

The following initiatives were piloted during the by-elections and aimed to improve the electoral process for Canadians and election workers for the next general election:

- Streamlined administrative and financial procedures for election workers in the field and for staff at headquarters, enabled by renewed IT hardware and software;
- A redesigned ballot that is more accessible and more efficient for printing;
- Fewer, simplified tools and documents for election workers processing voters at the polls. This will make the voting process simpler and faster for both voters and election workers, while reducing our environmental footprint.

Over the past year, Elections Canada has made significant progress on our strategic priorities as we prepare for the 2019 general election. We are improving the registration and voting experience, strengthening our security posture in collaboration with national security agencies, and making processes easier for election workers.

We will continue to make progress on our priorities in the final preparation stage for the 2019 general election. We will also focus on implementing recent legislative changes enacted by Parliament under C-76, known as the *Elections Modernization Act*, which received Royal Assent on December 13, 2018. On June 13, 2019, six months after Royal Assent, all provisions in this legislation will be in force. Some provisions will be brought into force earlier as the necessary preparations are made, in accordance with the CEA. For example, on January 19, 2019, we published a notice in the *Canada Gazette* about several provisions that came into force on that date because we were operationally ready to implement them.

More details on the progress of our work over the last year and our plans for 2019–20 can be found in our 2017–18 Departmental Results Report, on our website and in our 2019–20 Departmental Plan, to be published in April 2019.

With only months before the start of the 43rd general election, Elections Canada is well-positioned in terms of our readiness preparations.

1. The 2018 By-elections

This section provides a description of activities related to the federal by-elections in 2018.

1.1. Launching the By-elections

Issue of the writs

By-elections were held in June and December of 2018 to replace members of Parliament in two electoral districts.

By-election date	Electoral district	Reason for issue of writ	Writ issue date
June 18, 2018	Chicoutimi–Le Fjord	Resignation of the Hon. Denis Lemieux (Liberal)	May 13, 2018
December 3, 2018	Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes	Death of the Hon. Gordon Brown (Conservative)	October 28, 2018

Opening local Elections Canada offices; hiring and training election workers

Shortly after the writs were issued for the 2018 by-elections, Elections Canada opened one local and one satellite office in Chicoutimi–Le Fjord and one local office and one satellite office in Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes.

Returning officers hired 560 and 672 election workers in the electoral districts of Chicoutimi–Le Fjord and Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes, respectively. Most of the election workers applied through the Elections Canada website. In addition to the website, returning officers use various recruitment options, including posting on job boards on local university and college campuses, and reaching out to ethnocultural organizations, Indigenous Friendship Centres, seniors' organizations and other groups.

Please see Table 1 in Appendix 2 for the list and number of positions occupied for the 2018 by-elections.

Elections Canada provided a wide range of training materials for staff in the two electoral districts, including video presentations, manuals and online resources.

Poll worker training programs have been refined with each by-election since the 2015 general election. The programs now employ a more hands-on approach, which gives poll workers a chance to practice their key job functions before voting day. While the content of the training materials remained mostly the same, these by-elections presented an

opportunity to work more closely with training officers to improve the training program delivery. The lessons learned from this experience will contribute to a more efficient and effective training program for poll workers for the 2019 general election.

Working with political entities

Candidates and registered political parties

There were 15 registered political parties eligible to field candidates for the 2018 by-elections. Please see Appendix 1 for the list of these political parties.

As stipulated in the CEA, prospective candidates had to file their nomination papers by 2:00 p.m. on the 21st day before election day.

Six candidates ran in the riding of Chicoutimi–Le Fjord, including one candidate who ran as an independent. Five candidates ran in Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes, including the same independent candidate who ran in Chicoutimi–Le Fjord. Table 2 in Appendix 2 lists the confirmed candidates and their party affiliation at the close of nominations for each electoral district.

Soon after the close of nominations, returning officers held meetings with confirmed candidates and their representatives on their obligations and responsibilities under the CEA. The returning officers also made several information tools available, including handbooks, tutorials, multimedia kits and customized software for filing returns.

Election expenses limits

At their meetings with the candidates, returning officers shared material on political financing rules and the expenditure limits that apply to their electoral district. The final election expenses limits are based on the number of names on the preliminary lists of electors or on the revised lists of electors, whichever is greater, and are established in accordance with the CEA. The CEA also places limits on advertising expenses by registered third parties, although there were none registered for these by-elections, which is typical of by-elections. Table 3 in Appendix 2 shows the election expenses limits for candidates and political parties for each electoral district and the average for each day of by-elections.

Information campaign for electors

Objectives of the campaign

In the run-up to the by-elections, Elections Canada used our “Ready to Vote” information campaign, the same one used in the 2015 general election. The campaign is designed to inform Canadians about the electoral process, the voter registration procedures and the accepted forms of identification they need to present at the polling station. Communications tools used in the 2018 by-elections included a paid media campaign including radio, newspapers and digital; signage; several webpages on elections.ca; electronic and print information products; direct mail; and outreach to specific groups of electors. The campaign also included non-traditional advertising channels, such as Tims TV and social media,

including Facebook, YouTube and Instagram, plus organic social media messages from Elections Canada's corporate accounts.

These communications efforts were synchronized to the various phases of the by-election calendar: voter registration, mailing voter information cards, voting at advance polls and voting on election day.

Social media

During both by-elections, Elections Canada used social media to share information and digital products about registration and voting. Elections Canada posted messages on our Instagram account and used our YouTube channel to share electoral district-specific informational videos. The Elections Canada Twitter and Facebook accounts were also used to respond to questions from the public.

During the Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes by-election period, Elections Canada piloted a behind-the-scenes social media campaign. This pilot tested the performance of creative photos and short videos that showcased the operations of the electoral process and running an election. These messages were issued on Elections Canada's Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn pages.

Overall, the multimedia campaign delivered notable results, compared to our standard by-election messaging. On average there was a 57 percent increase in interactions with behind-the-scenes messaging on Facebook and a 40 percent increase on Twitter. These results will inform future initiatives.

Website

As in past elections, the Elections Canada website prominently featured two online services to help electors find the information they needed to be ready to vote. Electors could enter their postal code into the Voter Information Service to learn where and when they could vote and about the accessibility of their polling place. They could also use the Online Voter Registration Service to register or check if they were registered. The website also provided information about voter eligibility and identification requirements for voting. All told, 31,714 people visited the website during the by-election periods: 20,076 people during the Chicoutimi–Le Fjord by-election and 11,638 during the Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes by-election.

Live election results were published on the website as ballots were counted. On election night for Chicoutimi–Le Fjord, there were 18,576 visits to the website to view the by-election results and 20,135 visits the next day. For Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes, there were 5,475 visits to the website to view the by-election results and 4,321 visits the next day.

Enquiries from electors

Electors could check or update their registration status online and learn about the location of their polling place, the voting procedures and other topics directly at the local Elections Canada offices or by contacting the national Elections Canada office via the toll-free

numbers or by email. Agents at the Public Enquiries Unit at Elections Canada's headquarters responded to 297 enquiries about the by-election in Chicoutimi–Le Fjord, while local and satellite offices handled 752 calls. For Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes, the Public Enquiries Unit responded to 209 enquiries, while the local office received 2,184 calls. The volume was consistent with previous by-elections.

Direct mail

Elections Canada mailed 65,418 and 79,336 voter information cards (VICs) to electors whose names appeared on the preliminary lists of electors in Chicoutimi–Le Fjord and Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes, respectively. The VIC tells electors when and where they can vote at advance polls and on election day, describes other voting options, gives them basic information on the accessibility of their polling place and points them to our website for more detailed accessibility information.

Shortly before advance polls, we also sent all households in each electoral district a reminder brochure with information about voter eligibility, registration, identification requirements and ways to vote. The brochure also prompted electors to contact Elections Canada if they did not receive a VIC. A total of 39,625 and 41,646 reminder brochures were sent out for the 2018 by-elections to households in Chicoutimi–Le Fjord and Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes, respectively.

Community relations and outreach

Returning officers determine whether a community relations officer¹ (CRO) is required to conduct outreach activities for a specific target group based on the demographics and needs in their electoral district. In Chicoutimi–Le Fjord, two CROs were appointed, one for seniors and one for youth. In Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes, one CRO was appointed to liaise with electors with disabilities. The CROs set up kiosks, made presentations, hosted discussion groups, distributed information products, and liaised with electors in these target groups and contacts in organizations or facilities providing services to these groups.

Media Relations

Media Relations handled 12 media requests regarding the Chicoutimi–Le Fjord by-election, and made two proactive calls to media on the topic of advance polls. There were four media requests during the Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes by-election, and spokespeople did four proactive interviews with local media outlets. There were 12 news releases issued for each by-election.

¹ Community relations officers work with local organizations to remove barriers to registration and voting in communities. These officers provide information on when, where and ways to register and vote, as well as on the tools and services available to voters. For more information, please visit our website Resource Centre > Research > Post-election Evaluations > 2011 General Election > Local Outreach in the 41st General Election.

Based on requests from poll workers in the past, a new *Media at the Polls* handout was created to alleviate the burden on central poll supervisors (CPSs) by clearly explaining the rules to media outlets and shifting the task of handling questions and complaints to Elections Canada's Media Relations staff at headquarters.

For the Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands–Rideau Lakes by-election, the handout was used, but Media Relations did not receive any requests from media to visit a polling place or any feedback from poll workers, CPSs or the returning officers. Therefore, the handout will continue as a pilot project for the 2019 by-elections to refine its use in the next general election, and Media Relations will be more proactive in soliciting feedback.

1.2. Voter Registration Services

The National Register of Electors

Elections Canada maintains the National Register of Electors (the Register), a database of Canadians who have established their eligibility to vote in federal elections. The Register is regularly updated between and during elections, using administrative data received through agreements with federal, provincial and territorial agencies. Specifically, agreements are held with the Canada Revenue Agency; Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada; most provincial/territorial agencies responsible for driver licensing and vital statistics; and provincial/territorial electoral management bodies.

When an election is called, the agency uses data from the Register to produce the preliminary lists of electors, which are provided to registered political parties and to the returning officers, who provide them to the local candidates as required in the CEA. The preliminary lists are also used to produce the VICs.

Coverage, currency and accuracy of the Register

The quality of the Register is key to ensuring that all electors receive a VIC. It is also important to political parties and candidates who wish to engage with electors. Quality is a function of three factors: coverage, currency and accuracy.

Coverage is the proportion of eligible electors who are registered to vote. Historically, national coverage has varied between 91 and 94 percent. In the 2018 by-elections, the coverage of the preliminary lists was 95.5 percent in Chicoutimi–Le Fjord and 93.2 percent in Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes.

Currency is the proportion of eligible electors who are registered at their current address. Historically, the national currency has varied between 81 and 86 percent. In the 2018 by-elections, the currency of the preliminary lists was 92.8 percent in Chicoutimi–Le Fjord and 90.9 percent in Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes.

Accuracy is the proportion of registered electors who are listed at their current address. These electors are correctly registered and can vote without taking extra steps. Accuracy is calculated by dividing the currency estimates by the coverage estimates. Historically, national accuracy has varied between 88 and 92 percent. In the 2018 by-elections, the accuracy of the preliminary lists was 97.2 percent in Chicoutimi–Le Fjord and 97.5 percent in Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes, which is higher, but comparable to the variations across these electoral districts in the 2015 general election.

Many factors may affect the quality of lists, including demographic changes and the timely availability of data. The occurrence of these factors may vary by region. However, revision activities carried out by returning officers and through online registration in the weeks prior to election day aim to improve the quality of lists.

Table 4 in Appendix 2 shows the coverage, currency and accuracy of the preliminary lists for each by-election.

Revision period

The revision period began on Day 33 (three days after the by-elections were called) and ended at 6:00 p.m. on the 6th day before election day.

During the revision period, the local Elections Canada offices in each electoral district offer registration services in person and over the phone. Also, service agents are sent out to update address information for electors living on First Nations reserves, in long-term care facilities, student residences, high mobility or new residential neighbourhoods. Throughout the 2018 by-elections, electors could also go online to check whether they were registered, update their address or complete their registration.

Table 5 in Appendix 2 provides details on changes made to the lists of electors during the revision periods for the two electoral districts involved in the 2018 by-elections.

1.3. Voting Services

Electors can cast their ballot at their assigned advance polls during one of the four days designated, at their assigned ordinary poll on election day, or under the special voting rules at their local Elections Canada office or by mail. Other voting methods are also available for residents of long-term care facilities and seniors' residences, electors confined to their homes, members of Canadian Forces, and incarcerated electors.

Polling places

For the by-election in Chicoutimi–Le Fjord, the returning officer established 13 polling stations at 13 polling places for advance polls, and 170 polling stations at 37 polling places on election day. A total of 3 mobile polling stations visited 6 establishments.

For the 2018 by-elections in Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes, returning officers established 19 polling stations at 15 polling places for advance polls, and 211 polling stations at 54 polling places on election day. A total of 6 mobile polling stations visited 16 establishments.

Table 6 in Appendix 2 provides a detailed breakdown of the number of polling stations and polling places for each electoral district.

Elections Canada and our Advisory Group for Disability Issues established a checklist of 37 criteria (increased from 35 since 2015), 15 of which are mandatory, in order for a polling place to be considered accessible. The Canadian Standards Association's *Accessible Design for the Built Environment* was used as a baseline to establish both the mandatory and non-mandatory criteria. Non-mandatory criteria include available parking, public transit access, and door handle grip. The VIC informs electors of their polling place's level of accessibility and points them to the Elections Canada's website for more detailed information on the accessibility of their polling place.

Of the 119 polling places in the 2018 by-elections, all met Elections Canada's mandatory accessibility criteria.

Voting

Voting at assigned election day and advance polls

In Chicoutimi–Le Fjord, the majority of voters (18,843 out of 24,204, or 77.9 percent) chose to cast their ballots at a polling station on election day. A further 5,018, or 20.7 percent, voted at advance polls. These turnout numbers are in line with election day and advance poll day results from the last general election and confirm a strong trend of increasing numbers of electors voting in advance of election day.

In Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes, the vast majority of voters (21,889 out of 29,327, or 74.6 percent) chose to cast their ballots at a polling station on election day. A further 6,477, or 22.1 percent, voted at advance polls. These turnout numbers are in line with election day and advance poll day results from the last general election and confirm a strong trend of increasing numbers of electors voting in advance of election day.

Pilot project: Voting process optimization

A newly optimized paper-based voting process was piloted in the 2018 Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes by-election to reduce and simplify processes for faster and smoother service for voters.

The objectives of the new process are to:

- improve and simplify the voting process;
- align advance and election day polling procedures as much as possible; and
- simplify procedures while reducing both the number of exceptions and products at the polls.

The new process also aimed to improve working conditions for poll workers, which will improve poll worker training, compliance with the legislation, integrity of the process and service for electors.

During the by-election, observers at Elections Canada headquarters reported that poll workers seemed to appreciate the refinements, and electors seemed to appreciate the more fluid processing of voters, especially during advance polls. This new process also reduced our environmental footprint by decreasing the amount of paper required to capture the same information.

Following the by-election, an audit of the Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes poll bags revealed that the new optimized products were effectively used and largely completed properly by poll workers. The audit team did, however, notice some common errors, such as date formats and data entry. Therefore, to improve compliance, we have refined some procedures and products that will be tested during the 2019 Simulation exercise in preparation for the general election.

Voting by mail or at a local Elections Canada office

Under the Special Voting Rules (SVR) provisions of the CEA, electors can vote by mail or at any local Elections Canada office. Canadians temporarily outside their electoral district or living abroad can apply online for a special ballot voting kit to be mailed to them.

For every by-election, Elections Canada communicates with our partners at the Department of National Defence, Correctional Service Canada and Global Affairs Canada to disseminate information and registration materials to those electors whose address of ordinary residence is in the electoral district.

Following the successful conduct of a pilot project in 2017, a new one-stop service model was formally implemented in the 2018 by-elections in the local Elections Canada offices of Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes. The new model streamlines in-person services to electors, who are served by service agents who provide both revision and special ballot voting services.

In the 2018 by-election in Chicoutimi–Le Fjord, 343 electors voted by special ballot. This represents 1.4 percent of electors who voted, compared to 3.4 percent in the last general election. In the 2018 by-elections in Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes, 961 electors voted by special ballot. This represents 3.3 percent of electors who voted, compared to 3.2 percent in the last general election.

Table 7 in Appendix 2 provides a breakdown of voting by category for each electoral district. Table 8 provides a detailed breakdown of special ballot voting.

Overall voter turnout

For the 2018 by-elections, overall turnout was 36.5 and 36.0 percent of registered electors in Chicoutimi–Le Fjord and Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes, respectively.

Table 9 in Appendix 2 compares these turnout rates to those in the 2015 general election for each electoral district. Compared to other electoral districts where by-elections have been held since the 42nd general election, the drop in participation in both Chicoutimi–Le Fjord and Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes was as expected—roughly 50 percent of the participation rate in a general election. Historically, overall voter turnout numbers decrease during by-elections.

Pilot project: Ballot Modernization

We piloted the production and use of a new ballot design in these by-elections. The new design was developed in consultation with political parties and stakeholder groups, such as disability communities, and focus-tested with a broad cross-section of Canadians.

The larger ballot features larger font sizes and displays candidates' surnames in upper-case letters to make the information more accessible to people with disabilities. As well, we have introduced a new method of providing ballot files to printing companies. Rather than handling pre-printed paper and using masking techniques, printers can now print the supplied files directly onto ballot paper. In addition, the ballot booklets now contain 50 ballots, up from 25, thereby reducing the labour required during assembly.

We received no feedback from electors about the new ballot design. We will continue to monitor this project in the 2019 by-elections.

Pilot projects enabled by IT Services

We also piloted new administrative and financial procedures with new hardware and software for election workers in the field and for staff at headquarters. We deployed new field hardware designed for the 43rd general election, such as servers, desktops and laptops. This deployment was a unique opportunity for field staff to test the equipment and refine the manuals for the next general election.

We also launched new functionalities and training for the Recruitment Management System that helps returning officers hire staff and helps recruitment officers create and manage training sessions. The pilot allowed us to identify improvements to the system, as well as to training and change management measures. These changes will be tested prior to the general election.

Adaptation

Under the CEA, the Chief Electoral Officer may, for the sole purpose of enabling electors to exercise their right to vote or enabling the counting of votes, adapt the Act under subsection 17(1) to address an emergency, an unusual or unforeseen circumstance, or an error. Adaptations only apply during an election period or within 30 days after election day.

During the 2018 by-elections, there were no adaptations.

1.4. Concluding the By-elections

Election results

The candidates elected in each electoral district in the 2018 by-elections were:

- June 18, 2018, by-election:
 - Chicoutimi–Le Fjord: Richard Martel, Conservative Party of Canada
- December 3, 2018, by-election:
 - Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes: Michael Barrett, Conservative Party of Canada

House of Commons seat distribution at the call of and after the 2018 by-elections

Party	June 18, 2018, by-election		December 3, 2018, by-election	
	At call of	After	At call of	After
Liberal Party of Canada	183	183	182	181
Conservative Party of Canada	96	97	96	96
New Democratic Party	43	43	41	41
Bloc Québécois	10	10	10	10
Green Party of Canada	1	1	1	1
People's Party of Canada	0	0	1	1
Co-operative Commonwealth Federation	1	1	1	1
Independent	2	2	2	4
Vacant	2	1	4	3

Validation of results and return of writs

Returning officers in each electoral district validate the results of a by-election as soon as possible after voting day. Once they determine that all ballots have been fairly and accurately counted, they issue a certificate indicating the number of votes cast for each candidate.

A returning officer must hold the writ for six days after the validation of the results to allow time for candidates and electors to request a recount. If there is no recount, the returning officer declares the candidate who received the most votes elected and returns the writ to the Chief Electoral Officer.

There were no recounts initiated in either of the 2018 by-elections.

Table 10 in Appendix 2 lists the number of valid votes obtained by each candidate in each electoral district.

The official voting results were published on Elections Canada's website at elections.ca > Resource Centre > Reports > Elections Canada's Official Reports > Official Voting Results.

Table 11 in Appendix 2 shows the dates on which results were validated and writs were returned for each electoral district.

Complaints

During and after general elections or by-elections, Elections Canada receives, reviews and responds to complaints from electors. Complaints may relate to a wide range of issues, from long lines, to campaign financing irregularities, to accessibility problems in polling places.² Electors can register complaints by telephone, mail or email, or through a special form available on elections.ca. They also have the option of lodging a complaint at a local Elections Canada office or at their polling place.

Elections Canada received 40 complaints related to the 2018 by-elections:

- 3 complaints related to the agency's central services, such as VICs, lists of electors and voting by special ballot;
- 20 complaints related to polling place accessibility, of which 5 issues related to parking; 2 issues related to signage; 1 issue related to the location of the voting room; 2 issues related to exterior pathways; 1 issue related to a level access entrance; 3 issues related to exterior and interior building lighting and protruding objects; and 6 issues related to hallways, doors and door thresholds;
- 16 complaints related to services at the polls; and
- 1 complaint related to activities of political parties, such as campaigning and spending.

The volume and content of complaints for the 2018 by-elections were consistent with previous by-elections.

² The agency defines a complaint as an expression of dissatisfaction with the products or services provided by Elections Canada, the way in which services were provided to Elections Canada, or the inappropriate conduct of a person or group in the electoral process.

Elections Canada follows up on all complaints received. Complaints impacting the right to vote are given the highest priority. Feedback received through complaints is analyzed and used to improve our services. Complaints that are related to a potential offence under the CEA are referred to the Commissioner of Canada Elections for further investigation. For the 2018 by-elections, no complaints were referred to the Commissioner of Canada Elections. For a summary of complaints for each electoral district, see Table 12 in Appendix 2.

Cost of the by-elections

As of January 1, 2019, the total estimated cost for the two by-elections is \$2.1M, including \$235,000 projected to be paid to candidates for the partial reimbursement of their election expenses and the subsidies to candidates' auditors. The cost per registered elector is estimated at \$14.36.

The following table provides the cost breakdown of the by-elections.

Estimated cost of the 2018 by-elections ³			
Activity	Estimated costs (\$ thousands)		
	June 18 by-election*	December 3 by-election**	Total
Conducting the by-election – Includes expenses related to fees and allowances to returning officers and election staff, printing ballots and lists of electors, leasing local offices and polling places, shipping election material, running communications campaigns, hiring temporary staff and deploying IT infrastructure and telecommunications	\$883	\$1,001	\$1,884
Reimbursing election expenses to candidates and subsidies to candidates' auditors	\$108	\$127	\$235
Total estimated cost	\$991	\$1,128	\$2,119

* Chicoutimi–Le Fjord

** Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes

³ Estimated cost as at January 1, 2019. Actual cost will not be known until Elections Canada has received and processed all outstanding invoices for goods and services, and received and audited all candidates' election expenses reports.

Poll worker compliance with voting day procedures

The *Canada Elections Act* (Act) requires Elections Canada to arrange for an independent audit of the performance of poll workers at each general election and by-election.

In 2015, following a competitive procurement process, the Chief Electoral Officer commissioned PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) to conduct the audits, beginning with the 42nd general election. PwC was tasked to report on whether certain poll workers (deputy returning officers, poll clerks and registration officers) performed the duties and functions imposed on them under specific sections of the Act and to determine the degree to which the established administrative controls, including manuals and training material, supported poll workers in performing their duties.

In 2018, PwC conducted independent audits at the Chicoutimi–Le Fjord and Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes by-elections. Collectively, 320 electoral interactions from a sample of polling sites across both electoral districts were audited.

PwC’s findings concluded that:

- In both by-elections, election officers properly exercised the powers conferred on them, and properly performed the duties and functions imposed on them under specific sections of the Act on all days of advance polling and on election day. This applied to the vast majority of electors who arrived at the polls already registered and with documentary proof of identity and address, and to the minority of electors who required special procedures to vote, such as registering at the polls or correcting their electoral information. While some inconsistencies were noted in the completion of procedures for both groups of electors, PwC noted that these errors were not pervasive.
- A single major finding was discovered, at the Chicoutimi–Le Fjord by-election, where in an isolated incident, a single poll clerk did not strike off the names of electors who had voted from the List of Electors but did check off the box indicating that they had voted.
- PwC also examined Elections Canada’s training program for election officers, in particular during the Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes by-election, for which Elections Canada had introduced changes to the forms, certificates and record-keeping instructions used during the voting process, and had revised the training program accordingly. While PwC noted some suggestions for improving the training program, particularly to reinforce the proper handling of special procedures, they concluded that overall, Elections Canada’s training program is comprehensive and effective for providing prescriptive guidance and support to the temporary workforce hired to work at the by-elections.

These audit findings are in line with those reported in the *Retrospective Report on the 42nd General Election of October 19, 2015*.

Survey of Electors

Additional information on the 2018 by-elections can be found in the Survey of Electors commissioned following each election. The findings are available on our website at [elections.ca Home > Resource Centre > Research > Post-election Evaluations](#).

Appendix 1 – List of Registered Political Parties

Registered political parties during the 2018 by-elections

- Alliance of the North
- Animal Protection Party of Canada
- Bloc Québécois
- Christian Heritage Party of Canada
- Communist Party of Canada
- Conservative Party of Canada
- Green Party of Canada
- Liberal Party of Canada
- Libertarian Party of Canada
- Marijuana Party
- Marxist-Leninist Party of Canada
- New Democratic Party
- Pirate Party of Canada
- Progressive Canadian Party
- Rhinoceros Party

Appendix 2 – Tables

Table 1 – Number of positions filled* for the 2018 by-elections

Position	Chicoutimi–Le Fjord	Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes
Poll Workers		
Central poll supervisor	57	73
Deputy returning officer	191	248
Information officer	0	0
Poll clerk	191	236
Registration officer	41	77
Special messenger	0	0
Subtotal	480	634
Other Election Workers		
Additional assistant returning officer	1	1
Assistant automation coordinator	1	1
Assistant recruitment officer	1	2
Assistant returning officer	1	1
Automation coordinator	1	1
Community relations officer	2	1
Financial officer	1	1
Inventory clerk (Electoral material coordinator)	1	3
Office clerk	19	1
Office coordinator	1	1
Office messenger	2	9
Receptionist	5	2
Recruitment officer	1	1
Returning officer	1	1
Revising agent	32	9
Revision centre clerk	0	0
Revision supervisor	1	0
Special ballot coordinator	6	1
Support staff for office of	0	0

Table 1 – Number of positions filled* for the 2018 by-elections

Position	Chicoutimi–Le Fjord	Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes
additional assistant returning officer		
Training officer	1	2
Witness—validation of results	2	0
SVRE-SBC	0	0
Safety officer	0	0
Hospital liaison officer	0	0
Subtotal	80	38
Total	560	672

*Includes individuals on standby. Excludes trainees not retained.

Table 2 – Number of candidates, by electoral district

Electoral district	Number of confirmed candidates	Candidate name	Political affiliation of confirmed candidates
June 18, 2018, by-election			
Chicoutimi–Le Fjord	6	Boivin, Lina	Liberal
		Bouchard-Tremblay, Catherine	Bloc Québécois
		Dubois, Éric	NDP-New Democratic Party
		Martel, Richard	Conservative
		Turmel, John The Engineer	Independent
		Youde, Lynda	Green Party
December 3, 2018, by-election			
Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes	5	Barrett, Michael	Conservative
		McFall, Mary Jean	Liberal
		Rekmans, Lorraine	Green Party
		Taylor, Michelle	NDP – New Democratic Party
		Turmel, John The Engineer	Independent

Table 3 – Expenses limits for the 2018 by-elections

Candidate expenses limits for June 18, 2018, by-election		Average: \$97,940
Electoral district	Expenses limit for candidates	
Chicoutimi–Le Fjord	\$97,940.85	
Registered political party expenses limits for June 18, 2018, by-election		
Registered political party	Expenses limit for party	
Bloc Québécois	\$69,470.99	
Conservative Party of Canada	\$69,470.99	
Green Party of Canada	\$69,470.99	
Liberal Party of Canada	\$69,470.99	
New Democratic Party	\$69,470.99	
Candidate expenses limits for December 3, 2018, by-election		Average: \$106,032
Electoral district	Expenses limit for candidates	
Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes	\$106,032.66	
Registered political party expenses limits for December 3, 2018, by-election		
Registered political party	Expenses limit for party	
Conservative Party of Canada	\$85,271.92	
Green Party of Canada	\$85,271.92	
Liberal Party of Canada	\$85,271.92	
New Democratic Party	\$85,271.92	

Table 4 – Coverage, currency and accuracy of the preliminary list of electors for the 2018 by-elections, by electoral district (%)

Electoral district	Coverage	Currency	Accuracy
June 18, 2018, by-election			
Chicoutimi–Le Fjord	95.5	92.8	97.2
December 3, 2018, by-election			
Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes	93.2	90.9	97.5

Table 5 – Voter registration statistics for the 2018 by-elections, by electoral district

Electoral district	Electors on preliminary lists (including SVR)	Electors added ¹	Inter-ED address changes ²	Moves within ED ³	Other corrections ⁴	Electors removed ⁵	SVR Group updates ⁶	Electors on final lists ⁷
June 18, 2018, by-election								
Chicoutimi–Le Fjord	65,977	343	265	789	849	322	4	66,267
December 3, 2018, by-election								
Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes	80,656	332	736	986	684	244	1	81,481

¹ Electors who did not appear on any lists of electors at the beginning of the by-election and were added during the by-election.

² ED = electoral district. Electors who appeared on the lists of electors of one ED at the beginning of the by-election but changed their address during the by-election because of a move to another ED.

³ Electors who appeared on the lists of electors of one ED at the beginning of the by-election and changed their address during the by-election because of a move to another polling division. These figures also include administrative changes the returning officer made to elector records during the by-election.

⁴ Electors who appeared on a list of electors and requested a correction to an error in their name or mailing address during the by-election.

⁵ Electors who appeared on a list of electors but were removed because of one of the following: the elector was deceased, the elector requested to be removed, the elector was no longer resident at that address or the elector was not qualified to be on the list (for example, less than 18 years old or a non-citizen). Figures also reflect elector records removed as a result of electors moving to another ED during the by-election and other duplicates removed during the by-election, including those removed during the preparation of the final lists of electors.

⁶ SVR = Special Voting Rules. This row indicates a change in the number of Group 1 electors registered under the SVR (Canadian electors temporarily residing outside Canada, Canadian Forces electors and incarcerated electors) during the by-election.

⁷ The total number of electors on the final lists is the sum of electors on the preliminary lists of electors, electors added, inter-ED address changes and SVR Group 1 updates, minus removed records.

Table 6 – Polling stations and polling sites by category for the 2018 by-elections*

Electoral district	Election day polling stations	Election day polling places	Advance polling stations	Advance polling places	Mobile polling stations
June 18, 2018, by-election					
Chicoutimi–Le Fjord	170	37	13	13	3
December 3, 2018, by-election					
Leeds–Grenville– Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes	211	54	19	15	6

Table 7 – Ballots cast for the 2018 by-elections

Electoral district	Ballots at election day polls	Ballots at advance polls	Voting by special ballot (SVR)	Total valid ballots	Total rejected ballots	Total ballots cast
June 18, 2018, by-election						
Chicoutimi– Le Fjord	18,590	4,955	337	23,882	322	24,204
December 3, 2018, by-election						
Leeds– Grenville– Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes	21,762	6,435	955	29,152	175	29,327

Table 8 – Special Voting Rules ballots for the 2018 by-elections

	Electoral district	Ballots issued	Valid ballots	Rejected ballots	Ballots cast	Ballots returned ³
Group 1 (Canadian Forces, international, incarcerated)	June 18, 2018, by-election					
	Chicoutimi–Le Fjord	816	63	0	63	7.7%
	December 3, 2018, by-election					
	Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes	279	11	0	11	3.9%
	Subtotals	1,095	74	0	74	6.8%
Group 2 (local¹ and national²)	June 18, 2018, by-election					
	Chicoutimi–Le Fjord	280	274	6	274	97.9%
	December 3, 2018, by-election					
	Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes	966	944	6	944	97.7%
	Subtotals	1,246	1,218	12	1,218	97.8%
Totals		2,341	1,292	12	1,292	55.2%

¹ Electors whose applications were processed and whose ballots were counted by local Elections Canada offices. This includes electors who registered to vote in acute care facilities.

² Electors whose applications were processed and whose ballots were counted by Elections Canada in Ottawa.

³ Total ballots cast divided by ballots issued.

Table 9 – Ballots cast in the 2015 general election and 2018 by-elections

Electoral district	Election			
	2015 general election		2018 by-elections	
	Ballots cast	Turnout	Ballots cast	Turnout
EDs with by-elections since 42nd GE, not including 2018				
Sum of 12 EDs	29,4919	66.93%	606,457	32.64%
June 18, 2018, by-election				
Chicoutimi–Le Fjord	44,550	66.67%	24,204	36.53%
December 3, 2018, by-election				
Leeds–Grenville– Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes	56,625	71.08%	29,327	36.10%

Table 10 – Valid votes obtained, by candidate

Electoral district	Candidate and affiliation	Place of residence	Occupation	Valid votes obtained	Percentage of valid votes
June 18, 2018, by-election					
Chicoutimi–Le Fjord	Richard Martel (Conservative)	Chicoutimi, Que.	Commissioner LNAH	12,600	52.8
	Lina Boivin (Liberal)	Chicoutimi, Que.	Consultant	7,044	29.5
	Éric Dubois (NDP-New Democratic Party)	La Baie, Que.	Union Advisor	2,065	8.6
	Catherine Bouchard-Tremblay (Bloc Québécois)	Montréal, Que.	Political attaché	1,337	5.6
	Lynda Youde (Green Party)	Chicoutimi, Que.	Executive Secretary	738	3.1
	John The Engineer Turmel (Independent)	Brantford, Ont.	Engineer	98	0.4
December 3, 2018, by-election					
Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes	Michael Barrett (Conservative)	Spencerville, Ont.	Human Resources Manager	16,852	57.8
	Mary Jean McFall (Liberal)	Brockville, Ont.	Lawyer	10,447	35.8
	Lorraine Rekmans (Green Party)	Osgoode, Ont.	Business Owner / Journalist	859	2.9
	Michelle Taylor (NDP-New Democratic Party)	Athens, Ont.	Homemaker	883	3.0
	John The Engineer Turmel (Independent)	Brantford, Ont.	Banking Systems Engineer	111	0.4

Table 11 – Validation of results and return of writs for the 2018 by-elections

Electoral district	Date results were validated	Date signed by CEO
June 18, 2018, by-election		
Chicoutimi–Le Fjord	June 19, 2018	July 3, 2018
December 3, 2018, by-election		
Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes	December 5, 2018	December 19, 2018

Table 12 – Complaints in relation to the 2018 by-elections, by type

Electoral district¹	Type of complaint			
	Elections Canada central services	Polling place accessibility	Services at the polls	Activities of political parties
June 18, 2018, by-election				
Chicoutimi–Le Fjord	1	0	3	1
December 3, 2018, by-election				
Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes	2	20	13	0
Total	3	20	16	1