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**The Report on the
March 3, 2008
Provincial General Election
of the
Twenty-seventh Legislative Assembly**







chief electoral office

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July 28, 2008

Mr. Leonard Mitzel, Chairman
Standing Committee on Legislative Offices
Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Dear Mr. Mitzel:

I have the privilege to enclose the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer concerning the 2008 Provincial General Election, which was conducted on Monday, March 3, 2008.

Information on the target enumeration process conducted in each electoral division is included. Recommendations for amendments to the *Election Act*, the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act*, and the *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act* are also included for review and consideration.

This Report is submitted pursuant to the provisions of Section 4(3) of the *Election Act*. Should you require clarification or additional information on anything contained in the Report, I would be pleased to respond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lorne R. Gibson".

Lorne R. Gibson
Chief Electoral Officer



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Alberta (foldout map)

REMARKS OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

When I accepted the position of Chief Electoral Officer two years ago, I was prepared for a challenge. The 2008 Provincial General Election did not disappoint me.

Returning Officers and their staff members also met the myriad of challenges to make the election a success. They did an exemplary job, particularly when the increasing complexity of their role is considered. I hope that their duties, as identified in the following pages, will bring a better appreciation of the scope, breadth and importance of their responsibilities in running an election.

Public debate over the Returning Officer appointment process occurred throughout the election period. While I see an urgent need for change in this area of electoral administration, it is because of the partisan nature of the process and is not a reflection of the character or integrity of the 83 Returning Officers who served Albertans in such an important way.

There is another group that deserves our thanks. I commend the 15,000 election officers who accepted the challenge of working on the front lines of the democratic process. The work day is long and often fraught with challenges; still, they accepted the task from a sense of civic responsibility and a sincere commitment to community service.

I am pleased to see that these ordinary Albertans, who performed so ably, are appreciated by the voters they served. A survey conducted in the weeks following the election revealed that 97% of voters found polling place staff to be helpful. All election officers should be proud of their stellar performance in the eyes of the voting public.

This Report addresses, in detail, the concerns raised during the election. There are improvements that can be made with the proper tools – some are administrative, while many are legislative. Recommendations for legislative change, if adopted, would improve all aspects of the electoral process.

The 2008 Provincial General Election was run in accordance with existing election legislation. However, the legislation administered by this Office, both the *Election Act* and the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act*, are in dire need of contemporizing, in order to provide clear and meaningful direction to voters, election administrators and political participants. The legislation would benefit greatly from the types of changes being made in other provinces. Many of these changes were first proposed in 2006 and further changes are being proposed in this Report. Just as critical is the need for a plain language rewrite to facilitate understanding by all Albertans affected by our election laws.

Despite the challenges, an overwhelming majority of voters who were surveyed post-election were content with their experience at the polls. In fact, 94% expressed satisfaction with their voting experience. The convenience of polling place locations, and the time required to vote, garnered even higher levels of satisfaction. This makes the many challenges worthwhile.

Encouraging voter participation will continue to be a priority for us as it should be for other participants in the democratic process. New initiatives have been launched to increase democratic participation, particularly among youth, and we are committed to exploring additional avenues to increase involvement on the part of all Albertans. This is the important challenge we face—and I look forward to leading the journey.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lorne R. Gibson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'L'.

Lorne R. Gibson
Chief Electoral Officer

PREPARATION FOR THE ELECTION

Overview

Election planning began well in advance of the “election call” (the issuance of the writs of election) on February 4, 2008. The early stages of preparation focused on review of statutory direction, acquisition of necessary election material and identification of human resources needed to ensure election readiness on a timely basis.

Between October 31, 2006 and January 17, 2007, 104 recommendations for revisions to the *Election Act* and the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure (EFCD) Act* were submitted to the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices and subsequently, at the Committee’s direction, to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General. These recommendations were proposed to enable Elections Alberta to improve the service provided to electors. These recommendations were not adopted prior to the March 3, 2008 Provincial General Election.

On May 19, 2006, the first formal request was made for the appointment of Returning Officers in accordance with section 9 of the *Election Act (the Act)*.

The budget presented to the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices on December 13, 2006 anticipated the possibility of a general election in the 2007/2008 fiscal year. The budget was approved as presented, on that date, allowing for the acquisition of necessary election material.

The request for Returning Officer appointments was repeated on a number of occasions following budget approval, to allow for necessary training and the completion of pre-writ activities.

Development of the Lists of Electors

For over a decade, Elections Alberta has had legislative authority to produce Lists of Electors using a Register of Electors; a database of elector information which is continuously updated from a variety of sources. In spite of this, Alberta continued to be one of four provincial election offices that conducted a province-wide enumeration prior to each general election.

Full-scale enumerations have become increasingly difficult to conduct. Electors have expressed concerns about personal safety and the possibility of identity theft. Enumerators have similar concerns about personal safety when going door to door. It is increasingly difficult to recruit a staff complement of the 6,000 to 7,000 enumerators that would be required to conduct a full enumeration, particularly given the current employment situation in the province.

An increasing number of electors live in multi-residential facilities that prohibit access to anyone except residents. While section 29 of *the Act* provides statutory authority for

enumerators to enter these premises, practical problems exist in arranging access within the enumeration period. New solutions to data collection were clearly needed.

It was decided in 2006 to focus on the application of electronic updates to the Register of Electors database, in order to continuously improve data quality using an automated approach. Records of electors who had previously provided their information to Elections Alberta for the purpose of creating Lists of Electors had been regularly updated using a number of sources:

- Elections Canada provided elector data from the National Register of Electors, including additions and updates received from consenting electors' income tax returns
- Service Alberta provided address updates for registered electors who hold Alberta driver's licences and Alberta identification cards
- Alberta Health and Wellness provided address updates for registered electors covered by the health insurance plan
- Service Alberta provided names of deceased Albertans, to allow for their deletion from future Lists of Electors

Elector populations from the March 2005 and February 2008 Lists of Electors are compared in Table 1 to reflect the volume of additions between elections. Post-polling day Lists of Electors were issued in March 2005, subsequent to the 2004 provincial general election, in accordance with section 19(1) of *the Act*. Updates from the external data sources identified above were incorporated, on an ongoing basis, to produce Lists of Electors in November 2006, in accordance with Section 18(1)(a) of *the Act*. Updates continued to be incorporated to produce Lists of Electors in February 2008, in accordance with section 18(3) of *the Act*.

An overview of update activities since the release of the March 2005 post-polling day Lists of Electors appears below:

- The number of names on the Lists of Electors grew by over 300,000, which represents a 15.1% increase.
- Alberta's total population increase for this period was 299,555; indicating that Register updates have kept pace with population growth*.
- Over this period, the following updates were incorporated into the Register of Electors:
 - over 400,000 additions included newly eligible electors, moves into the province, and electors who had been missed during the 2004 enumeration and election;
 - over 262,000 elector records had some element of their information changed or added to facilitate record matching and ongoing updates;
 - almost 230,000 elector records were moved to reflect changes of address locations within the province;
 - over 100,000 deletions reflected out of province moves and the removal of decedents and duplicate names; and
 - almost 90,000 new addresses were added.

Net additions to the Lists of Electors, by electoral division, are shown on the following table.

*Statistics Canada source data, prepared by Alberta Finance and Enterprise-Statistics in Alberta Population Reports, Third Quarter 2004 compared to First Quarter 2008.

Table 1: Lists of Electors—Increases/Decreases

Electoral Division	March 2005	February 2008	Difference
01 Dunvegan-Central Peace	15,048	14,787	-261
02 Calgary-Bow	26,997	30,847	3,850
03 Calgary-Buffalo	24,098	30,595	6,497
04 Calgary-Cross	22,026	26,576	4,550
05 Calgary-Currie	24,261	31,252	6,991
06 Calgary-East	22,463	26,762	4,299
07 Calgary-Egmont	26,988	30,616	3,628
08 Calgary-Elbow	25,683	30,360	4,677
09 Calgary-Fish Creek	25,955	28,692	2,737
10 Calgary-Foothills	27,272	32,402	5,130
11 Calgary-Fort	23,017	27,002	3,985
12 Calgary-Glenmore	25,536	28,225	2,689
13 Calgary-Hays	24,724	31,574	6,850
14 Calgary-Lougheed	26,033	32,007	5,974
15 Calgary-Mackay	27,887	34,811	6,924
16 Calgary-McCall	21,816	29,145	7,329
17 Calgary-Montrose	21,893	25,362	3,469
18 Calgary-Mountain View	27,085	32,779	5,694
19 Calgary-North Hill	22,779	27,437	4,658
20 Calgary-North West	32,615	40,435	7,820
21 Calgary-Nose Hill	23,233	26,775	3,542
22 Calgary-Shaw	26,120	30,992	4,872
23 Calgary-Varsity	25,617	29,658	4,041
24 Calgary-West	30,894	38,390	7,496
25 Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview	23,311	27,230	3,919
26 Edmonton-Calder	23,226	27,033	3,807
27 Edmonton-Castle Downs	28,901	33,512	4,611
28 Edmonton-Centre	21,747	29,427	7,680
29 Edmonton-Decore	24,515	28,789	4,274
30 Edmonton-Ellerslie	23,319	27,873	4,554
31 Edmonton-Glenora	23,050	27,006	3,956
32 Edmonton-Gold Bar	25,002	29,164	4,162
33 Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood	22,569	26,683	4,114
34 Edmonton-Manning	24,859	29,171	4,312
35 Edmonton-McClung	24,848	30,550	5,702
36 Edmonton-Meadowlark	23,572	27,907	4,335
37 Edmonton-Mill Creek	24,365	28,740	4,375
38 Edmonton-Mill Woods	23,100	26,924	3,824
39 Edmonton-Riverview	24,747	28,021	3,274
40 Edmonton-Rutherford	23,868	27,159	3,291
41 Edmonton-Strathcona	24,096	29,414	5,318

Electoral Division	March 2005	February 2008	Difference
42 Edmonton-Whitemud	31,027	38,576	7,549
43 Airdrie-Chestermere	29,938	35,734	5,796
44 Athabasca-Redwater	23,739	23,808	69
45 Banff-Cochrane	21,095	24,832	3,737
46 Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock	22,650	23,775	1,125
47 Battle River-Wainwright	20,190	20,444	254
48 Bonnyville-Cold Lake	18,022	19,288	1,266
49 Cardston-Taber-Warner	18,867	19,486	619
50 Cypress-Medicine Hat	21,887	24,406	2,519
51 Drayton Valley-Calmar	19,017	19,717	700
52 Drumheller-Stettler	20,571	21,690	1,119
53 Foothills-Rocky View	22,435	23,928	1,493
54 Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo	26,292	32,423	6,131
55 Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville	24,655	26,464	1,809
56 Grande Prairie-Smoky	21,748	26,413	4,665
57 Grande Prairie-Wapiti	22,089	26,975	4,886
58 Highwood	23,281	26,864	3,583
59 Innisfail-Sylvan Lake	23,855	26,170	2,315
60 Lac La Biche-St. Paul	18,269	18,452	183
61 Lacombe-Ponoka	26,127	28,303	2,176
62 Leduc-Beaumont-Devon	26,661	30,315	3,654
63 Lesser Slave Lake	18,914	19,555	641
64 Lethbridge-East	26,150	29,295	3,145
65 Lethbridge-West	24,176	29,007	4,831
66 Little Bow	19,649	20,078	429
67 Livingstone-Macleod	22,253	22,659	406
68 Medicine Hat	25,459	29,126	3,667
69 Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills	21,928	23,086	1,158
70 Peace River	16,993	17,920	927
71 Red Deer-North	22,276	27,854	5,578
72 Red Deer-South	27,146	33,261	6,115
73 Rocky Mountain House	21,339	21,920	581
74 Sherwood Park	26,309	27,882	1,573
75 Spruce Grove-Sturgeon-St. Albert	27,435	30,989	3,554
76 St. Albert	28,731	32,414	3,683
77 Stony Plain	25,799	27,901	2,102
78 Strathcona	27,605	30,463	2,858
79 Strathmore-Brooks	25,368	28,155	2,787
80 Vermilion-Lloydminster	21,600	23,145	1,545
81 West Yellowhead	17,571	20,276	2,705
82 Wetaskiwin-Camrose	23,967	26,454	2,487
83 Whitecourt-St. Anne	20,625	21,673	1,048
Totals:	1,982,843	2,283,260	300,417

Electors' cooperation, through the sharing of necessary data, is critical to the production of high-quality Lists of Electors. Effective database management, which is essential to the production of viable Lists of Electors, is largely dependent on three elements:

- Accuracy of elector's name: matching of elector records is extremely difficult if an elector alternates between use of a given name and a nickname. If matching is not possible, updates provided by existing data sources cannot be used to update elector records to new addresses.
- Provision of elector's birth date: matching is extremely difficult if an elector does not provide a birth date, because of the frequency of duplicate names across the province. Again, if matching is not possible, updates provided by existing data sources cannot be used to update elector records to new addresses.
- Provision of elector's physical address and mailing address: electors are assigned to geographic areas called polling subdivisions. Mailing addresses, such as box numbers, do not allow for this geographic assignment. An elector who cannot provide a physical address location cannot be assigned to a polling subdivision and therefore cannot be added to the appropriate List of Electors. At the same time, many electors do not receive mail at a physical location address. It is necessary to have both addresses, if they are different, to allow for both polling subdivision assignment and contact by mail.

Table 2: Information Contained in the Register of Electors

Electoral Division	% of Records with Birthdates	% of Records with Gender	% of Records with Telephone Number
01 Dunvegan-Central Peace	86.88%	95.06%	88.94%
02 Calgary-Bow	84.34%	91.31%	73.42%
03 Calgary-Bufferlo	83.38%	79.47%	47.48%
04 Calgary-Cross	80.39%	85.18%	70.01%
05 Calgary-Currie	84.13%	85.00%	60.73%
06 Calgary-East	81.60%	89.49%	69.35%
07 Calgary-Egmont	94.51%	94.50%	88.00%
08 Calgary-Elbow	84.55%	90.66%	76.68%
09 Calgary-Fish Creek	92.47%	93.39%	91.21%
10 Calgary-Foothills	86.01%	91.44%	76.86%
11 Calgary-Fort	88.67%	90.16%	80.31%
12 Calgary-Glenmore	91.16%	94.76%	83.54%
13 Calgary-Hays	92.32%	94.62%	85.53%
14 Calgary-Lougheed	91.19%	93.91%	84.66%
15 Calgary-Mackay	86.93%	88.72%	77.06%
16 Calgary-McCall	77.07%	84.36%	66.29%
17 Calgary-Montrose	90.37%	91.57%	86.78%
18 Calgary-Mountain View	83.32%	88.01%	64.44%
19 Calgary-North Hill	85.88%	91.69%	70.56%
20 Calgary-North West	90.55%	92.52%	80.39%
21 Calgary-Nose Hill	88.19%	92.07%	79.74%

Electoral Division	% of Records with Birthdates	% of Records with Gender	% of Records with Telephone Number
22 Calgary-Shaw	93.95%	92.91%	87.30%
23 Calgary-Varsity	88.41%	90.80%	75.50%
24 Calgary-West	85.00%	88.44%	67.24%
25 Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview	86.64%	90.03%	72.25%
26 Edmonton-Calder	87.68%	89.12%	70.67%
27 Edmonton-Castle Downs	92.61%	93.52%	85.78%
28 Edmonton-Centre	87.98%	86.91%	62.86%
29 Edmonton-Decore	86.98%	90.12%	81.02%
30 Edmonton-Ellerslie	85.62%	88.92%	75.78%
31 Edmonton-Glenora	91.10%	91.30%	77.42%
32 Edmonton-Gold Bar	90.08%	90.93%	76.97%
33 Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood	86.08%	89.29%	68.92%
34 Edmonton-Manning	89.14%	88.21%	79.42%
35 Edmonton-McClung	90.54%	84.19%	71.33%
36 Edmonton-Meadowlark	87.40%	89.41%	72.73%
37 Edmonton-Mill Creek	87.37%	87.87%	82.60%
38 Edmonton-Mill Woods	90.31%	88.83%	74.66%
39 Edmonton-Riverview	89.57%	89.76%	76.62%
40 Edmonton-Rutherford	92.34%	92.34%	78.47%
41 Edmonton-Strathcona	82.82%	81.94%	57.23%
42 Edmonton-Whitemud	90.39%	91.31%	78.90%
43 Airdrie-Chestermere	86.10%	87.05%	74.75%
44 Athabasca-Redwater	93.24%	96.35%	90.49%
45 Banff-Cochrane	84.42%	89.74%	74.28%
46 Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock	93.47%	94.76%	88.23%
47 Battle River-Wainwright	91.14%	93.72%	89.50%
48 Bonnyville-Cold Lake	91.95%	94.52%	83.18%
49 Cardston-Taber-Warner	92.04%	96.49%	92.09%
50 Cypress-Medicine Hat	93.27%	95.66%	88.22%
51 Drayton Valley-Calmar	90.10%	91.78%	85.73%
52 Drumheller-Stettler	91.07%	93.69%	86.85%
53 Foothills-Rocky View	82.84%	91.72%	79.97%
54 Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo	89.70%	93.39%	71.88%
55 Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville	94.21%	95.75%	89.52%
56 Grande Prairie-Smoky	86.33%	90.13%	71.75%
57 Grande Prairie-Wapiti	89.78%	90.71%	78.61%
58 Highwood	91.89%	95.06%	86.81%
59 Innisfail-Sylvan Lake	94.95%	96.00%	90.53%
60 Lac La Biche-St. Paul	90.67%	94.21%	88.64%
61 Lacombe-Ponoka	89.35%	94.56%	86.29%
62 Leduc-Beaumont-Devon	92.61%	92.72%	88.24%
63 Lesser Slave Lake	70.13%	82.52%	56.02%

Electoral Division	% of Records with Birthdates	% of Records with Gender	% of Records with Telephone Number
64 Lethbridge-East	93.99%	95.64%	86.65%
65 Lethbridge-West	86.81%	90.77%	75.76%
66 Little Bow	87.96%	94.25%	84.32%
67 Livingstone-Macleod	72.07%	84.79%	70.11%
68 Medicine Hat	90.92%	93.89%	80.44%
69 Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills	84.13%	94.67%	82.46%
70 Peace River	87.14%	91.27%	81.50%
71 Red Deer-North	89.70%	91.02%	77.48%
72 Red Deer-South	91.02%	91.31%	80.90%
73 Rocky Mountain House	92.32%	95.30%	89.07%
74 Sherwood Park	94.98%	95.83%	92.14%
75 Spruce Grove-Sturgeon-St. Albert	93.44%	94.19%	87.40%
76 St. Albert	89.90%	93.66%	85.13%
77 Stony Plain	86.89%	91.79%	80.32%
78 Strathcona	88.31%	92.49%	82.88%
79 Strathmore-Brooks	92.55%	94.13%	86.18%
80 Vermilion-Lloydminster	89.61%	96.08%	79.66%
81 West Yellowhead	84.56%	88.23%	72.51%
82 Wetaskiwin-Camrose	91.81%	93.98%	83.56%
83 Whitecourt-Ste. Anne	90.23%	92.76%	83.48%
Totals:	88.55%	91.21%	78.69%

In accordance with section 13(6) of *the Act*, gender and birth date information is used only for the maintenance and update of the Register of Electors. The data is not included on Lists of Electors for distribution to candidates or registered political parties.

It is very important to emphasize that elector records can be matched only if electors can be identified. Refining the accuracy of elector information, collecting missing information and optimizing matching processes are key activities to improving the quality of Lists of Electors.

Voterlink, the secure online registration system introduced in November 2007, allows electors to manage their own elector information to ensure accuracy and timeliness of personal data. An ongoing communications strategy has focused on the availability of this service (found at www.voterlink.ab.ca).

Appointment of Returning Officers

Sixty-five Returning Officers were appointed on December 19, 2007 by Order in Council 609/2007.

On January 23, 2008, Order in Council 44/2008 appointed 20 Returning Officers and rescinded two previous appointments.

On January 29, 2008, Order in Council 71/2008 appointed one Returning Officer and rescinded one previous appointment.

On February 4, 2008, Order in Council 76/2008 appointed one Returning Officer and rescinded one previous appointment.

On February 4, 2008, Order in Council 79/2008 directed the Chief Electoral Officer to issue Writs of Election to Returning Officers in 83 electoral divisions.

Review of Lists of Electors and Mapping Resources

Returning Officers provide critical local knowledge and are responsible for the development of polling subdivisions that will facilitate voting on polling day. In accordance with *the Act*, the elector population in each polling subdivision should not exceed 450. In addition, polling subdivision boundaries must respect communities of interest, typical travel patterns and polling place options.

Population growth in the province necessitated the addition of over 300 polling subdivisions. One polling station is established for each polling subdivision to accommodate electors on polling day. This, in turn, translated into a requirement for the recruitment, deployment and supervision of more than 600 additional election officers for the 2008 election.

Returning Officers were also responsible for the review, and necessary revision, of Lists of Electors to ensure consistency with the revised polling subdivision boundaries. This was a major challenge due to time constraints imposed by their late appointments, significant population growth and the availability of mailing addresses only in many rural communities.

Revised polling subdivision maps and Lists of Electors based on the reconfigured boundaries were made available to registered political parties, in accordance with section 18(3) of *the Act*.

The current List and map review process is largely a manual exercise at this time and, as such, is extremely time-consuming and labour-intensive. Implementation of a planned geographic information system will produce Lists of Electors and maps using a common data file containing individual address records and their assigned geographical locations. Increased timeliness, accuracy and consistency of the resources will be achieved through this initiative.

Target Enumeration

A target enumeration, originally planned for September of 2007, could not be conducted because there were no Returning Officers or enumerators appointed. Plans were then revised to have the enumeration commence immediately following the appointment of Returning Officers, particularly in areas of new growth and high mobility. Legislative authority for enumeration appears in section 21 of *the Act*.

Some form of target enumeration is used by most election offices that prepare Lists of Electors from a permanent Register of Electors, to supplement the automated updates incorporated into the Register of Electors. Because of ongoing, significant growth in Alberta, it was projected that approximately 25% of the province would be contacted during the target enumeration process.

The need for this volume of target enumeration was supported by a January 2007 List Quality survey conducted by an independent research and marketing firm. Survey results indicated that 76% of electors contained in the Register of Electors appeared at their current address. Based on that level of currency, it was apparent that the addresses of 24% of electors would have to be updated on the List of Electors.

Target enumeration plans were implemented immediately following Returning Officer appointments in December, 2007 and January, 2008. Enumeration activities began on February 1 in 78 electoral divisions, and were scheduled to conclude on February 18. Of the five electoral divisions in which a target enumeration was not conducted, effects of the time constraints were an issue in four cases. A target enumeration was not conducted in Calgary-Elbow based on the Returning Officer's assessment that no substantial growth had occurred following the 2007 target enumeration and by-election in that electoral division.

The priority for Returning Officers shifted to election period responsibilities three days into the target enumeration process when the election was called. As a result, target enumeration coverage was lower than planned. Over 170,000 elector records were moved, added or confirmed during the target enumeration period, which represents 7% of the elector population. Of these, almost 17,000 elector records were new additions. These additions, when combined with over 300,000 additions incorporated prior to the release of the February 2008 List of Electors, accounted for an increase of almost 320,000 electors' names since the Lists of Electors were produced following the 2004 provincial general election.

The following table illustrates target enumeration activity, including the number of updates and additions by electoral division.

Table 3: Target Enumeration Activity

Electoral Division	Number of PSDs¹ Targeted	Number of Enumerators	Number of Elector Records Updated²	Net Change³
01 Dunvegan-Central Peace	15	5	917	54
02 Calgary-Bow	38	20	5,436	-469
03 Calgary-Buffalo	7	6	629	-52
04 Calgary-Cross	3	3	774	-878
05 Calgary-Currie	6	3	155	-337
06 Calgary-East	6	5	2,077	-447
07 Calgary-Egmont	20	14	3,295	-805
08 Calgary-Elbow	0	0	0	-306
09 Calgary-Fish Creek	11	9	3,038	-550
10 Calgary-Foothills	16	14	2,944	521
11 Calgary-Fort	3	3	620	-373
12 Calgary-Glenmore	13	10	3,599	-470
13 Calgary-Hays	20	18	4,707	1,257
14 Calgary-Lougheed	31	17	5,887	2,301
15 Calgary-Mackay	46	28	5,105	2,583
16 Calgary-McCall	14	10	2,064	187
17 Calgary-Montrose	8	3	1,019	-394
18 Calgary-Mountain View	2	1	263	-51
19 Calgary-North Hill	9	7	1,453	-573
20 Calgary-North West	6	5	868	-280
21 Calgary-Nose Hill	4	1	296	-380
22 Calgary-Shaw	15	10	2,712	-853
23 Calgary-Varsity	16	15	2,627	-496
24 Calgary-West	25	22	6,742	434
25 Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview	15	11	2,878	365
26 Edmonton-Calder	13	11	3,120	-135
27 Edmonton-Castle Downs	14	8	3,098	348
28 Edmonton-Centre	0	0	0	-281
29 Edmonton-Decore	6	2	414	-237
30 Edmonton-Ellerslie	8	7	2,265	576
31 Edmonton-Glenora	10	7	1,527	-298
32 Edmonton-Gold Bar	9	8	1,632	-383
33 Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood	5	4	462	-242
34 Edmonton-Manning	0	0	0	-370
35 Edmonton-McClung	11	10	5,512	1,415
36 Edmonton-Meadowlark	10	10	2,586	282
37 Edmonton-Mill Creek	6	5	1,986	99
38 Edmonton-Mill Woods	7	5	284	64
39 Edmonton-Riverview	14	3	1,793	-350
40 Edmonton-Rutherford	7	5	1,550	-341
41 Edmonton-Strathcona	9	9	1,572	91
42 Edmonton-Whitemud	33	28	5,380	2,408
43 Airdrie-Chestermere	39	20	5,172	1,545
44 Athabasca-Redwater	4	4	1,315	-148
45 Banff-Cochrane	7	5	933	371

Electoral Division	Number of PSDs¹ Targeted	Number of Enumerators	Number of Elector Records Updated²	Net Change³
46 Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock	32	7	1,576	233
47 Battle River-Wainwright	7	6	838	238
48 Bonnyville-Cold Lake	3	1	219	539
49 Cardston-Taber-Warner	12	6	1,963	0
50 Cypress-Medicine Hat	14	13	2,849	674
51 Drayton Valley-Calmr	19	11	1,745	48
52 Drumheller-Stettler	4	4	1,458	-212
53 Foothills-Rocky View	2	1	28	-129
54 Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo	13	8	1,524	673
55 Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville	22	8	2,098	176
56 Grande Prairie-Smoky	0	0	0	-76
57 Grande Prairie-Wapiti	1	1	177	108
58 Highwood	13	9	3,107	881
59 Innisfail-Sylvan Lake	14	5	1,506	444
60 Lac La Biche-St. Paul	9	3	626	-102
61 Lacombe-Ponoka	12	3	1,054	164
62 Leduc-Beaumont-Devon	35	16	4,180	1,530
63 Lesser Slave Lake	0	0	0	-81
64 Lethbridge-East	15	12	3,519	487
65 Lethbridge-West	15	12	2,268	899
66 Little Bow	12	5	1,189	159
67 Livingstone-Macleod	26	6	1,762	1,175
68 Medicine Hat	13	8	2,482	619
69 Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills	9	3	635	384
70 Peace River	7	4	698	-193
71 Red Deer-North	9	8	2,882	-382
72 Red Deer-South	24	13	4,859	1,221
73 Rocky Mountain House	14	5	1,789	315
74 Sherwood Park	16	8	1,370	463
75 Spruce Grove-Sturgeon-St. Albert	28	17	5,128	1,282
76 St. Albert	10	7	3,411	-266
77 Stony Plain	18	9	2,778	18
78 Strathcona	8	6	1,475	584
79 Strathmore-Brooks	20	15	3,611	-127
80 Vermilion-Lloydminster	25	10	3,393	171
81 West Yellowhead	5	4	611	-31
82 Wetaskiwin-Camrose	14	10	850	692
83 Whitecourt-Ste. Anne	2	2	365	-147
Totals:	1,063	657	170,729	16,833

¹Number of polling subdivisions targeted, in whole or in part.

²Number of electors added, revised, deleted and confirmed during the target enumeration and revision period.

³Net changes (additions and deletions) during the target enumeration and revision period.

Prior to beginning the target enumeration, and in accordance with section 23(2) of *the Act*, each Returning Officer was required to contact two constituency associations by registered mail to request names of prospective enumerators (one constituency association established by the political party forming the Government and one established by the political party, not forming the Government, that received the highest or second-highest number of votes at the 2004 Provincial General Election).

In most cases, Returning Officers did not receive recommendations from constituency associations and recruited enumerators independently. The legal requirement to contact constituency associations wasted valuable time in trying to recruit qualified enumerators. Once a sufficient number of qualified enumerators was found, Returning Officers began their training, using standardized resources provided by Elections Alberta.

Returning Officers used the Lists of Electors and mapping resources they had prepared to develop customized target enumeration plans identifying areas in greatest need of enumeration. They received guidelines from Elections Alberta to ensure consistency across the province, and were given the flexibility to identify additional target areas that would create the best possible List of Electors in each unique electoral division.

Some areas identified in the guidelines for target enumeration included:

- Residential areas developed since 2004
- Rental facilities with high turnover
- Residences on military bases
- Residences established to accommodate students who are ordinarily resident in post-secondary institutions
- Supportive living facilities, as identified in *the Act*

When target enumeration areas were identified, Returning Officers received preprinted enumeration records for use by enumerators. The preprinted records were used to confirm, revise, delete and add elector information. In new areas and other situations where previous elector information was not available, address information was preprinted onto the enumeration records to facilitate data collection and ensure thorough coverage.

Enumeration records were revised to capture electors' previous addresses to allow for updates to their existing records in the Register of Electors. This new requirement is important to the target enumeration process, since effective data management requires that an elector is both added at a current address and deleted from a previous address. This requirement added a new layer of complexity to the computerized Register of Electors system from a standpoint of programming, training, data entry and process management by Returning Officers.

A number of resources were available to assist electors. Enumerators carried a translation sheet which explained the purpose of their visit in thirteen different languages. This proved extremely useful in overcoming language barriers to collect information.

“We Missed You” cards were left at residences visited by enumerators to encourage electors to arrange for inclusion of their names on the List of Electors. For the first time, electors were given the option of self-registration using the secure online registration system, Voterlink.

Electors who provided information were left a “Thank You” card which advised them of the purpose of the data collection, including notice that their information could be shared with municipal and federal electoral agencies for electoral purposes. The cards also provided the Returning Officer’s name and telephone number to give electors the opportunity to ask questions or voice concerns. If the enumerator visited after polling places had been confirmed by the Returning Officer, polling place information was also included.

Electors who could not be contacted were encouraged to have their names added to the List of Electors prior to polling day. Advertising directed electors to contact their Returning Officer between Saturday, February 9 and Saturday, February 23. Returning Officers were available throughout this period to accept additions to the List of Electors: from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays and noon to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. Returning Officers offered extended hours of 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursday, February 21 to accommodate electors who wished to have their names added to the Lists of Electors prior to the opening of the advance polls.

Challenges

The rapid growth in Alberta is a significant challenge to maintaining a current and complete List of Electors. An estimated population increase in excess of 10% has occurred since 2004 (source: Alberta Electoral Division Profiles for 2004 and 2008 by Alberta Finance and Enterprise - Statistics). This increase is particularly apparent in some electoral divisions: Calgary-North West, for example, increased by 54% in population between 2004 and 2008.

Time constraints were a challenge for Elections Alberta and Returning Officers across the province. Returning Officers in 82 electoral divisions were appointed between two and seven weeks prior to the commencement of the election period, resulting in an abbreviated timeframe to train and prepare Returning Officers and enumerators. The time constraints posed particular challenges for the 45 first-time Returning Officers, especially the 20 appointed less than two weeks prior to the commencement of the election period. By contrast, the majority of Returning Officers were appointed 13 months before the 2004 provincial general election.

In addition to attending training and reviewing their polling subdivision maps and Lists of Electors, Returning Officers are responsible for recruitment of an Election Clerk and

Administrative Assistant, two key staff members who assist them in their responsibilities throughout the election period. Locating appropriate office space was another major challenge in the short time available during the pre-election period, as was the identification of potential polling places, particularly in newly developed areas.

The time of year was not conducive to hiring a group of enumerators to go door to door. Low temperatures, coupled with a very low unemployment rate, made recruitment difficult. Security concerns were raised by electors and enumerators alike, given the shortage of daylight hours during which enumeration could take place.