



ELECTIONS BC

A non-partisan Office of the Legislature

Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the
2015 Metro Vancouver Transportation
and Transit Plebiscite

March 16–July 2, 2015

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2015 Metro Vancouver Transportation
and Transit Plebiscite
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ELECTIONS BC
Province of British Columbia

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9275 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9J6

Location:
Suite 100 – 1112 Fort Street, Victoria BC

Phone: 250-387-5305
Toll-free: 1-800-661-8683/ TTY 1-888-456-5448
Fax: 250-387-3578
Toll-free Fax: 1-866-466-0665

Email: electionsbc@elections.bc.ca
Website: elections.bc.ca

September 22, 2015

Honourable Linda Reid
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Province of British Columbia
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia
V8V 1X4

Dear Madame Speaker:

I have the honour to submit the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the 2015 Metro Vancouver Transportation and Transit Plebiscite – March 16-July 2, 2015, in accordance with section 13(1)(b) of the *Election Act*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Archer', written in a cursive style.

Keith Archer, Ph.D.
Chief Electoral Officer
British Columbia



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Overview

Summary

This report describes the proceedings, results and costs of administering the 2015 Metro Vancouver Transportation and Transit Plebiscite. The 2015 Metro Vancouver Transportation and Transit Plebiscite (Transit Plebiscite) was the first plebiscite administered by Elections BC since the Time Plebiscite, which was held in eastern British Columbia electoral districts in conjunction with the 1972 General Election. The Transit Plebiscite was conducted entirely by mail in a manner similar to the 2011 HST Referendum. Only registered voters in the defined transportation service region¹ were eligible to vote in the plebiscite.

A total of 1,572,861² voting packages were issued; 798,262 ballot packages³ were returned to Elections BC, either directly or at a plebiscite service office, by May 29, 2015. In addition, 38,393 ballot packages received by the deadline were not considered for counting because they did not meet the requirements of the Plebiscite 2015 (Regional Transportation System Funding) Regulation. An additional 173 ballot packages met the requirements for counting, but were resealed because the certification envelope either did not contain a secrecy envelope or ballot, or contained more than one secrecy envelope or ballot. Of the 759,696 ballots considered, the majority of validly cast votes were not in favour of the question on the ballot.

Elections BC incurred costs of \$5,372,380 to administer the 2015 Metro Vancouver Transportation and Transit Plebiscite.

1 Hereafter referred to as Metro Vancouver.

2 1,551,507 voting packages were issued in the initial mail-out and 21,354 were issued to voters who registered during the plebiscite or as replacement voting packages.

3 'Voting package' is the term for the voting material mailed by Elections BC to registered voters and 'ballot package' is used to refer to the ballot and certification envelope returned to Elections BC by registered voters.

Statistics at a glance

Table 1: Statistics at a glance

Voter registration and turnout

Registered voters at initial mail-out	1,551,507
Net increase to voters list during package request period	10,879
Total registered voters at the close of the period for requesting a voting package	1,562,386
Total ballot packages returned	798,262
Percentage of ballot packages returned	51.09%
Total number of ballot packages not considered	38,393
Total number of ballots considered (registered voters who voted)	759,696 ⁴
Percentage of registered voters who voted	48.62%

Results

Total ballots considered	759,696
Rejected ballots	2,513
Percentage rejected ballots	0.33%
Total valid votes	757,183
Percentage valid votes	99.67%
Total Yes votes	290,151
Percentage valid votes voting Yes	38.32%
Total No votes	467,032
Percentage valid votes voting No	61.68%

Officials and additional ballot package return opportunities

Plebiscite officials	173
Plebiscite service offices	9

⁴ 759,869 ballot packages were eligible to be considered; however, 173 ballot packages contained certification envelopes with either two ballots or no ballot; therefore, 759,696 ballots were considered.

Legislative framework

On February 12, 2015, the Plebiscite 2015 (Regional Transportation System Funding) Regulation (Plebiscite Regulation) was deposited.

The Plebiscite Regulation specified the plebiscite question, and established that only registered voters in Metro Vancouver were entitled to vote in the plebiscite, and that the plebiscite would be conducted by mail-in ballot.

Table 2: Metro Vancouver voting municipalities

Voting municipalities	
Bowen Island Municipality	City of Vancouver
City of Burnaby	City of White Rock
City of Coquitlam	Corporation of Delta
City of Langley	District of North Vancouver
City of Maple Ridge	District of West Vancouver
City of New Westminster	Metro Vancouver Electoral Area "A"
City of North Vancouver	Township of Langley
City of Pitt Meadows	Tsawwassen First Nation
City of Port Coquitlam	Village of Anmore
City of Port Moody	Village of Belcarra
City of Richmond	Village of Lions Bay
City of Surrey	

The question was drafted by the Lieutenant Governor in Council based on the proposal from the Mayors' Council and consultation with Elections BC. The plebiscite question was:

Do you support a new 0.5% Metro Vancouver Congestion Improvement Tax, to be dedicated to the Mayors' Council transportation and transit plan?

Figure 1: 2015 Metro Vancouver Transportation and Transit Plebiscite ballot

Ballot

2015 Metro Vancouver Transportation and Transit Plebiscite

Step 1 of 4

- To vote, fill in or mark or in the circle next to your choice.
- **Do not make any other markings** on this ballot, or it may not be counted.
- Refold this ballot and put it inside the grey Secrecy Envelope **(A)**.

The Mayors' Council has developed a transportation and transit plan called *Regional Transportation Investments - a Vision for Metro Vancouver*. The plan will:

- Add bus service and new B-Line rapid bus routes.
- Increase service on SkyTrain, Canada Line, SeaBus and West Coast Express.
- Maintain and upgrade the region's major roads.
- Build a new Pattullo Bridge.
- Build rapid transit connecting Surrey Centre with Guildford, Newton and Langley.
- Build rapid transit along Broadway in Vancouver.
- Extend the region's cycling and pedestrian walkway networks.

A new Metro Vancouver Congestion Improvement Tax would be applied as a 0.5% sales tax on the majority of goods and services that are subject to the Provincial Sales Tax and are sold or delivered in the region. More detail can be found at www.mayorscouncil.ca.

Revenues would be dedicated to the Mayors' Council transportation and transit plan. Revenues and expenditures would be subject to annual independent audits and public reporting.

Do you support a new 0.5% Metro Vancouver Congestion Improvement Tax, to be dedicated to the Mayors' Council transportation and transit plan?

Yes

No

Important notes

If you are unable to mark this ballot, you may ask someone to help you. This person must also follow the instructions on your brown Certification Envelope **(B)**.

Translations of this voting package are available at elections.bc.ca.

The Plebiscite Regulation did not establish a framework for “Yes” and “No” groups to campaign for the two responses to the ballot question. Elections BC did not administer, oversee or monitor the activities (financial or otherwise) of “Yes” and “No” advocacy groups.

Though conducted as a plebiscite, the vote was often incorrectly referred to as a referendum. While a plebiscite and a referendum are similar, there are differences between the two types of votes.

Table 3: Similarities and differences between plebiscites and referenda

	Plebiscite	Referendum
Legislation governing vote	<i>Election Act</i>	<i>Referendum Act</i>
Source of subject to be voted on	Government	Government
Frequency	On any date selected by government	On any date selected by government
Types of voting opportunities	Determined by government	Determined by government
Threshold for success	Determined by government	One threshold: A simple majority of votes cast (50%+1)
Outcomes of a successful vote	May be binding on government	Usually binding on government
Authorized participants and financing rules	Determined by Regulation	Determined by Regulation

Calendar of events

The Plebiscite Regulation prescribed many dates in the event calendar, including the start date of voting package distribution, the last day on which a voting package could be requested, and the date and time for the close of voting. The period of time for counting and the reporting of results was not legislated.

Table 4: Plebiscite calendar

Milestone	Date
Government announces Elections BC role in plebiscite	December 18, 2014
Plebiscite 2015 (Regional Transportation System Funding) Regulation deposited	February 12, 2015
Voting package distribution begins	March 16, 2015
Ballot package processing begins	March 18, 2015
Initial voting package distribution concludes	March 27, 2015
Period for requesting a voting package ends	May 15, 2015
Deadline for returning a ballot package	May 29, 2015
Ballot counting period begins	May 30, 2015
Ballot counting ends; voting results announced	July 2, 2015

Voter registration

All provincially registered voters residing in Metro Vancouver were entitled to vote in the plebiscite, including those who became registered voters prior to the deadline for requesting a voting package. There were no additional eligibility criteria under the Plebiscite Regulation. Voters could contact Elections BC during the voting package request period to register to vote and to request a voting package. Elections BC staffed a contact centre throughout the voting period to enable voters who were not registered to participate in the plebiscite. Elections BC also established a voting package request feature on the Online Voter Registration system for voters to register or update their information and request a voting package. Voters could also register or update their information at nine plebiscite service offices established at shopping centres throughout Metro Vancouver (for more about plebiscite service offices, see page 11). Certification envelopes included in the voting package provided another opportunity for voters to update their voter registration information with Elections BC.

In the weeks leading up to the initial voting package distribution, Elections BC worked to ensure the voters list was of the highest quality possible. Elections BC prioritized voter registration updates received from Metro Vancouver municipalities from the 2014 General Local Elections in order to incorporate these updates into the provincial voters list. Advertisements advised voters of the upcoming plebiscite and reminded them to update their registration information if they had recently moved. The goal of these activities was to ensure as many voters as possible would receive their voting package in the initial voting package distribution.

Voters who knew they would be away from their ordinary place of residence during the voting period were invited to contact Elections BC and provide an alternate mailing address. This allowed voters who were out of the province or country, or otherwise away from their ordinary residence, to receive their voting package and cast their ballot.

Contact centre operators were available six days a week throughout the plebiscite period to assist voters. Contact centre hours were extended by two hours on May 14 and until midnight on May 15, the last day for requesting a voting package. The operators received 27,907 phone calls during the plebiscite with the highest volume of calls coming in the days prior to the end of the period for requesting a voting package.

Figure 2: Contact centre call volumes



Between March 16 and the end of the period for requesting a voting package (May 15), the number of registered voters in Metro Vancouver increased by almost 11,000.

Table 5: Number of registered voters in Metro Vancouver

	Date	Registered voters
Start of voting package distribution	March 16, 2015	1,551,507
End of voting package request period	May 15, 2015	1,562,386

Table 6: Number of voter registration updates in Metro Vancouver

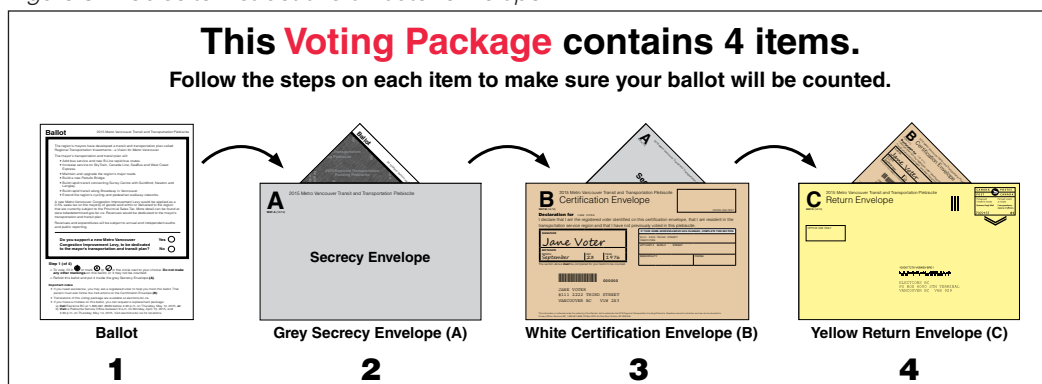
	Date	Updates to existing registrations
Prior to initial voting package distribution	February 16 – March 15, 2015	2,958
Start of voting package distribution to end of voting package request period	March 16 – May 15, 2015	25,115

Voting

Voting package

A voting package consisted of a ballot, secrecy envelope, certification envelope and return envelope. All of these elements were mailed to the voter inside a larger outer envelope. Instructions for marking the ballot and returning the ballot package to Elections BC were provided on the back of the outer envelope.

Figure 3: Plebiscite instructions on outer envelope



To vote and return the ballot to Elections BC, the voter was instructed to mark their ballot and place it in the secrecy envelope (A), which was then sealed and placed inside the certification envelope (B). The voter then completed the certification envelope and placed the certification envelope into the postage-paid return envelope (C). Collectively, the material used to return the ballot to Elections BC was referred to as the ballot package.

Because the certification envelope was preprinted with information identifying the voter (name and address), the secrecy envelope was used to maintain the secrecy of the ballot. After the certification envelope was opened during the counting process at Elections BC, the secrecy envelope was removed and mixed with the secrecy envelopes from the other returned certification envelopes from the same municipality to preserve the anonymity of the voter. This ensured that when the secrecy envelope was opened, the ballot inside could not be traced back to the voter who voted.

In the 2011 HST Referendum, to maintain an account of ballots issued and reduce the risk of fraudulent voting, Elections BC created a unique voting package for each registered voter and all voting packages were issued by Elections BC headquarters. Service BC centres and six temporary Elections BC collection centres in the Lower Mainland were available for voters to deliver their completed ballot packages. Responding to feedback from the referendum, Elections BC modified its processes for the plebiscite to allow the nine plebiscite service offices to also register voters and issue unique voting packages to voters. These voting packages maintained the same

level of security provided by Elections BC in the referendum. This service was very well received and plebiscite service offices issued more than 2,100 voting packages.

Certification envelopes were preprinted with the voter's name and residential address. This made it easier for voters to make sure they were using the envelope issued to them. It also allowed Elections BC to confirm that the voting package was used only by the voter to whom it was issued. These envelopes were examined closely to determine whether they met the requirements of the Plebiscite Regulation.

Initial voting package distribution

Elections BC began the voting package distribution to registered voters on March 16. A voting package was sent to each registered voter on the provincial voters list in Metro Vancouver. All voting packages in the initial distribution were delivered by March 27.

Requesting a voting package

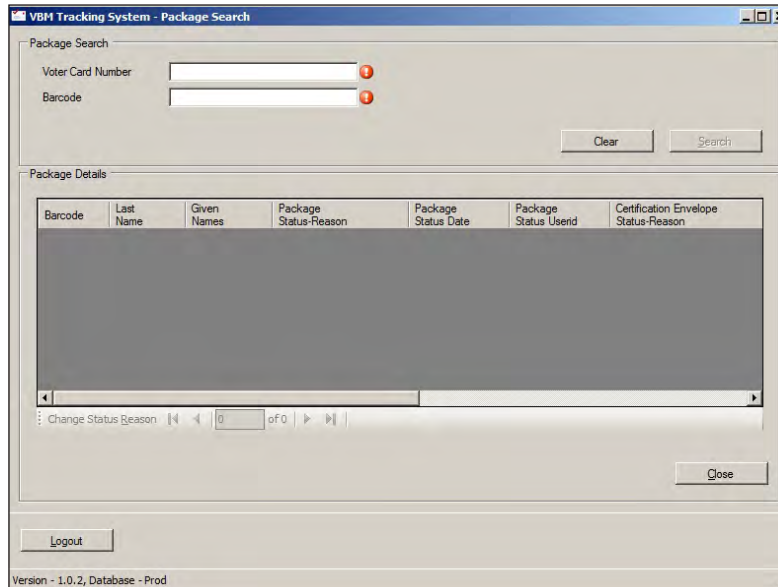
Voters who were not registered prior to March 16 were able to call Elections BC, register to vote and request a voting package up until midnight on Friday, May 15. Voters could also request a voting package at one of nine plebiscite service offices. New for the plebiscite, voters could also request a voting package while registering or updating their information through the Elections BC Online Voter Registration system.

Voters who believed they were registered but did not receive a voting package were able to call Elections BC or visit a plebiscite service office and find out whether or not they were in fact registered, whether a voting package had been sent to them, and to what address it had been mailed. In many cases the voter no longer resided at the address to which their original package was mailed. In these instances, the original voting package was flagged as cancelled in the Voting Package Tracking System, the voter's address was updated, and a replacement package was issued to the voter's current mailing address. "Replacement package" was printed on the outer envelope and the certification envelope to help voters differentiate the replacement from the original package.

The Voting Package Tracking System tracked whether a voting package had been mailed to a voter and whether the returned ballot package had been received by Elections BC. It also tracked the issuing of replacement voting packages and helped prevent multiple voting by allowing any previously issued voting packages to be cancelled.

Only one voting package was "active" for a voter in the Voting Package Tracking System at any time. If a package flagged as cancelled in the tracking system was returned to Elections BC, it was not opened and the ballot inside was not considered.

Figure 4: Voting Package Tracking System



Voters who spoiled their ballot could also request a replacement voting package. When this occurred, the original voting package was flagged as cancelled in the tracking system and the voter was advised to destroy the original voting package and not return it to Elections BC.

To assist voters who are visually impaired to mark their ballot independently, ballot templates were available on request at plebiscite service offices.

A voter who was unable to vote or request a voting package because of a physical disability or difficulty with reading or writing was permitted to be assisted by another individual of their choice. A voter was also permitted to be assisted by an individual who could translate the ballot and voting instructions for them. An individual who assisted the voter was required to preserve the secrecy of the ballot, mark it in accordance with the directions of the voter and not attempt to influence the voter as to how they should vote. Voting instructions in 17 languages were available on the Elections BC website.

Returning a ballot package

A ballot package had to be received by Elections BC or a plebiscite service office by the close of voting on Friday, May 29 in order to be considered for counting. To ensure that the maximum number of validly returned ballot packages could be accepted for counting, Elections BC arranged to physically receive all ballot packages that had been received by the main Canada Post reception facility in Vancouver by the close of voting. This eliminated the risk of ballot packages being received by Canada Post but not transferred to Elections BC by the close of voting.

Figure 5: Returned ballot packages



The ballot package return envelope was pre-addressed and postage-paid, ensuring that voters did not need to use a stamp if mailing the ballot package from within Canada. Voters who mailed their ballot package from outside Canada were responsible for applying appropriate postage.

Voting packages that were reported as undeliverable by Canada Post were returned to Elections BC and the Voting Package Tracking System was updated with this information. This enabled contact centre operators to advise voters accordingly and to work with them to identify a suitable mailing address.

Plebiscite service offices

In addition to the option of mailing their ballot package to Elections BC, voters could return their package to one of nine local plebiscite service offices. The offices were established in shopping centres in the region to provide plebiscite eligibility information, issue voting packages, register and update voter information, and be a local drop point for completed ballot packages.

Table 7: Plebiscite service offices

Plebiscite service office	Location
Capilano Mall	North Vancouver
Central City Mall	Surrey
Chinatown Plaza	Vancouver
City Square Shopping Centre	Vancouver
Coquitlam Centre	Coquitlam
Haney Place Mall	Maple Ridge
Lougheed Town Centre	Burnaby
Richmond Centre Mall	Richmond
Willowbrook Shopping Centre	Langley

Plebiscite service offices opened on April 13 and remained open Monday to Saturday during shopping hours until the close of voting. Offices were popular with voters; 2,155 voting packages were issued at these offices and more than 24,000 voting packages were returned to these locations.

Figure 6: Plebiscite service office, Haney Place, Maple Ridge

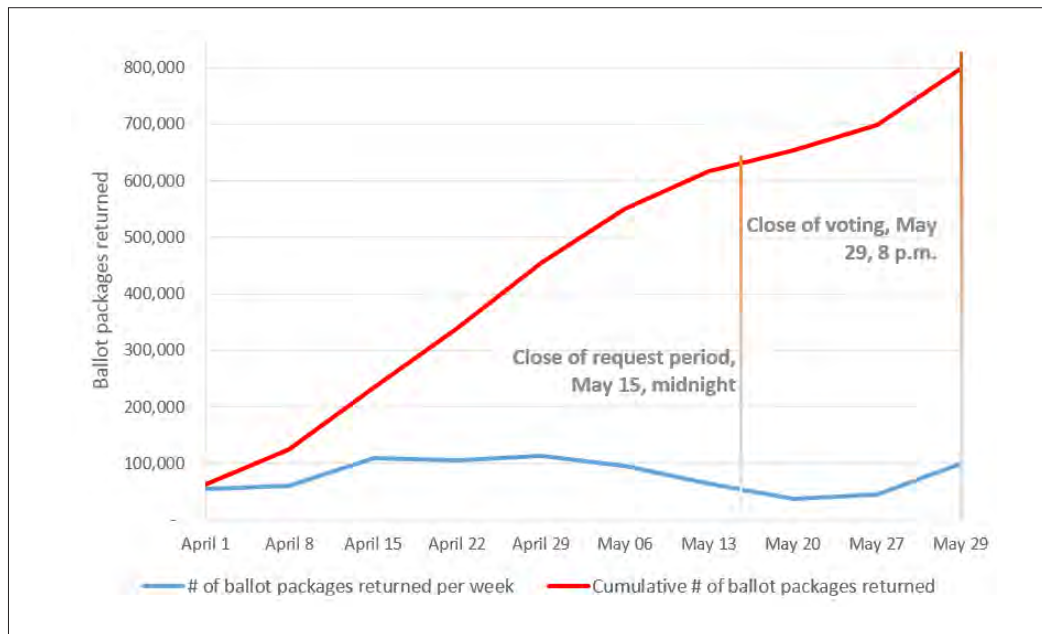


Certification envelope review and ballot counting

Before a ballot package returned to Elections BC was opened, plebiscite officials reviewed the package to confirm that it was returned by the voter to whom it was issued and that the package had been completed as required under the Plebiscite Regulation. This review began with the return of the first ballot packages on March 18.

A total of 798,262 ballot packages were returned to Elections BC by the May 29 deadline. Elections BC received 2,592 ballot packages after the deadline established by the Regulation; these were not considered for counting.

Figure 7: Return of ballot packages



Elections BC hired 67 plebiscite officials to process the returned ballot packages and review the certification envelopes. These officials were supported by an additional 15 Elections BC staff members who were also appointed as plebiscite officials.

Figure 8: Plebiscite officials, certification envelope review team



As part of the certification envelope review, plebiscite officials opened return envelopes, removed the certification envelopes and assessed them to ensure that the voter's names, residential addresses, birthdates and signatures were included on each unique certification envelope, as required by the Plebiscite Regulation. A voter's name and residential address was preprinted on each certification envelope, and the voter was required to include their birthdate and sign a declaration. The declaration stated that the voter was a registered voter, had not previously voted in the plebiscite and would not vote again.

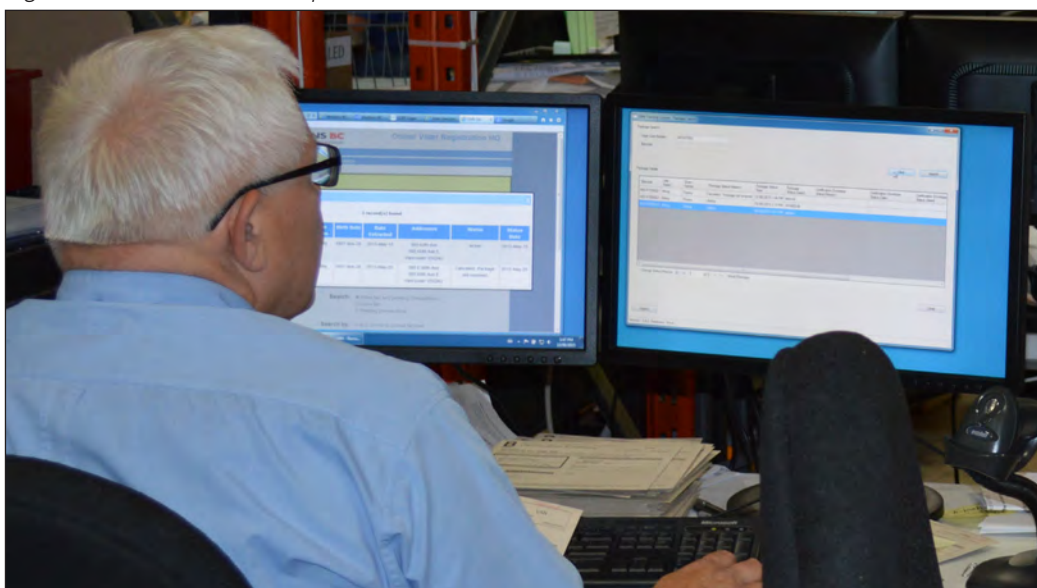
The birthdate acted as a 'shared secret' that Elections BC used to confirm that the package was used by the appropriate voter. If the birthdate written on the envelope did not match the birthdate on the individual's voter record with Elections BC, the plebiscite official could not be certain that the individual who returned the envelope was the individual to whom it was issued.

In the 2011 HST Referendum, incomplete certification envelopes, and ballot packages that were returned without a certification envelope, were not opened. For the plebiscite, Elections BC developed a new process by which voters were given an opportunity to correct their certification envelopes if they forgot to sign or provide their birthdate. This process also applied to certification envelopes where a voter had provided the date they signed the envelope instead of their birthdate, or where the birthdate was a near-match to Elections BC's records.

The correction process involved writing to all 31,973 voters for whom a certification envelope was not completed in full and giving them an opportunity to correct the error by contacting Elections BC. When a plebiscite official could verify the identity of the voter by telephone and determine that the incomplete or inaccurate birthdate was provided in error, the plebiscite official completed or corrected the birthdate on the certification envelope on the voter's behalf. There were 3,950 certification envelopes

corrected in this manner. The Chief Electoral Officer issued an Order to consider the corrected certification envelope for counting as if the voter completed the certification envelope as required. Where a signature was missing from the certification envelope, voters were invited to visit a plebiscite service office to sign their certification envelope. More than 4,000 certification envelopes were corrected in this manner. In total, approximately 25% of all incorrectly completed certification envelopes were resolved through this correction process. All remaining certification envelopes were set aside.

Figure 9: Certification envelope review



Plebiscite officials also ensured that only one ballot package was returned by a voter. If a replacement package had been issued to a voter, only the most recently issued voting package could be accepted, as any previous packages had been cancelled in the tracking system.

During the voting package review and counting process, Elections BC identified instances where it appeared an individual returned more than one ballot package. In these instances, all packages were set aside and not considered. At the time of writing, Elections BC continues to investigate these matters.

Ballot counting

Figure 10: Ballot counting machines



All certification envelopes received prior to the close of voting and completed as required by the Plebiscite Regulation were opened after the close of voting.

Plebiscite officials oversaw the counting and tabulation of ballots by high speed optical scanning machines. This is the first time Elections BC has used scanning machines to count ballots. This technology has been used by BC Mail Plus for over 25 years to mark provincial exams. These machines can scan approximately 3,000-4,000 ballots per hour.

Prior to the start of counting, the scanners were calibrated to look for markings on the ballot in or around the Yes and No circles and were extensively tested. During counting, ballots that were not clearly marked Yes or No, or if they had other markings, were sent for manual adjudication by a plebiscite supervisor.

Observers

Elections BC provided for observation of the screening, validation and counting of ballots at Elections BC facilities in Victoria.

Thirty-minute observation sessions were offered between May 25 and June 5, and 90-minute observation sessions were offered June 8 -19. A maximum of four individuals were permitted per observation. Observation was available to the public through an application process on a first-come, first-served basis.

Public information

Elections BC's public information focused on how to request a voting package, how to cast a ballot, and how to return the ballot package to Elections BC. The Mayors' Council and other groups were responsible to inform voters about the subject of the vote.

Advertisements advising voters of the upcoming plebiscite and how to participate were played on radio stations between February 16-27 and published in daily, community and ethnic newspapers throughout Metro Vancouver and on the Elections BC website.

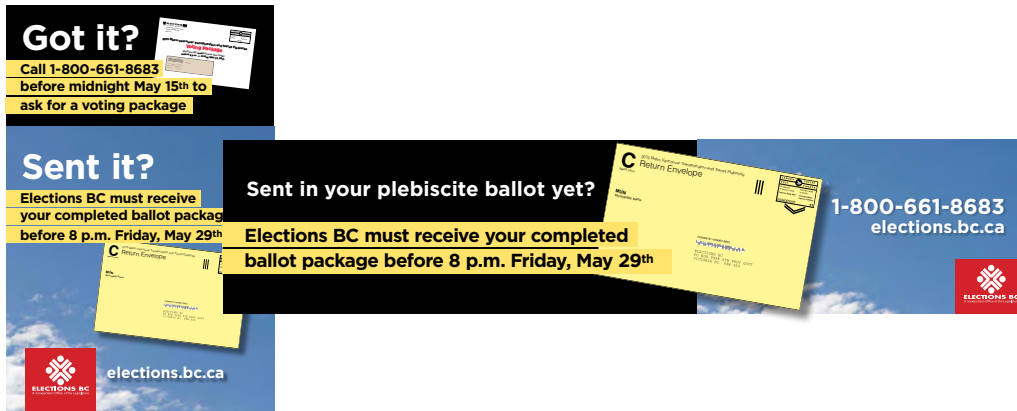
Figure 11: Newspaper advertisement #1



An information pamphlet was distributed to all residential addresses in Metro Vancouver between March 9-20. Also, information pamphlets were distributed to BC public libraries, long-term care facilities, social service facilities, hospitals, post-secondary campuses and city municipal halls throughout Metro Vancouver. The pamphlet was timed to arrive one week before the voting package and it advised registered voters to look for their voting package in the mail. It also informed them how to request a package if they did not receive one by March 27. The pamphlet included a sample ballot and a page of information about the subject of the plebiscite prepared jointly by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and the Mayors' Council.

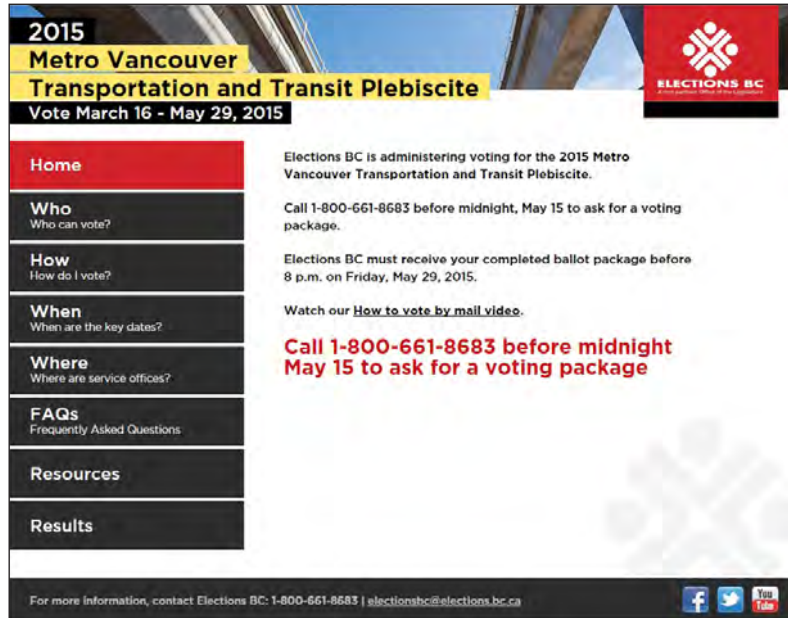
Between February 16 and May 15, Elections BC used radio ads, online banner ads, search engine marketing and social media channels (i.e. Facebook and Twitter) to advise voters of key dates of the plebiscite. Elections BC also conducted advertising at Skytrain stations, bus shelters and Westcoast Express terminals. Prior to the end of the period for requesting a voting package, Elections BC’s messaging changed to remind voters who had not yet received a voting package of the end of the voting package request period on May 15. After May 15, Elections BC’s messaging focused on reminding voters of the May 29 close of voting and deadline to return their ballot package to Elections BC.

Figure 12: Plebiscite transit advertisement (l: shelter; r: bus side)



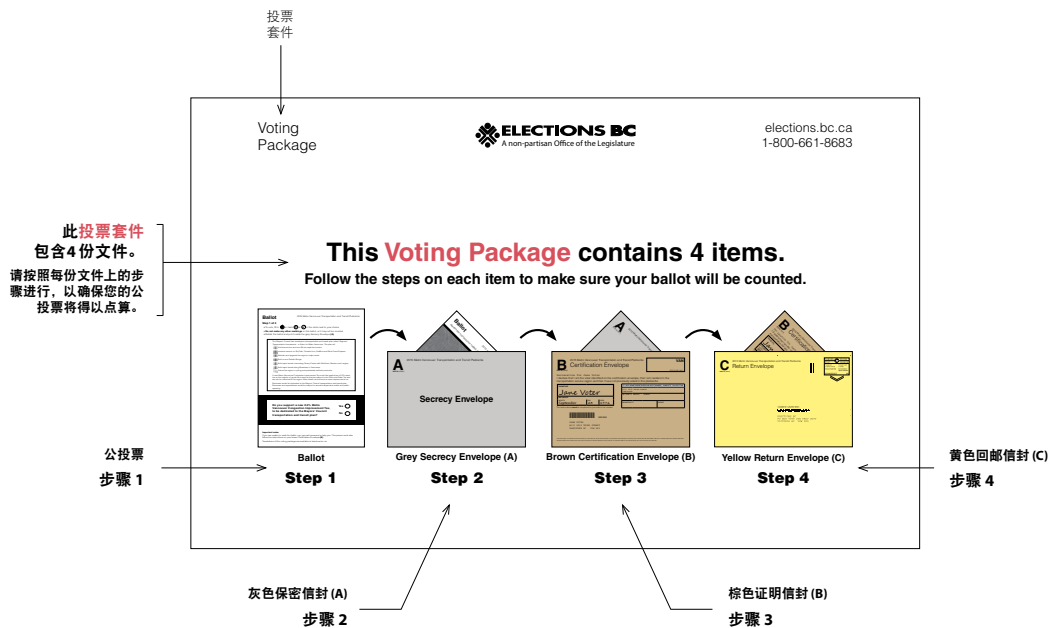
All advertisements directed voters to the Elections BC website and contact centre for more information. The website also contained a sample voting package and a video showing how to use the voting package, the voting package distribution schedule, the addresses and hours of operation for the plebiscite service offices and answers to frequently asked questions regarding the plebiscite. The 2015 Metro Vancouver Transportation and Transit Plebiscite pages on the Elections BC website were visited 180,969 times between February 16 and July 2.

Figure 13: Plebiscite web page



All voting packages were provided in English; however, translation keys were available in 17 other languages on the Elections BC website.

Figure 14: Voting instructions (Chinese-simplified)



Voting results

Summary of results

The following pages contain the verified results of the 2015 Metro Vancouver Transportation and Transit Plebiscite.

Table 8: Summary of results

Response to the plebiscite question	Number of votes
Yes	290,151
No	467,032
Rejected ballots	2,513
Total votes considered	759,696

The votes of 61.68% of the validly cast ballots across Metro Vancouver were cast for the No response.

Ballot packages that did not meet the requirements of the Plebiscite Regulation could not be considered for counting. Elections BC received 38,393 ballot packages by the close of voting that were not considered in the ballot count because they failed to meet one or more of the requirements of the Plebiscite Regulation.

Table 9: Ballot packages not considered, by reason

Reason	Number of ballot packages that remained unopened
Certification envelope not signed	828
Birthdate not provided	2,069
Birthdate provided did not match the voter record	14,214
Certification envelope not signed and birthdate not provided	18,771
Certification envelope not used by the individual to whom it was issued	453
Individual appeared to be voting more than once	12
No certification envelope provided	2,046
Total number of ballot packages not considered	38,393

A total of 173 ballot packages met the requirements for counting, but were resealed because the certification envelope either did not contain a secrecy envelope and ballot, or contained more than one secrecy envelope or ballot.

Table 10: Resealed certification and secrecy envelopes, by reason

Reason	Number of ballot packages that were resealed
Certification envelope contained more than one secrecy envelope	3
Certification envelope did not contain a secrecy envelope or ballot	85
Secrecy envelope contained more than one ballot	7
Secrecy envelope did not contain a ballot	78
Total number of resealed certification and secrecy envelopes	173

An additional 2,592 ballot packages were received after the close of voting.

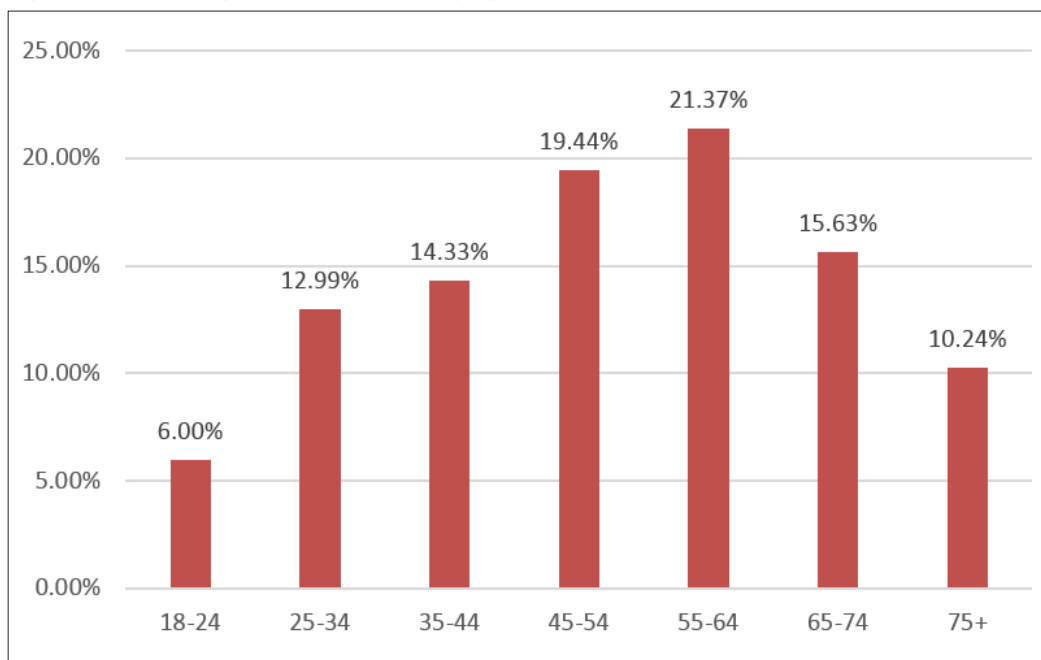
On July 2, the Chief Electoral Officer reported the results of the plebiscite to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly as required by section 20 of the Plebiscite Regulation. The Chief Electoral Officer also announced the results of the plebiscite to the public on the Elections BC website and through a province-wide news release on the same day.

Municipality	Yes	% of valid votes	No	% of valid votes	Total valid votes	Rejected ballots	Registered voters who voted	Total registered voters	Turnout based on ballots considered
Bowen Island Municipality	847	61.92%	521	38.08%	1,368	6	1,374	2,712	50.66%
City of Burnaby	24,355	35.06%	45,113	64.94%	69,468	248	69,716	144,590	48.22%
City of Coquitlam	14,200	32.78%	29,120	67.22%	43,320	118	43,438	86,730	50.08%
City of Langley	2,226	27.71%	5,807	72.29%	8,033	24	8,057	17,551	45.91%
City of Maple Ridge	6,404	22.97%	21,470	77.03%	27,874	81	27,955	54,530	51.27%
City of New Westminster	10,623	45.45%	12,748	54.55%	23,371	74	23,445	46,073	50.89%
City of North Vancouver	7,931	44.92%	9,725	55.08%	17,656	62	17,718	34,550	51.28%
City of Pitt Meadows	1,762	27.84%	4,568	72.16%	6,330	16	6,346	12,874	49.29%
City of Port Coquitlam	6,346	32.15%	13,394	67.85%	19,740	58	19,798	38,784	51.05%
City of Port Moody	4,852	42.61%	6,534	57.39%	11,386	36	11,422	22,561	50.63%
City of Richmond	16,257	27.61%	42,615	72.39%	58,872	224	59,096	124,758	47.37%
City of Surrey	42,519	34.46%	80,851	65.54%	123,370	488	123,858	295,409	41.93%
City of Vancouver	103,431	49.19%	106,818	50.81%	210,249	694	210,943	418,186	50.44%
City of White Rock	3,139	40.74%	4,566	59.26%	7,705	27	7,732	15,397	50.22%
Corporation of Delta	11,589	32.16%	24,448	67.84%	36,037	113	36,150	69,040	52.36%
District of North Vancouver	14,569	44.61%	18,093	55.39%	32,662	95	32,757	60,553	54.10%
District of West Vancouver	6,876	44.11%	8,711	55.89%	15,587	47	15,634	30,130	51.89%
Metro Vancouver Electoral Area "A"	1,586	58.57%	1,122	41.43%	2,708	4	2,712	6,432	42.16%
Township of Langley	9,890	25.03%	29,619	74.97%	39,509	96	39,605	77,907	50.84%
Tsawwassen First Nation	86	33.99%	167	66.01%	253	-	253	534	47.38%
Village of Anmore	303	37.88%	497	62.13%	800	2	802	1,515	52.94%
Village of Belcarra	158	52.15%	145	47.85%	303	-	303	511	59.30%
Village of Lions Bay	202	34.71%	380	65.29%	582	-	582	1,059	54.96%
Total	290,151	38.32%	467,032	61.68%	757,183	2,513	759,696	1,562,386	48.62%

Table 11: Voter participation by age group

Group	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	Total
Registered voters	110,822	272,354	264,757	309,794	282,546	183,445	138,668	1,562,386
Registered voters who voted	45,551	98,697	108,876	147,712	162,350	118,706	77,804	759,696
% of registered voters who voted	41.10%	36.24%	41.12%	47.68%	57.46%	64.71%	56.11%	48.62%

Figure 15: Percentage of votes cast, by age group



Elections BC expenses

Expense categories	Combined totals for fiscal years 2014/2015 and 2015/16
Salaries	\$801,925
Professional services	35,389
Travel	16,307
Information systems	304,733
General office expenses	509,647
Postal services/postage/courier	2,683,949
Advertising and publications	883,599
Building occupancy	136,831
Total	\$5,372,380
<hr/>	
Number of registered voters in Metro Vancouver on May 15, 2015	1,562,386
<hr/>	
Cost per registered voter	\$3.44

Reflections

The 2015 Metro Vancouver Transportation and Transit Plebiscite provided Elections BC with an opportunity to pilot a number of improvements in the way we deliver services to voters and administer voting in a Vote by Mail event.

In response to feedback from the 2011 HST Referendum, Elections BC established plebiscite service offices as ‘full service’ offices rather than only ballot package drop-off locations. Voters responded positively to this approach and the additional cost and effort required to provide this service to voters was worthwhile.

Unlike the legislation governing the 2011 HST Referendum, the Plebiscite Regulation contained a provision paralleling the *Election Act* that permitted plebiscite officials to assist voters to mark their ballot and complete their voting package. In addition to assisting voters who visited a plebiscite service office, upon request, plebiscite officials visited extended care facilities to assist voters. In a very small number of cases, plebiscite officials also assisted voters in their homes.

More than 38,000 ballot packages received during the 2011 HST Referendum could not be considered because the certification envelope was not completed correctly (i.e. not signed, or the birthdate not completed). The eleven week voting period for the plebiscite enabled Elections BC to pilot a process by which voters were given an opportunity to correct their own certification envelopes that were missing a signature or birthdate. More than 8,000 voters took advantage of this process. However, over 38,000 plebiscite ballot packages were still set aside. Elections BC will conduct a review of all factors that might have contributed to the large number of ballot packages set aside.

The plebiscite provided an opportunity to trial the use of optical scanning machines to count ballots. Utilizing this technology makes sense in a Vote by Mail event where all of the ballots are returned to a central location for processing and counting and economies of scale can be found.

Also for the first time, Elections BC provided weekly reports of the number of ballot packages returned by each municipality. Providing this turnout information on a regular basis helped keep the plebiscite at the front of people’s minds and may have contributed to the level of voter participation.

Elections BC received a number of complaints related to the vote by mail process. Some voters did not understand the need for the multiple envelopes required for voting by mail, or the requirement to provide their name, address, birthdate and signature on the certification envelope. Both requirements come from the Plebiscite Regulation and reflect fundamental principles and best practices in voting administration.

The three envelopes (secrecy envelope, certification envelope, return envelope) are necessary to ensure that only eligible voters vote, but that no one, including plebiscite officials, can know how they voted. The secrecy envelope protects the secrecy of the ballot by ensuring that officials opening the certification envelope, on which the voter’s identity is written, cannot see how the voter’s ballot is marked. Once a certification envelope is opened, the secrecy envelope is removed and mixed with other secrecy

envelopes prior to being opened. The voter's personal information on the certification envelope (including the birthdate, which acts as a 'shared secret' between the voter and Elections BC) is validated by plebiscite officials to ensure that only eligible voters vote (and vote only once). The return envelope protects the privacy of the voter by shielding the personal information on the certification envelope while it is in transit.

Elections BC will examine its processes for opportunities to reduce the amount of paper and associated costs required for conducting voting by mail. However, ensuring the secrecy of the ballot and that only eligible voters vote are fundamental principles that must be achieved by any voting process.

Some voters were concerned that their personal information on the certification envelope could be inappropriately used, or that including this information with their ballot package would contravene the principle of a secret ballot. Elections BC takes seriously concerns about the privacy and security of voters' personal information. These requirements come from the Plebiscite Regulation and are necessary to validate the eligibility of the voter.

Some voters also questioned the month long delay between the close of voting and the announcement of the results. This delay is due to the nature of a vote by mail event. In a provincial election, preliminary results are known within hours of the close of voting because a majority of voters vote in person on General Voting Day and their ballots are counted in the voting places by tens of thousands of election officials. A relatively small number of ballots are cast by mail and counted at final count after being screened for eligibility (confirming that the individual who voted was a registered voter and voted only once). In a vote by mail event, results take longer to determine because counting cannot begin until all ballot packages have been received and screened for eligibility. This screening process is time consuming and conducted by fewer officials.

Elections BC also received a number of complaints regarding the inclusion of content provided by the Mayors' Council and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure in the information pamphlet, and on the ballot.

Appendices

Appendix A: Orders of the Chief Electoral Officer

Section 280 of the *Election Act* establishes the authority of the Chief Electoral Officer to make specific or general Orders under certain circumstances. There were five Orders made by the Chief Electoral Officer relating to the plebiscite. The Orders are summarized below:

EA-ORD003-2015

May 29, 2015

In some households receiving more than one voting package, two or more voters in the same household inadvertently voted using each other's voting package. Where plebiscite officials could determine that, apart from this error, the ballot packages submitted by these voters were completed as required by the Regulation, and that the voters in each case voted only once in the plebiscite, these ballot packages were considered for counting as if each individual in the household voted using the ballot package issued to them.

EA-ORD004-2015

May 29, 2015

A voter did not complete the certification envelope as required, but did provide their date of birth and signed a handwritten declaration on the return envelope. The ballot package returned by the voter was considered for counting as if the voter completed the certification envelope as required.

EA-ORD005-2015

May 29, 2015

Due to an error by a plebiscite official or service provider, the voting package provided to a voter did not include a certification envelope. This voter could not complete the certification envelope as required, but did provide their date of birth and signed a handwritten declaration on other ballot package materials. The ballot package returned by the voter was considered for counting as if the voter completed the certification envelope as required.

EA-ORD006-2015**May 29, 2015**

Some voters provided an incomplete date of birth, or provided a date of birth that did not match their date of birth on the provincial list of voters. Where the date provided was a near match for the voter's date of birth on the provincial list of voters, or was the date they signed the certification envelope, these voters were contacted to verify their identity. When a plebiscite official could verify the identity of the voter by telephone and determine that the incomplete or inaccurate date of birth on the certification envelope was provided in error, the plebiscite official completed or corrected the date of birth on the certification envelope on the voter's behalf. These ballot packages were considered for counting as if the voter completed the certification envelope as required.

EA-ORD007-2015**May 29, 2015**

Due to an error by a plebiscite official, two voters were instructed to sign a certification envelope for another voter. The voters were subsequently instructed to sign the declaration on a blank certification envelope that was attached to the original certification envelope. These ballot packages were considered for counting as if the voter completed the certification envelope as required.

Appendix B: Summary of participation by municipality and by age group

The table below summarizes the percentage of registered voters in each municipality who voted in the Metro Vancouver Transportation and Transit Plebiscite by age group.

Municipality	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	Total
Bowen Island Municipality	33.33%	31.27%	40.21%	41.51%	56.59%	70.32%	64.25%	50.66%
City of Burnaby	44.29%	37.38%	42.28%	47.42%	55.68%	61.79%	53.48%	48.22%
City of Coquitlam	44.34%	37.59%	42.57%	48.57%	58.58%	66.41%	57.69%	50.08%
City of Langley	34.22%	31.40%	37.23%	42.76%	54.30%	65.78%	56.39%	45.91%
City of Maple Ridge	40.77%	35.55%	41.85%	49.77%	61.93%	71.98%	61.63%	51.27%
City of New Westminster	43.14%	40.14%	43.99%	51.11%	58.78%	65.23%	56.70%	50.89%
City of North Vancouver	41.26%	38.13%	45.07%	50.21%	59.03%	66.55%	61.83%	51.28%
City of Pitt Meadows	37.01%	34.69%	39.07%	47.09%	61.01%	68.78%	60.08%	49.29%
City of Port Coquitlam	42.88%	35.85%	43.67%	51.61%	61.69%	68.89%	60.59%	51.05%
City of Port Moody	42.69%	37.78%	44.34%	50.97%	59.44%	67.11%	62.57%	50.63%
City of Richmond	43.25%	35.36%	39.91%	45.72%	54.46%	60.17%	52.72%	47.37%
City of Surrey	35.12%	29.20%	32.91%	41.17%	51.90%	58.43%	51.73%	41.93%
City of Vancouver	44.30%	40.20%	45.74%	50.95%	58.62%	65.41%	55.69%	50.44%
City of White Rock	29.28%	29.79%	35.06%	43.70%	57.97%	66.46%	52.64%	50.22%
Corporation of Delta	43.03%	33.86%	39.22%	49.92%	63.10%	70.99%	59.77%	52.36%
District of West Vancouver	43.56%	37.15%	45.04%	51.70%	63.03%	71.05%	62.83%	54.10%
District of North Vancouver	38.34%	28.77%	37.64%	43.99%	57.01%	68.02%	61.63%	51.89%
Metro Vancouver Electoral Area "A"	35.68%	28.61%	35.39%	35.53%	52.91%	66.07%	60.42%	42.16%
Township of Langley	38.44%	34.98%	40.73%	49.59%	62.12%	70.91%	59.44%	50.84%
Tsawwassen First Nation	28.57%	28.00%	29.82%	37.84%	48.59%	63.77%	64.44%	47.38%
Village of Anmore	42.98%	34.42%	44.57%	53.90%	64.43%	65.97%	61.57%	52.94%
Village of Belcarra	57.89%	25.71%	56.60%	46.94%	61.64%	80.83%	50.00%	59.30%
Village of Lions Bay	34.67%	32.29%	36.22%	54.77%	64.32%	69.16%	67.69%	54.96%
Total	41.10%	36.24%	41.12%	47.68%	57.46%	64.71%	56.11%	48.62%




Appendix C: Voting package contents

Front








Ballot

2015 Metro Vancouver Transportation and Transit Plebiscite

Step 1 of 4

- To vote, fill in  or mark  or  in the circle next to your choice.
- **Do not make any other markings** on this ballot, or it may not be counted.
- Refold this ballot and put it inside the grey Secrecy Envelope **(A)**.

The Mayors' Council has developed a transportation and transit plan called *Regional Transportation Investments - a Vision for Metro Vancouver*. The plan will:

-  Add bus service and new B-Line rapid bus routes.
-  Increase service on SkyTrain, Canada Line, SeaBus and West Coast Express.
-  Maintain and upgrade the region's major roads.
-  Build a new Pattullo Bridge.
-  Build rapid transit connecting Surrey Centre with Guildford, Newton and Langley.
-  Build rapid transit along Broadway in Vancouver.
-  Extend the region's cycling and pedestrian walkway networks.

A new Metro Vancouver Congestion Improvement Tax would be applied as a 0.5% sales tax on the majority of goods and services that are subject to the Provincial Sales Tax and are sold or delivered in the region. More detail can be found at www.mayorscouncil.ca.

Revenues would be dedicated to the Mayors' Council transportation and transit plan. Revenues and expenditures would be subject to annual independent audits and public reporting.

Do you support a new 0.5% Metro Vancouver Congestion Improvement Tax, to be dedicated to the Mayors' Council transportation and transit plan?

Yes

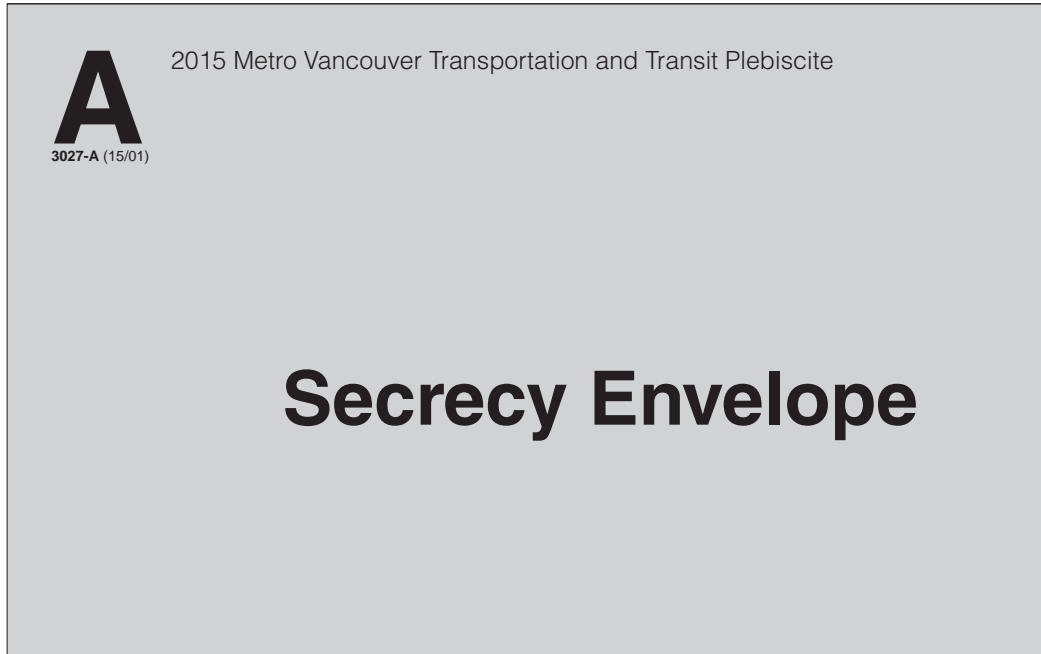
No

Important notes

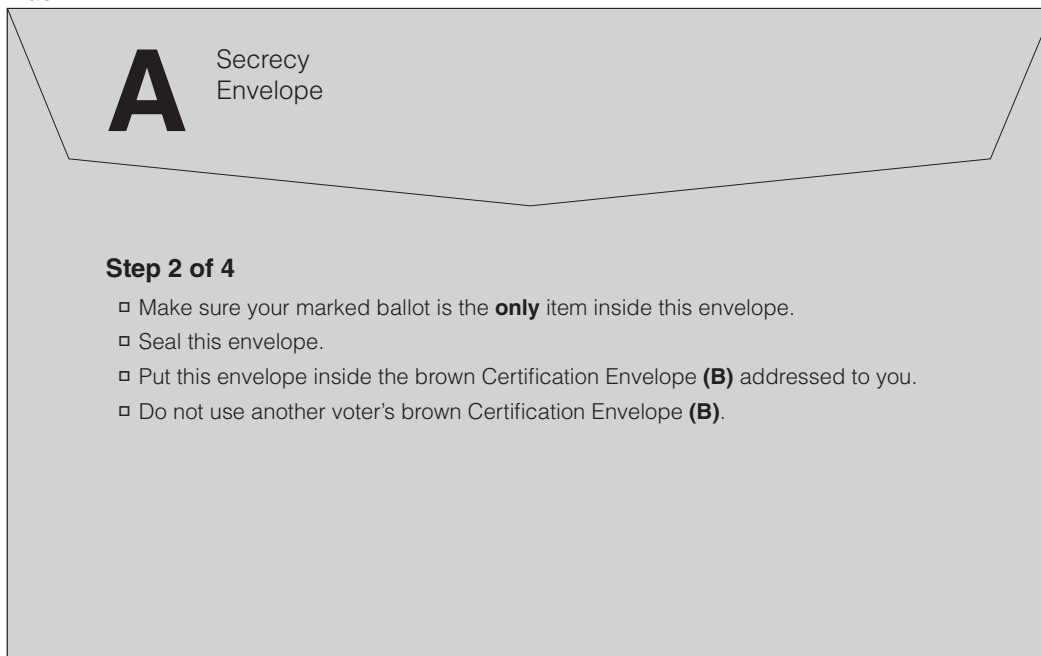
If you are unable to mark this ballot, you may ask someone to help you. This person must also follow the instructions on your brown Certification Envelope **(B)**.

Translations of this voting package are available at elections.bc.ca.

Front



Back



Front

B

3027-B (15/01)

2015 Metro Vancouver Transportation and Transit Plebiscite Certification Envelope

VAN

OFFICE USE ONLY

Declaration for Jane Voter
I declare that I am the voter identified on the certification envelope, that I am resident in the transportation service region and that I have not previously voted in this plebiscite.

<p style="font-size: 8px; margin: 0;">SIGNATURE</p> <p style="font-size: 24px; margin: 0; text-align: center;">Jane Voter</p>	<p style="font-size: 8px; margin: 0;">IF YOUR HOME ADDRESS BELOW HAS CHANGED, COMPLETE THIS SECTION</p> <p style="font-size: 8px; margin: 0;">#111 2222 THIRD STREET VANCOUVER</p> <p style="font-size: 8px; margin: 0;">APT/UNIT # BLDG # STREET</p> <p style="font-size: 8px; margin: 0;">MUNICIPALITY PHONE</p>
---	--

<p style="font-size: 8px; margin: 0;">BIRTHDATE</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; font-size: 8px; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">MONTH</td> <td style="width: 33%; font-size: 8px; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">DAY</td> <td style="width: 33%; font-size: 8px; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">YEAR</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="font-size: 18px; text-align: center;">September</td> <td style="font-size: 18px; text-align: center;">23</td> <td style="font-size: 18px; text-align: center;">1976</td> </tr> </table>	MONTH	DAY	YEAR	September	23	1976	<p style="font-size: 8px; margin: 0;">The section above must be completed for your ballot to be counted.</p>
MONTH	DAY	YEAR					
September	23	1976					

000000

JANE VOTER
#111 2222 THIRD STREET
VANCOUVER BC V1W 2X3

This information is collected under the authority of the Election Act and the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act to administer the 2015 Metro Vancouver Transportation and Transit Plebiscite. Questions about its collection and use can be directed to the Elections BC Privacy Officer at 1-800-661-8683 or PO Box 9275 Stn Prov Govt Victoria, BC V8W 9J6.

Back

B

Certification
Envelope

ELECTIONS BC

A non-partisan Office of the Legislature

elections.bc.ca
1-800-661-8683

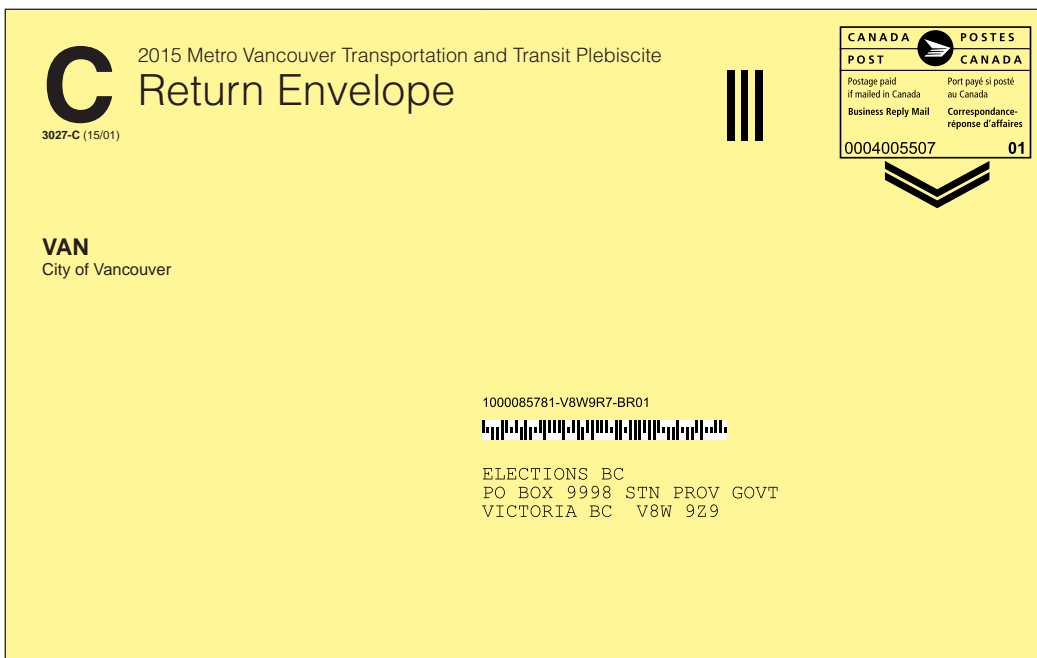
Step 3 of 4

- Make sure your sealed grey Secrecy Envelope **(A)**, containing your marked ballot, is inside this envelope.
- Do not put another voter's ballot or grey Secrecy Envelope **(A)** inside this envelope.
- Seal this envelope.
- To make sure your ballot is counted, you **must** read the declaration and:
 - Sign in the space provided on the front of this envelope.
 - Print your birthdate in the space provided on the front of this envelope.
- Put this envelope inside the yellow Return Envelope **(C)**.

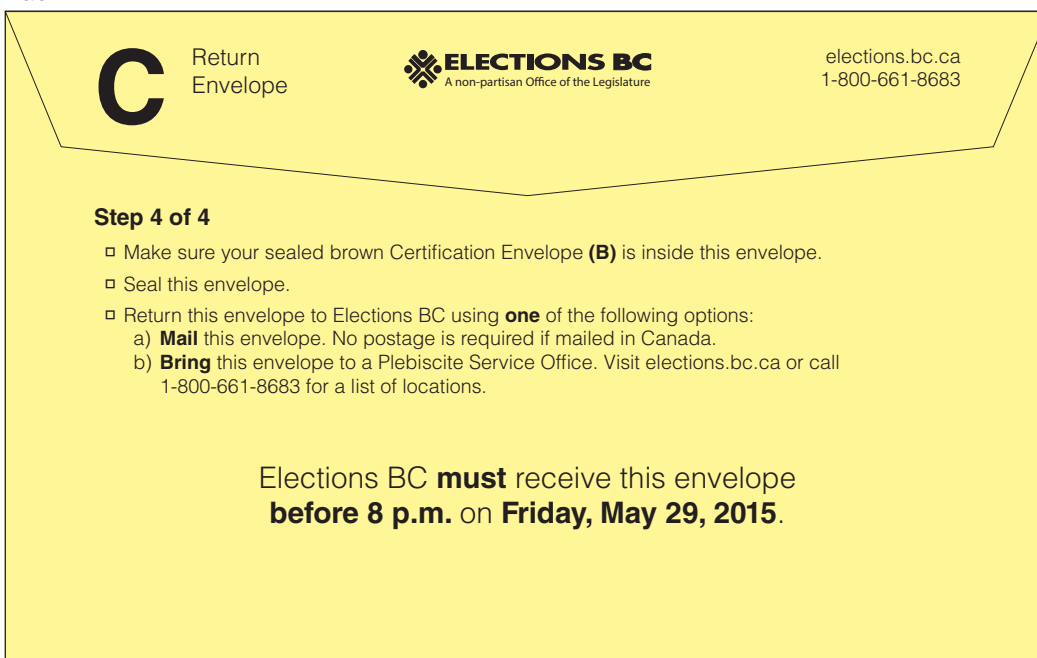
If you are unable to sign the declaration, you may ask someone to help you. This person must provide **their signature** and **your birthdate** on the front of this envelope. This person may only help one voter* and must print their full name here: _____

*This person may help more than one member of their own family.

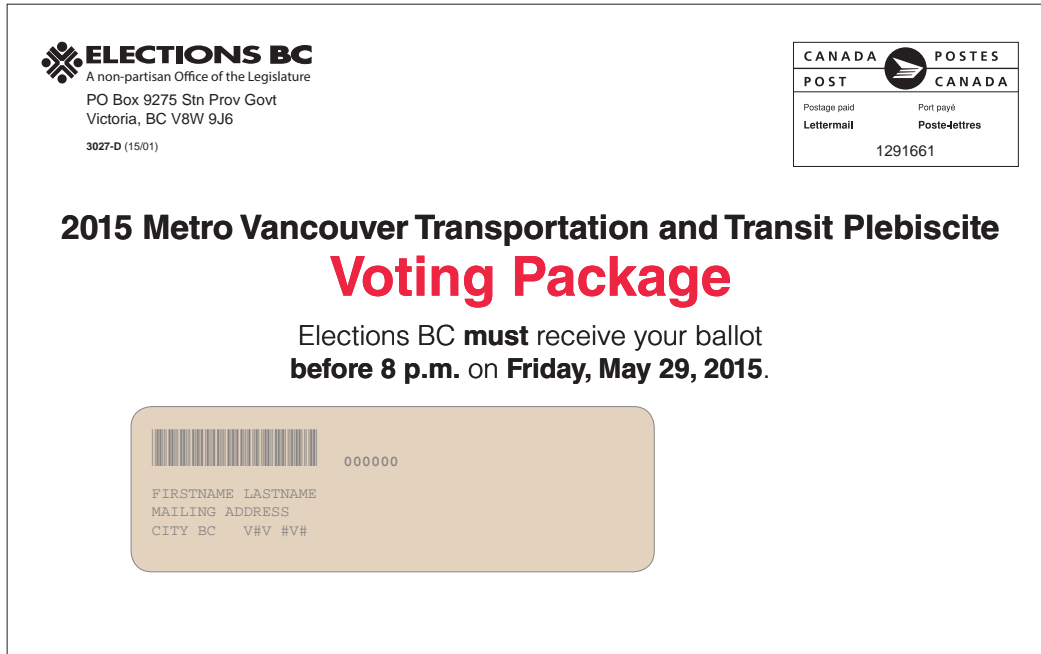
Front



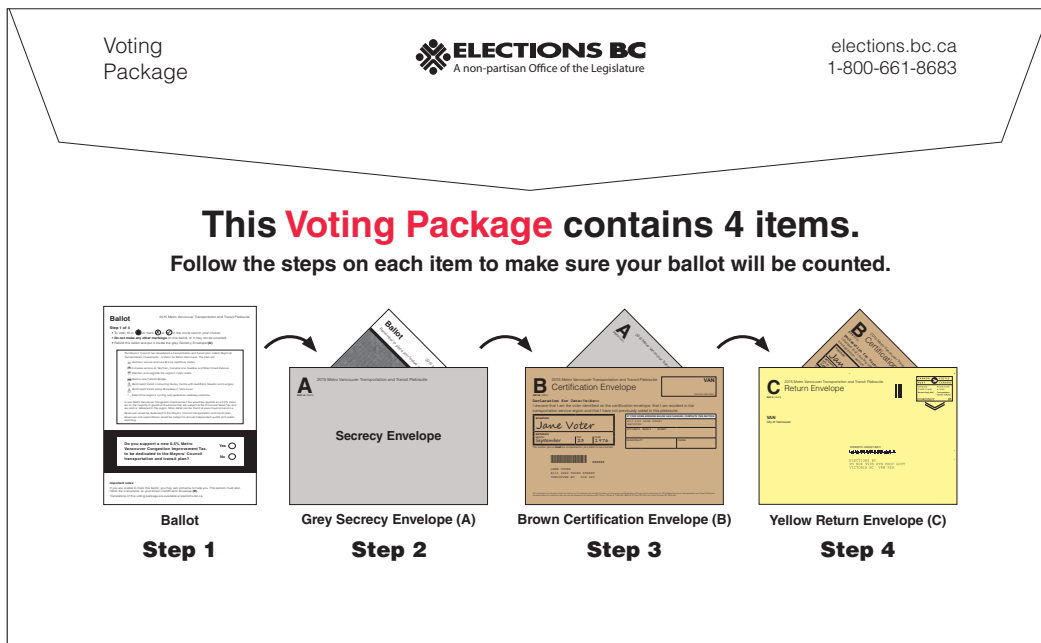
Back



Front



Back



Appendix D: Advertisements

Newspaper advertisement #1

2015 METRO VANCOUVER TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT PLEBISCITE

Elections BC is administering the vote-by-mail plebiscite from March 16 to May 29, 2015.

You can vote if you are:

- A Canadian citizen
- 18 years of age or older, on or before May 29, 2015
- A resident of B.C. for at least six months, on or before May 29, 2015
- Registered to vote in B.C.
- Living in Metro Vancouver

You can ask for a voting package to be mailed to you by calling 1-800-661-8683 or online at elections.bc.ca/ovr. You can ask for a voting package until midnight on Friday, May 15, 2015.

Elections BC **must** receive your completed ballot package **before 8 p.m. on Friday, May 29, 2015.**

Visit elections.bc.ca or call 1-800-661-8683 for more information.

elections.bc.ca
1-800-661-8683



Newspaper advertisement #2

2015 METRO VANCOUVER TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT PLEBISCITE

Elections BC is administering the vote-by-mail plebiscite.

You can vote if you are:

- A Canadian citizen
- 18 years of age or older, on or before May 29, 2015
- A resident of B.C. for at least six months, on or before May 29, 2015
- Registered to vote in B.C.
- Living in Metro Vancouver

If you have not received a voting package, call Elections BC at 1-800-661-8683 **before midnight May 15** to ask for one.

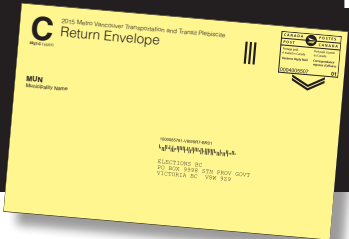
Elections BC **must** receive your completed ballot package **before 8 p.m. on Friday, May 29, 2015.**

Visit elections.bc.ca or call 1-800-661-8683 for more information.

elections.bc.ca
1-800-661-8683



Newspaper advertisement #3



2015 METRO VANCOUVER TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT PLEBISCITE

CLOSE OF VOTING 8 P.M. FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2015

Elections BC must receive your completed ballot package before the close of voting at 8 p.m. on Friday, May 29, 2015.


Voters are reminded to allow enough mailing time for their ballot package to reach Elections BC before the close of voting or drop off their ballot package at one of the nine Plebiscite Service Offices listed below.

Plebiscite Service Offices are located at:

- Capilano Mall, North Vancouver
- Central City Mall, Surrey
- Chinatown Plaza, Vancouver
- City Square Shopping Centre, Vancouver
- Coquitlam Centre, Coquitlam
- Haney Place Mall, Maple Ridge
- Lougheed Town Centre, Burnaby
- Richmond Centre, Richmond
- Willowbrook Shopping Centre, Langley

For more information, call 1-800-661-8683 or visit elections.bc.ca.

elections.bc.ca
1-800-661-8683



ELECTIONS BC
A non-partisan Office of the Legislature

Transit advertisement - shelter - March

**If you
didn't get this,
call us now.**

ELECTIONS BC
A non-partisan Office of the Legislature
PO Box 9275 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 5J6
3627-D (1501)

CANADA POSTES
POST CANADA
Per mail Poste-lettres
1291661

**2015 Metro Vancouver Transportation and Transit Plebiscite
Voting Package**
Elections BC must receive your ballot
before 8 p.m. on Friday, May 29, 2015.

1-800-661-8683
elections.bc.ca

ELECTIONS BC
A non-partisan Office of the Legislature

Transit advertisement - bus side - March

**If you
didn't get this,
call us now**

ELECTIONS BC
A non-partisan Office of the Legislature
PO Box 9275 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 5J6
3627-D (1501)

CANADA POSTES
POST CANADA
Per mail Poste-lettres
1291661

**2015 Metro Vancouver Transportation and Transit Plebiscite
Voting Package**
Elections BC must receive your ballot
before 8 p.m. on Friday, May 29, 2015.

1-800-661-8683
elections.bc.ca

ELECTIONS BC
A non-partisan Office of the Legislature

Transit advertisement - shelter - May

Got it?

Call 1-800-661-8683
before midnight May 15th to
ask for a voting package

Sent it?

Elections BC must receive
your completed ballot package
before 8 p.m. Friday, May 29th

elections.bc.ca

ELECTIONS BC
A non-partisan Office of the Legislature

Transit advertisement - bus side - May

Sent in your plebiscite ballot yet?

Elections BC must receive your completed
ballot package before 8 p.m. Friday, May 29th

1-800-661-8683
elections.bc.ca

ELECTIONS BC
A non-partisan Office of the Legislature

Plebiscite service office banner stand



Online/SEM advertisements

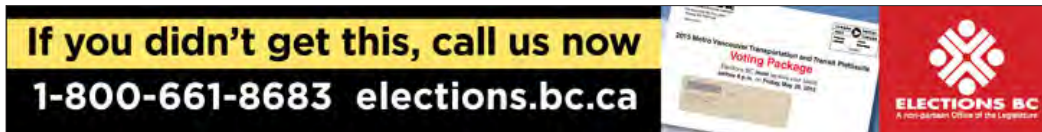
Static banner



Static display



Horizontal banner



Appendix E: Glossary

Accepted	A certification envelope that passed the review process.
Ballot	The ballot paper included in the voting package for marking a response to the plebiscite question.
Ballot package	The set of materials returned to Elections BC by voters. The ballot package consists of the marked ballot within a secrecy envelope, certification envelope and return envelope.
Cancelled voting package	A voting package that Elections BC mailed to a voter, but later determined should be invalidated because a replacement voting package was issued or for another valid reason. A voting package must be cancelled before a replacement voting package may be issued.
Certification envelope (B)	The personalized envelope within the ballot package that contains the secrecy envelope and ballot. The voter's mandatory information is collected on the front, along with a change of address section.
Consider	The evaluation of a certification envelope or ballot to determine whether it meets the legislated requirements.
Contact centre	Elections BC 1-800 call centre.
Counting	The consideration and tallying of individual ballots once they have been removed from certification and secrecy envelopes.
Mandatory information	<p>The information (full name, residential address, birthdate, signature) required by the Plebiscite 2015 (Regional Transportation System Funding) Regulation to be present on a certification envelope for the certification envelope to be opened.</p> <p>The voter's full name and residential address are preprinted by Elections BC.</p>

Not accepted	A certification envelope that did not pass the review process.
Outer envelope	The envelope in which voting packages are mailed to voters.
Plebiscite 2015 (Regional Transportation System Funding) Regulation	Legislation that lays out the rules for the administration of the 2015 Metro Vancouver Transportation and Transit Plebiscite.
Plebiscite service office	Elections BC offices in shopping centres in Metro Vancouver that were established to provide plebiscite eligibility information, issue voting packages, register and update voter information, and be a local drop point for completed ballot packages
Regulation	See Plebiscite 2015 (Regional Transportation System Funding) Regulation.
Rejected ballot	A ballot that was considered during ballot counting, but not adjudicated to be a ballot that could be counted as either a YES or NO response.
Return envelope (C)	The prepaid, pre-addressed envelope in which a ballot package is returned to Elections BC.
Review	A multi-stage process of evaluating a certification envelope to determine whether it meets the requirements of the Plebiscite 2015 (Regional Transportation System Funding) Regulation and can be opened.
Secrecy envelope (A)	The envelope in which the ballot is placed prior to being returned to Elections BC. The secrecy envelope ensures that the ballot cannot be linked to the voter whose information is on the certification envelope.

Set aside	A ballot package or certification envelope that could not be considered for opening or counting for a reason established by the Plebiscite 2015 (Regional Transportation System Funding) Regulation (e.g. received after close of voting, missing mandatory information).
Spoiled ballot	A ballot that has been soiled, improperly printed, or spoiled in marking by the elector and can be exchanged for a replacement ballot. One of the valid reasons for requesting a replacement voting package.
Valid votes	Ballots that were considered during ballot counting and adjudicated to be a ballot that could be counted as either a “Yes” or “No” response.
Voting package	The set of materials mailed to voters by Elections BC for the conduct of the plebiscite. The voting package consisted of a ballot, secrecy envelope, certification envelope, and postage-paid ballot package return envelope.



Mailing Address:

PO Box 9275 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9J6

Phone: 250-387-5305

Toll-free: 1-800-661-8683 / TTY 1-888-456-5448

Fax: 250-387-3578

Toll-free Fax: 1-866-466-0665

Email: electionsbc@elections.bc.ca

Website: www.elections.bc.ca

