



# Take time to vote in provincial by-elections October 29

October 27, 2008

General voting will be held on Wednesday, October 29 in 2 by-elections in the provincial constituencies of Vancouver-Fairview and Vancouver-Burrard. Polls are open that day from 8:00 am to 8:00pm. HSA members who live in these constituencies are urged to vote in these critical by-elections.

Section 74 of the BC Election Act states that employees are entitled to 4 consecutive hours on October 29 for the purpose of voting. Elections BC has provided the following interpretation of this requirement:

-Any employee who is entitled to vote is entitled to have four consecutive hours free from employment during voting hours on General Voting Day for the purpose of voting. Voting hours on General Voting Day are 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Pacific time.

It is up to the employer to determine when any necessary time is to be taken off work to vote. Time off may be at the beginning or end of an employee's shift, or unnecessary if normal working hours already provide the necessary time free from employment. It is an offence for an employer to take any deduction from an employee's pay, or exact any other penalty, for time off for voting. Section 74 of the Election Act also specifies that individuals who work in such remote locations that they cannot reasonably expect to reach any voting place during voting hours are not entitled to the time off."

For example, if you work 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, your employer is obliged to allow you either 3 hours at the beginning, or 1 hour at the end of your shift, to provide you with 4 consecutive hours to vote. It is your employer's choice which option to provide.

Registered voters should receive a voting card in the mail indicating where you may vote. Voters may vote at any of the voting locations in your constituency, and unregistered voters may register to vote at any voting location.

Additional information about eligibility to vote and voting locations is available at the Elections BC website at [www.elections.bc.ca](http://www.elections.bc.ca), or by phoning your local Elections BC office, or the local campaign of any of the major political parties.

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