

Lower Vancouver Island Retired Teachers (LVIRT) Advocacy Action for May 12 Provincial Election

From: Mr. Reg Miller - Letter of Introduction

To: LVIRT Members, Retired Educators, Seniors and other interested parties

The package of information you have received is a non-partisan presentation for your consideration. While the LVIRT and BCRTA (B.C. Retired Teachers Association) are non - partisan organizations I feel that we must be advocates for seniors and their issues, because while “speaking out” conveys a message - “not speaking out” conveys a message also. For far too long, we have conveyed messages like: there are no problems; there is nothing we can do; it’s not OK to speak out; the issues are not that important; we have done our bit - someone else can do it now; and so on! We must change that - so speak out and let everyone know your feelings - your friends, family, the government, the candidates - whoever will listen.

This package will give you some issues, information and thoughts to reflect on: why should you vote (in the May 12 election)? ; Are you registered to vote ? ; a **Report Card** for you to assess how the current government has performed in a few areas; a non partisan information sheet on the B.C. Electoral System and the referendum/vote whether or not to change to the STV (Single Transferable Vote) system, to be held with the May 12 provincial election.

Your help is needed to get the message out about seniors’ issues. Seniors all over the province are finding ways to get involved. Many seniors are speaking out to family, friends and neighbours on seniors’ issues that are important in their communities. Seniors are also helping to organize and support public meetings and forums in their communities; they need your support. Please go out to all-candidates’ meetings and ask questions or tell personal stories about the problems and issues that you know about, so the candidates can be held accountable both now and in the future.

A great source of information is the BCRTA website www.bcrta.com and its election site.

Networking with other organizations, such as, the Council of Senior Citizens Organizations of B.C. (COSCO) will make you more informed. You can contact them at www.coscobc.ca.

While we must be non-partisan, you must become informed, involved, political & speak out!!

NOTE:

Please check out where you will be voting, well ahead of time, as some ridings and boundaries have been changed since last election. You can go to www.elections.bc.ca or call 1-800-661-8683 .

Thank You,

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LVIRT Advocacy Chairperson