



Nurses and
Nurse Practitioners
of British Columbia

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NNPBC

Elections Toolkit



NNPBC Elections Toolkit

Updated October 2024



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A Message from NNPBC Board Chair & Chief Executive Officer

As nurses and nurse practitioners in British Columbia, we stand at the frontline of a health care system in crisis, and the stakes in the 2024 provincial election couldn't be higher. Our patients are suffering in an underfunded, overstretched system—where primary care is inaccessible, emergency rooms are closing, and rural communities are left without basic health services. We face a toxic drug crisis that demands urgent attention, while our own work environments have become unsafe, under-resourced, and unsustainable. Staffing shortages, rampant burnout, and inequitable compensation models are pushing nurses and nurse practitioners to the brink, while public funds flow into private enterprises instead of supporting the very workforce that sustains the health system.

BC nurses and nurse practitioners demand action. Our elected officials must commit to rebuilding a public health care system that works for all British Columbians—one that strengthens primary care, ensures emergency services are fully staffed, and guarantees that no rural or remote community is left behind. As the professional association for all nurses and nurse practitioners in British Columbia, we call for investments in safe, quality practice environments for nurses and nurse practitioners, with equitable compensation that reflects our critical role in patient care. We need political leaders who will tackle the toxic drug crisis head-on, not with criminalization, but with comprehensive public health strategies rooted in harm reduction, treatment, and mental health supports.

This election is a pivotal moment for the future of health care in British Columbia. We call on every candidate to make health care the priority it must be—and we call on our fellow nurses and nurse practitioners to make their voices heard. This toolkit supports your engagement with candidates running for office, helping you ask the critical questions so that our elected officials hear directly from you on the issues that matter most. We encourage every nurse and nurse practitioner in BC to get active and engage in this election, whether it is sitting down with a candidate, writing a letter, or participating in a town hall. Most importantly, get out and vote. On October 19, make your nursing voice heard. As the largest group of health care providers in BC, our united voices can shape a health care system that works for all of us.



Dr. Sukhwant Jassar, Chair



Angela Wignall, CEO

Dr. Sukhwant Jassar, DNP, MScN, NP(F)

NNPBC Board Chair

Angela Wignall, RN, BSN, BA, MA

Chief Executive Officer



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Purpose

The purpose of the NNPBC Elections Toolkit provides information, clarity and context for nurses and nurse practitioners in BC about the upcoming 2024 provincial election. The Elections Toolkit includes functional information about important dates, voter registration, campaign parties and platforms, as well as general tips on advocacy and engagement. As a profession oriented toward change and transformation, the aim of this toolkit is to support nurses in participating in the exercise of democracy through the election and voting process, as well as to critically raise questions about how elected leaders are advancing the needs of nurses, nurse practitioners and patients.

NNPBC is Nonpartisan

Please note that NNPBC is a nonpartisan association, meaning that NNPBC does not endorse any particular political party. NNPBC is the professional representation for all nursing designations in BC, and as such, will advocate on behalf of the nursing profession regardless of political outcome, and will work closely to collaborate with any political party that forms government.

If you have any questions about this toolkit, please contact info@nnpbc.com.



2024 Provincial Election

Background

The 2024 BC provincial election has been called. This election period officially commenced on September 21, and voting will take place by mail, in-person at advance voting polls select dates from October 10-16, and on the final voting day on October 19.

Since 2017, the BC New Democratic Party (NDP) has been in government, first under the leadership of John Horgan (2017-2022) and subsequently under David Eby (2022-present). The political parties that currently hold seats in the BC Legislature include the NDP, the Conservative Party of BC, BC Greens, and until recently, the BC United (formerly the BC Liberal Party). On August 28, 2024, Kevin Falcon, the leader of BC United, formally announced the decision to suspend BC United's campaignⁱ, removing BC United candidates from the 2024 election. This means that there will not be any BC United candidates listed on voting ballots this election.

Additionally, six new electoral districts were created this year, and the boundaries were amended for another 72 electoral districts.ⁱⁱ

Important Dates

July 23, 2024	Pre-campaign period begins
September 21, 2024	Writ Day (election is called), 2024 campaign officially begins
September 28, 2024	Candidate nominations day (due by 1 pm PT)
September 30, 2024	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (district electoral offices closed)
October 7, 2024	Online and telephone voter registration closes at midnight
October 7-8, 2024	“Where to Vote” cards delivered by post
October 10-13, 2024	Advance voting, assisted telephone voting, and special voting
October 13, 2024	Last day to request a “vote by mail” package
October 14, 2024	Thanksgiving Day (district electoral offices closed)
October 15-16, 2024	Advance voting (second window)
October 19, 2024	Final voting day (8am-8pm PT) and initial count
October 22, 2024	Recount of initial count
October 26-28, 2024	Final count



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Voter Information

Eligibility

The BC provincial election takes place on October 19, 2024. To vote, individuals must be:

- A Canadian citizen,
- 18 years or older on October 19, 2024,
- A resident of BC since April 18, 2024,
- Registered to vote in BC, and
- Not disqualified from voting

Registration

Individuals who are eligible to vote but have not previously voted in an election are able to [register online](#), by phoning 1-800-661-8683 (Mon-Fri, 8am-8pm; Sat, 9am-4pm), by [mail using this form](#), or in person when they go to vote.

Elections BC also maintains a list of eligible 16 and 17-year-olds who will be automatically added to the BC Province Voters List when they turn 18.ⁱⁱⁱ

Voting Locations

There are several ways to vote in this year's election, from now until the final voting date on October 19, 2024:

- At any district electoral office during office hours
- By mail
- At advance voting from October 10-13 and 15-16, 2024
- On the final voting day, October 19, 2024

Elections BC has published tables with information on [advance voting locations](#) around the province, as well as [October 19 "final voting day" locations](#).

To find out if you can vote by phone, call Elections BC at 1-800-661-8683. For those who are deaf or hard of hearing, phone 1-888-456-5448. Elections BC can also send out voting templates in Braille and LARGE PRINT.

Electoral Districts

Six new electoral districts were added this year, for a total of 93 seats in legislature. The new districts include:

- Vancouver – 3 new seats
- Burnaby/New Westminster – 1 new seat
- Surrey – 1 new seat
- Langley – 1 new seat

In addition to these new seats, the boundaries and names of several electoral districts were amended. Elections BC has also published a full list and maps of [all electoral districts for the 2024 election](#).



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Parties and Platforms

For the 2024 provincial election, there are three major parties in BC – BC Greens, BC NDP and the Conservative Party of BC. A “major” political party is a party that is eligible to sit on the [Election Advisory Committee](#).^{iv} While the BC United party currently sits on the Election Advisory Committee, there are no BC United candidates running in the 2024 provincial election.

Additionally, there are several “Independent” candidates running for seats around the province, as well as other political parties that do not currently hold seats in legislature.

Candidates who are members of a political party will have their party affiliation noted on the voting ballot. There can only be one candidate representing a political party in each electoral district.^v

There are also several other political parties registered in BC that do not currently hold seats and may or may not be running in the 2024 election^{vi}. The full list of [registered political parties can be found here](#).

BC Greens

Website: <https://bcgreens2024.ca/>

2024 election platform:

<https://bcgreens2024.ca/2024-platform/>

BC New Democratic Party (NDP)

Website: <https://www.bcdnp.ca/>

2024 election platform:

<https://www.bcdnp.ca/actionplan>

Conservative Party of BC

Website:

<https://www.conservativebc.ca/>

2024 election platform:

<https://www.conservativebc.ca/ideas>

Independent and Other Parties

As BC United was removed from the 2024 election, many former BC United party members will be running as independent candidates, however, not all independent candidates can be affiliated with any major political parties.

[View the current list of 2024 election candidates.](#)



Advocacy

Nurses and nurse practitioners in BC can engage with political leaders and candidates during this election period to advocate on behalf of meaningful issues that impact the nursing profession, patients, and the broader health care system. Through advocacy, individuals, groups and communities can share their thoughts on potential policy reform to determine where shared interests lie, and how a particular political party/candidate may act on certain issues.

Letters

Whether writing a single letter to a political candidate/office holder, or conducting a more formalized letter-writing campaign, sharing a written message that clearly outlines advocacy goals can be an effective method of communication. Letter writing can also be used to request engagement opportunities (meetings or town halls) on specific topics.

For examples/templates of advocacy letters, view the following documents:

- [Licensed Practical Nurse Advocacy Toolkit – Reference Guide](#)
- [Nurse Practitioner Advocacy Toolkit – Reference Guide](#)
- [Registered Nurse Advocacy Toolkit – Reference Guide](#)
- [Registered Psychiatric Nurse Advocacy Toolkit – Reference Guide](#)

Social Media

In 2024, the majority of political office holders, political candidates, and political parties have representative social media accounts across multiple platforms. Social media can be a great way for nurses, nurse practitioners and health leaders to reach out to political persons and entities to share questions, comments, and feedback, and to glean more information about a party's platform and values.

When communicating via any social media platform, it is important to remember the communication style and audience of each respective platform. Factors such as tone, voice, length, and even social norms may differ from one social media platform to another. For more information, consider the following resources:

- [KSJ: Different Platforms, Different Audiences](#)
- [LinkedIn: How can you tailor your communication style to different social media platforms?](#)

Nurses and NPs can refer to the BC College of Nurses and Midwives (BCCNM) [Social Media resource page](#) for more details on standards, privacy and boundaries, and other considerations.

BC Greens Social Media

- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [TikTok](#)
- [X](#)

BC NDP Social Media

- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Threads](#)
- [TikTok](#)
- [X](#)

Conservative Party of BC Social Media

- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [X](#)



In-Person Engagements

Local political candidates often hold town halls or other community engagement events to speak directly with the communities they seek to represent. In-person engagements can be a great opportunity for nurses, nurse practitioners and health leaders to directly ask questions to candidates and to advocate on behalf of important issues pertinent to the nursing profession and the health care system.

Check your search engine or preferred social media platform to find out if there are any upcoming town hall or community events in your area.

Questions and Considerations

Below is a series of questions and considerations when engaging with or evaluating the platforms of BC's political parties and candidates.

BC Health Care Landscape

- How does each party's platform focus on current health care issues in BC?
- How does each party's platform speak to current nursing and health professional shortages, and what initiatives do they propose for addressing health human resourcing challenges?
- Does the political party/candidate use nursing-inclusive language when discussing health care opportunities and transformation?
- How does the candidate envision collaborating with nurses and nursing-centred organizations to evolve BC's health care system?
- How will the candidate advocate for more fulsome integration of BC's nursing professionals into all care settings?

Health Professions and Occupations Act

- What is the candidate's understanding of the Health Professions and Occupations Act and its implications for health professionals, including nurses, in BC?
- If elected, how would the political party/candidate engage with nurses and other groups of health professionals to ensure effective implementation of the Health Professions and Occupations Act?

Licensed Practical Nurses

- How does the political party/candidate address the growing demand for LPNs and what specific policies do they propose to enable opportunities and fair compensation?
- Does the political party/candidate support bridging programs such as those for personal support workers or health care aides bridging into a career as an LPN?
- How does the political party/candidate speak about safety at work, including safe staffing levels and the risk of burnout among LPNs?
- Is there a strong commitment from the political party/candidate to support safe staffing frameworks?

Nurse Practitioners

- Does the political party/candidate explicitly name nurse practitioners as a vital part of BC's health care system?
- What is the political party or candidate's understanding of the value of nurse practitioners?
- Does the political party/candidate demonstrate an understanding of team-based care, where nurse practitioners are seen as equal leaders in health care delivery?
- Does the political party/candidate demonstrate a commitment to innovation in care delivery, including a commitment to advancing opportunities for nurse practitioners in BC as well as equitable compensation models?



Registered Nurses

- Has the political party/candidate included nurses and nursing in policy conversations or demonstrated engagement with the nursing profession?
- Does the political party's platform demonstrate an understanding of the issues nurses care about most?
- Is there a strong commitment from the political party/candidate to support safe staffing frameworks?
- What steps will the political party/candidate take to retain nurses in BC and expand retention efforts equitably across all areas of care and all nurses?

Registered Psychiatric Nurses

- How does the political party address the high rate of involuntary treatment in BC and the appropriate use of the Mental Health Act to meet the needs of patients and communities?
- Does the political party/candidate demonstrate an understanding of the expansive scope of practice of RPNs and commit to creating opportunities for RPN utilization across the health care system, not just in mental health and substance use teams?
- Does the political party/candidate demonstrate an understanding of RPNs as leaders and key resources in mental health policy development?
- Has the political party/candidate engaged with RPNs or demonstrated an understanding of RPN scope as it applies to current health care system challenges?

Indigenous Health

- Does the political party/candidate value culturally safe, inclusive and equitable approaches to care, and do they use/respond with inclusive language?
- If elected, how would the political party/candidate advocate for increased access to culturally safe and inclusive health care spaces and supports?
- If elected, how would the political party/candidate engage with Indigenous health leaders, Elders, and communities to support Indigenous-led health needs and initiatives and centre rights based, reciprocal relationships with Indigenous communities?

Planetary Health

- How does each political party's platform speak to current environmental and climatic issues, and does the platform recognize that there are human health and planetary health challenges associated with climate change?
- If elected, how would the political party/candidate advocate for greener options and sustainability in the health care system?

Toxic Drug Crisis

- What challenges do the political party/candidate feel need to be addressed to make effective change and save lives amid BC's toxic drug and overdose crisis?
- How does the political party/candidate view harm reduction approaches and will they advocate to increase funding or supports for health and social services in communities?

ⁱ BC United (2024). [A message from BC United Leader, Kevin Falcon](#).

ⁱⁱ Elections BC (2024). [2024 Provincial Election Maps](#).



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ⁱⁱⁱ Elections BC (2024). [2024 Provincial Election: Register to Vote](#).

^{iv} Elections BC (2024). [Guide for Candidates and Political Parties: 2024 Provincial General Election](#).

^v Elections BC (2024). [Guide for Candidates and Political Parties: 2024 Provincial General Election](#).

^{vi} Elections BC (2024). [Registered Political Parties – Information](#).