

Email From: INFO <info@elections.ca>
Sent: August 28, 2019 10:15 AM
To: 'communications@foca.on.ca' <communications@foca.on.ca>
Subject: Elections Canada
EC-79399017

We thank you for your email.

In Canada's federal electoral system, every elector must be registered to vote in the electoral district where they reside. This address is called the place of ordinary residence. An elector can have only one place of ordinary residence, even if they live at several addresses.

For purposes of registration and voting, a place of ordinary residence is the place that someone lives in and intends to return to when away.

For most electors, that is a house, condominium unit or apartment. However, the law provides for situations where an elector does not have a permanent place of residence. If an elector has no permanent place of ordinary residence, they may register to vote at their temporary place of residence. However, cottages and other temporary residences are not places of ordinary residence, unless the elector has no permanent place or ordinary residence.

If an elector has no place of temporary residence, they may use a place that provides food, lodging or other social services, like a shelter or hostel, as their place of ordinary residence for voting purposes.

Students living in residence must choose which address is their place of ordinary residence—for example, either their parents' address, or the residence they are living in to attend school.

An elector can change their place of ordinary residence at the [Voter Registration](#) page of our website, by contacting the local returning office during an election, with appropriate identification and proof of address. This can also be done at the polls, but it can take additional time.

For more information about the Canadian federal electoral system, visit our website at elections.ca or call 1-800-463-6868, toll-free in Canada and the United States. Our hours of operation are Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time).

Public Enquiries Unit
Elections Canada

From: FOCA Communications <communications@foca.on.ca>
Sent: August 26, 2019 11:00 AM
To: 'INFO' <info@elections.ca>
Subject: Request for response from the Public Enquiries Unit

To the Public Enquiries Unit:

Your reply to our online submission, unfortunately, does not address our question at all. **Please provide us with a written response to address the following situation:**

FOCA is a not-for-profit membership organization representing the 250,000 waterfront-property owning families across Ontario. Some of our members reside part of the year in one (Canadian) residence/electoral district, and part of the year in a different (Canadian) residence/electoral district. Understanding that an 18+ year old Canadian Citizen is entitled to vote only once in a federal election, we would like to advise our members about what is required for someone to legally cast their vote at their chosen location.

.../

Prior to the last (2015) federal election, FOCA received [confirmation from Elections Canada](#) that individuals (“electors”) could **choose to designate their cottage riding as their “ordinary residence,”** so long as they could produce appropriate proof of identity and address in that riding. (The ID options for 2019 are outlined by Elections Canada here: <https://www.elections.ca/content.aspx?section=vot&dir=ids&document=index&lang=e>.)

Please confirm if this information is still correct, or provide us with alternate wording to circulate to our members.

Also, we had reports from some of our members in 2015 that they faced resistance at the polls from elections officials who were not informed of the right to designate a cottage riding as an ordinary residence. As a result, we would also ask what training or information on this topic will be made available to elections officials across rural Ontario?

We appreciate your earliest possible response.

Sincerely,

Michelle Lewin
FOCA Communications & Development Coordinator
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Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations
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FOCA is the voice of Ontario's waterfront property owners. For over half a century, we have supported local lake associations, and informed the general public on environmental and policy issues. Connect with us!
<https://foca.on.ca/about/your-role/>

From: INFO <info@elections.ca>
Sent: August 23, 2019 2:22 PM
To: 'communications@foca.on.ca' <communications@foca.on.ca>
Subject: Elections Canada

Thank you for your message.

You may be interested in the [statement that the Chief Electoral Officer has issued](#) regarding the confusion about what the *Canada Elections Act* does and doesn't limit.

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Public Enquiries Unit
Elections Canada

Previous correspondence:

on Monday, August 19, 2019 – FOCA submitted a question via the [online contact portal for Elections Canada](#), asking for confirmation of the information we had received in 2015 about voting if you own and use two properties in different electoral ridings, as posted here: <https://foca.on.ca/federal-election-2015-have-your-say/>