Elections BC

Presentation to BC Treaty Commission's
First Nations Ratification Forum

February 19, 2014

Keith Archer, Chief Electoral Officer

ELECTIONS BC
A non-partisan Office of the Legislature

ELECTIONS BC – Who We Are

- A.k.a. Office of the Chief Electoral Officer
  - Keith Archer, PhD, appointed September 1, 2011
- Independent Office of the legislature
- Responsible for:
  - Administering the provincial electoral processes and the initiative process
  - Voter registration
  - Political entity registration and financial reporting

VISION
To be leaders in electoral administration

MISSION
To serve democracy in BC through the fair and impartial administration of the provincial electoral process

MANDATE
To administer the provincial electoral process in BC in accordance with the Election Act, Recall and Initiative Act, Referendum Act and Constitutional Amendment Approval Act

Strategic Planning

- Core values and principles

  - Accountability
  - Transparency
  - Independence
  - Integrity
  - Impartiality
  - Innovation

Accountability

- Election authority answerable to government and governed
- With decision-making authority comes responsibility for professionalism

Transparency

- Clear rules of engagement, known to all

- Advertising and education

- A scrutinized vote counting environment

ELECTIONS BC
A non-partisan Office of the Legislature

Independence

- Not dependent on current political authority.
- Separate authority to conduct business
- Access to sufficient funding to conduct required work

Thinkstock / iStockphoto

ELECTIONS BC
A non-partisan Office of the Legislature

Integrity

INTEGRITY
Is choosing your thoughts and actions based on values rather than personal gain

www.Daveswordsofwisdom.com

- In order to have a trusted election process, one must begin with trustworthy election officials.
- It is about the character of the person

ELECTIONS BC
A non-partisan Office of the Legislature

Impartiality

- Where there are 2 or more sides to an issue, election administration is not connected to either side.

- Neither a proponent nor an opponent.

- Fair and perceived as fair

Innovation

- New voting technologies (modernization, efficiency, inclusiveness)
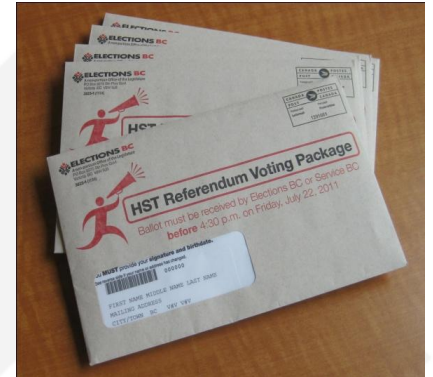
The Voters List – Voter Registration

- Voter registration process

- Voter eligibility

  - Getting on the voters list
  - Completeness and currency

- Close of registration

Balloting

- Election staffing
- Election official training
- Paper versus mail-in balloting
- Advance voting
- Absentee voting

ELECTIONS BC
A non-partisan Office of the Legislature

Vote Counting

- Election official training
- Role of scrutineers
    - Identification of scrutineers
- Communicating about vote
    - For voters
- Communicating about vote tally
- Challenges and objections