

Chief Electoral Officer Policy

Subject: Media Access to Polling Places

Effective Date: August 1, 2016

Authority

The authority for this policy is derived from the *Elections Act*.

S. 222.02 No person may record images within a polling place without the prior approval of the chief electoral officer.

S. 227 (1) During the time that polling takes place the chief electoral officer may permit representatives of the media to be present at a polling place.

(2) The chief electoral officer shall establish rules for representatives of the media to be present at a polling place.

Policy

Media representatives, including reporters and camera/video operators, may be present within a polling place only with the prior authorization of the Chief Electoral Officer or Returning Officer responsible for the polling place.

Access will be permitted from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the days designated for voting at the advance polls and on polling day.

Media organizations may contact the Chief Electoral Officer or the Returning Officer directly for authorization.

Requests must be made, in writing, at least 24 hours in advance and must identify the time and location of the requested media visit.

The following rules will apply to authorization granted to media personnel:

- Media representatives must provide the election officer in charge of a polling place with proof of authorization
- No photographs or video of a voter may be taken without their express consent
- Media representatives must not in any way impede voters, interfere with the voting process or compromise the secrecy of the vote
- Media interviews must be conducted outside of the polling place

All provisions of the *Elections Act* governing conduct in a polling place must be respected, including the following:

- No one may display anything that supports or opposes a candidate or party in the polling place or on the outside of the building used as a polling place. No one may wear anything in a polling place that supports or endorses a candidate or party, or the issues of a candidate or party. [s. 222.03]
- No photographs may be taken of a person marking their ballot or of a marked ballot [s. 341(1) and (2)(a)]
- No one may interfere with an elector who is marking a ballot [s. 341(2)(a)]
- No one may attempt to learn how a voter intends to mark their ballot or has marked their ballot [s. 341(2)(c), (d), (e)]
- Every person in a polling place must follow the directions of the election officer in charge of the polling place [s. 339]
- No one may publish or broadcast a result or purported result of the polling in any polling division or electoral district, before the hour set by or pursuant to the *Elections Act* for the closing of the polls or before the expiry of any extension, by any medium whatsoever [s. 347]

Contact

For media authorization to be present at a polling place, contact:

Chief Electoral Officer
Elections Yukon
Box 2703
Yukon Government Building
2071 Second Avenue
Whitehorse, YT
Y1A 3C6

Phone: 867-667-8683 or 1-866-668-8683

E-mail: info@electionsyukon.ca