



# Indigenous Elder and Youth Program

---

## Information Sheet

### Introduction

This information sheet provides an overview of the Indigenous Elder and Youth Program (IEYP) for easy reference. Returning officers (ROs) and community relations officers (CROs) can use it to help guide their discussions with Indigenous communities and their efforts to identify candidates for the IEYP.

This is not a public-facing document; a separate flyer on the IEYP is being created to facilitate recruitment. However, this document may be shared during meetings with Indigenous leaders.

### Purpose of the IEYP

The IEYP will make polling places more welcoming and make voting easier for electors in First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities by:

- removing barriers to registration and voting on polling day
- creating a comfortable environment through a familiar presence (i.e. members of the community)
- offering translation services in the language of the community for electors who are not comfortable in English or French

### Background

The IEYP—formerly the Aboriginal Elder and Youth Program (AEYP)—has been in place since 1997 and has been well received by Indigenous communities across Canada.

Under the IEYP, ROs appoint an Elder and a youth to work at the polling place on polling day in any area where there is a First Nations reserve, Métis settlement, Inuit hamlet or a community with a significant population of Indigenous electors. For the 45th general election, the IEYP program has been expanded to include advance polling days.

### The role of Elders and youth

To be appointed as an Elder or a youth for the program, a person does **not** have to reside in the electoral district or be eligible to vote in it.

On both ordinary and advance polling days, their role is to:

## *Indigenous Elder and Youth Program*

- split their shifts during the 12 hours of voting (the Elder usually takes the first shift)
- offer translation services to electors, if needed
- assist the Information Officer in explaining the voting process, including registration procedures, to electors
- answer electors' questions
- act as a liaison between poll workers and electors
- help with voting procedures, such as reading the ballot before it is handed to an elector

By law, Elders and youth are **not** allowed to go behind the voting screen to help an elector mark their ballot. If an elector cannot mark their ballot because they are unable to read or because of a disability, the deputy returning officer may assist them behind the voting screen.

## **Impartiality**

The Elder and youth are **not** allowed to canvass for a political party or a candidate, or to try to influence electors. In addition, they must:

- take an oath before they begin work
- remain non-partisan while performing their duties
- agree to maintain the secrecy of the vote

## **Training**

On-the-spot training will be provided.

## **Pay**

Elders and youth who participate in the program will be paid as interpreters, according to the level 2 hourly rate in the [Tariff of Fees – Reference Table \(EC 11795\)](#).