



# REGIONAL DISTRICT of Fraser-Fort George

## VOTING SCRUTINEERS

### **A. General Information**

Voting scrutineers perform a function similar to that provided by election scrutineers, essentially to ensure that voting is conducted fairly and in accordance with legal requirements. However, there are some important distinctions between the two types of scrutineers:

1. Election scrutineers are appointed by each candidate to monitor proceedings at locations where electors are being registered for election voting or where the election votes are being counted. Voting scrutineers, on the other hand, are appointed by the Chief Election Officer to monitor proceedings at locations being used for non-election voting. Examples of non-election voting include a referendum question seeking the opinion of the electors, or elector assent for a proposed Regional District service bylaw.
2. Unlike election scrutineers, voting scrutineers must qualify as electors for the voting jurisdiction for which they wish to act as scrutineer.
3. Voting scrutineers are typically appointed in pairs to each voting location, with one scrutineer in favour of the voting proposition and one scrutineer opposed.

### **B. Roles and Responsibilities**

Scrutineers must present their completed Appointment Forms to the Presiding Election Official when entering a place of voting. If the Appointment Form cannot be produced the individual will be required to leave the voting place. Other requirements with which scrutineers should be familiar are:

- scrutineers will be required to make a solemn declaration to preserve the secrecy of the ballot.
- scrutineers will be issued an identification badge or tag which must be worn while in the voting place.
- scrutineers are not permitted to wander about the voting place, nor are they permitted to interfere with or delay the taking of the vote. This includes talking to or “visiting” with voters. The scrutineer’s role is to observe the proceedings and, when necessary, to challenge them in accordance with the law.
- scrutineers are not permitted to handle any ballots. During the ballot count a scrutineer may only object to the acceptance or rejection of a ballot, and for this purpose is entitled to a clear, unobstructed view of the counting process.
- scrutineers are permitted to come and go from the voting place at their pleasure, and are responsible for providing their own pencils, paper, tally sheets, food, etc.
- scrutineers must be in the voting place at the 8:00 p.m. closing time or they will not be permitted entry to view the ballot count.
- the use of cell phones within the voting place is not permitted.

Further information regarding the appointment or responsibilities of scrutineers may be obtained by contacting the Chief Election Officer for the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George