



Operational Policy

Title: Provision of Voting Services in Personal Care Homes and Seniors' Residential Facilities

Reference Number:

Effective Date:

Amended Date:

October 1, 2018

n/app.

Scope:

Applies to all electoral events and to the following types of facilities:

Category 1 **Licensed Personal Care Facility** which under *The Election Act, 1996* is defined as “a personal care home licensed pursuant to *The Personal Care Homes Act*, a facility designated as a special-care home pursuant to *The Regional Health Services Act*, a residential-service facility licensed pursuant to *The Residential Services Act* or an approved home as defined in *The Mental Health Services Act*, but only if the home or facility accommodates or cares for at least five individuals.”¹

Category 2 **Unlicensed Seniors' Residential Facility with infrastructure suitable for regular polling.** This requirement includes, among other things, that the facility have a large enough room to house poll stations and sufficient parking for voters.

Category 3 **Unlicensed Seniors' Residential Facility without infrastructure suitable for regular polling.** These facilities lack the requisite space for regular polling.

The Returning Officer will make the assessment as to which category a facility fits in based upon this policy. The final determination and

¹ *The Election Act, 1996*, 2(1)(aa).

approval of any exceptions will be made by the Director of Operations.

Policy:

Elections Saskatchewan recognizes the need to reduce barriers for the voters of Saskatchewan. Elections Saskatchewan also recognizes that the provision of voting services requires an equitable and sustainable approach. In the provision of voting services, Elections Saskatchewan has maintained the twin goals of limiting poll divisions to roughly 300 voters and holding the distance required to be travelled in order to vote to under 30 minutes. In keeping with these goals, Elections Saskatchewan will provide voting services to Personal Care Homes and Seniors' Residential facilities in accordance with the following:

Category 1 Elections Saskatchewan will provide voting services to these facilities as dictated in *The Election Act, 1996*.

Category 2 These facilities would be offered regular polls on Election Day on the following conditions:

- The facility must be a Seniors' Residence
- The facility must allow election workers and candidates' representatives access to the premises for the requisite time (including pre-voting set-up and ballot counting after the close of voting).
- The facility must allow non-residents within the polling division access to the poll to vote.

Category 3 As these facilities lack the infrastructure to accommodate a regular poll, Elections Saskatchewan would offer mobile polling on the following condition:

- The facility must be a Seniors' Residence.

References: *The Elections Act, 1996*, sections 90(1), 127, and 128

Approved by:

Michael D. Boda, D.Phil., Ph.D.
Chief Electoral Officer
October 1, 2018