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Report on the September 14, 2009 Calgary-Glenmore By-Election



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November 20, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Mitzel:

I have the privilege to enclose the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer concerning the by-election in the electoral division of Calgary-Glenmore on Monday, September 14, 2009.

This Report is submitted pursuant to the provisions of Section 4(3) of the *Election Act*.

Should you require clarification or additional information on any aspect of this Report, I would be pleased to respond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori McKee-Jeske".

Lori McKee-Jeske
Acting Chief Electoral Officer

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Introduction

A vacancy was created in the electoral division of Calgary-Glenmore by the resignation of Ron Stevens on May 15, 2009.

The resulting by-election was held pursuant to the provisions of the *Election Act (the Act)*. The electoral division boundaries described in the *Electoral Divisions Act* (and proclaimed in force on May 16, 2003) were used during this by-election.

By order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, a Writ of Election was issued on August 17, 2009 by the Acting Chief Electoral Officer to the Returning Officer, pursuant to Section 39 of *the Act*.

Key Dates

Monday, July 27	Mail-Out Register Update notice sent to residents
Monday, August 17	Writ of Election Issued
Saturday, August 22	Revisions commence
Thursday, August 27	Where-To-Vote cards mailed
Monday, August 31	Nominations close (at 2:00 P.M.)
Saturday, September 5	Revisions close (at 4:00 P.M.)
Thursday, September 10	First day of Advance Voting
Friday, September 11	Second day of Advance Voting
Saturday, September 12	Third day of Advance Voting
Monday, September 14	Polling Day
Thursday, September 24	Announcement of official results
Saturday, November 14	Campaign period ends
Thursday, January 14, 2010	Candidates' campaign financial statements due
Monday, March 15, 2010	Parties' campaign financial statements due

Appointment of the Returning Officer

Mrs. Carmen Carron, the Returning Officer, was appointed on July 8, 2009 by Order in Council 395/2009, approximately one month prior to the issuance of the writ of election. The first-time Returning Officer participated in orientation, enumeration, and election training.

Special Initiatives

A number of initiatives were piloted during the Calgary-Glenmore by-election to enhance the quality of the List of Electors and improve the voting process.

Mail-Out Register Update

Register update (enumeration) notices were sent to residences in Calgary-Glenmore to allow residents to add or update information held in the Register of Electors. The notice informed electors that there was an upcoming by-election, identified provincial voter qualifications, and provided contact information for Elections Alberta. The notices were customized with current elector information and provided direction for correcting, adding, and deleting elector records. This initiative improved the quality of the List of Electors and reduced the number of Polling Day registrations.

Personalized Where-To-Vote Cards

For the first time, Where-To-Vote cards were personalized with each elector's name. Electors were encouraged to retain the cards as a reminder of the event and to bring the cards along to the polls. This streamlined the voting process significantly, since electors with cards could proceed directly to the correct polling station, without requiring assistance from election officers. Supervisory deputy returning officers could then focus their attention on assisting those without cards. The initiative was a success: over 66% of voters brought their cards to the polls.

Mapping and GIS Updates

The new geographic information system (GIS) was applied to assign addresses and corresponding elector records to the correct polling subdivisions. This new application ensured accuracy of the List of Electors and streamlined the voting process.

Detailed polling subdivision maps were created and provided to election staff to direct electors to their polling places.

Poll Books with Bar Codes

Each elector record was assigned a bar code, based on the unique identifier prescribed by Section 13(4.1) of *the Act*. Address information confirmed by electors will be used to record the currency of elector data in the Register of Electors.

Updates to the List of Electors

Target (Door-to-Door) Enumeration

In accordance with Section 21 of *the Act*, a target enumeration plan was developed to update elector data in the areas of greatest need prior to the by-election. While the Returning Officer received her enumeration training and materials, and subsequently recruited enumerators, the target enumeration scheduled for September 2009 was canceled due to the issuance of the writ on August 17. However, target enumeration was supported with a mail-out Register Update initiative.

Mail-Out Register Update

Register update notices were mailed to residences in Calgary-Glenmore on July 27, 2009. Electors were encouraged to return revised information to Elections Alberta to ensure the accuracy of their elector records. A total of 3,301 notices were returned and used to update elector records on the List of Electors. These updates included the addition of 487 electors' names in conjunction with the revision process.

Improvements to the quality of the List of Electors provided to election officers and political participants enhanced the level of communication and service offered to electors. The effect of these updates was evident on Polling Day. Corrections and additions made prior to the close of revisions reduced the number of Polling Day registrations. This streamlined the voting process and minimized wait times.

Polling Day Registrations

A total of 465 (4.22%) electors registered to vote by completing Oaths of Electors at the time of voting. Polling Day registration has been a good measure of the quality of the List of Electors compiled for use by election officers and political participants. This means that over 95% of the electors who voted in the by-election were already registered at their current address.

By-Election

Six candidates, each registered under the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act*, filed nomination papers with the Returning Officer.

902 voters who believed they would be unable to vote on Polling Day were accommodated with advance polls on September 10, 11, and 12, 2009.

245 electors who were unable to vote at the advance polls or on Polling Day applied for and received Special Ballots.

The Returning Officer announced the Official Results on September 24, 2009. Paul Hinman, representing the Wildrose Alliance Party, was declared duly elected. The Writ of Election and the Returning Officer's Certificate and Return that certified Mr. Hinman's election were returned to the Acting Chief Electoral Officer on September 25. The by-election return was published in the October 15 issue of the *Alberta Gazette*.

No appeal for a judicial recount or from any of the Returning Officer's decisions concerning the ballots was applied for pursuant to Sections 144 or 148 of *the Act*. No controverted election petition was filed for the by-election.

Half of the candidate nomination deposit was reimbursed to the winning candidate and any other candidate that received half the number of votes received by the candidate declared elected. In total, three candidates received a refund based on this provision of the legislation.

The other half of the deposit will be reimbursed to all candidates who file their financial statements by the statutory deadline of January 14, 2010. Nomination deposits that are not refunded are forwarded to the Office of the Minister of Finance for deposit to the General Revenue fund.

An overview of results indicating the total votes cast for each candidate and a statement of results by poll is included in this report on pages 5 through 7. A map of the Calgary-Glenmore electoral division appears on page 8.

The total cost of the 2009 Calgary-Glenmore by-election was: \$185,635.73. A cost summary is included on page 9.

Financial Disclosure

Registered by-election candidates must file Campaign Period Financial Statements with the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer by January 14, 2010. Disclosure of the candidates' election expenses will be available on the Elections Alberta website (www.elections.ab.ca) in accordance with Section 4(1)(d) of the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act*.

Registered political parties that participated in the by-election must file audited Campaign Period Financial Statements by March 15, 2010. These statements will list funds received, campaign expenditures, and transfers of funds and/or materials.

In accordance with Section 11 of the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act*, all financial statements will be available for inspection in the public files maintained by this office, and will be posted in summary form on the Elections Alberta website.

Overview of Results

Candidate Political Affiliation	Valid Ballots Received	Percentage of Valid Ballots Cast
* = elected candidate		
Eric CARPENDALE Alberta's NDP (NDP)	148	1%
Diane COLLEY-URQUHART Progressive Conservative Party (PC)	2,847	26%
Antoni (Tony) GROCHOWSKI Independent (IND)	71	1%
*Paul HINMAN Wildrose Alliance Party (WAP)	4,052	37%
Avalon ROBERTS Alberta Liberal Party (LIB)	3,774	34%
Len SKOWRONSKI Alberta Social Credit (SC)	99	1%

Total Valid Ballots Counted

• Total Names on List of Electors**	28,164
• Total Valid Ballots Counted	10,991
• Total Ballots Rejected and Declined	30
• Total Ballots Cast	11,021
• Percent Voter Turnout	39.13%

** This represents the total number of names on the List of Electors at the close of polls on Polling Day. It includes electors who were added in response to the mail-out Register Update, those added during the revision period, and those who registered at the polls.

Statement of Results by Poll

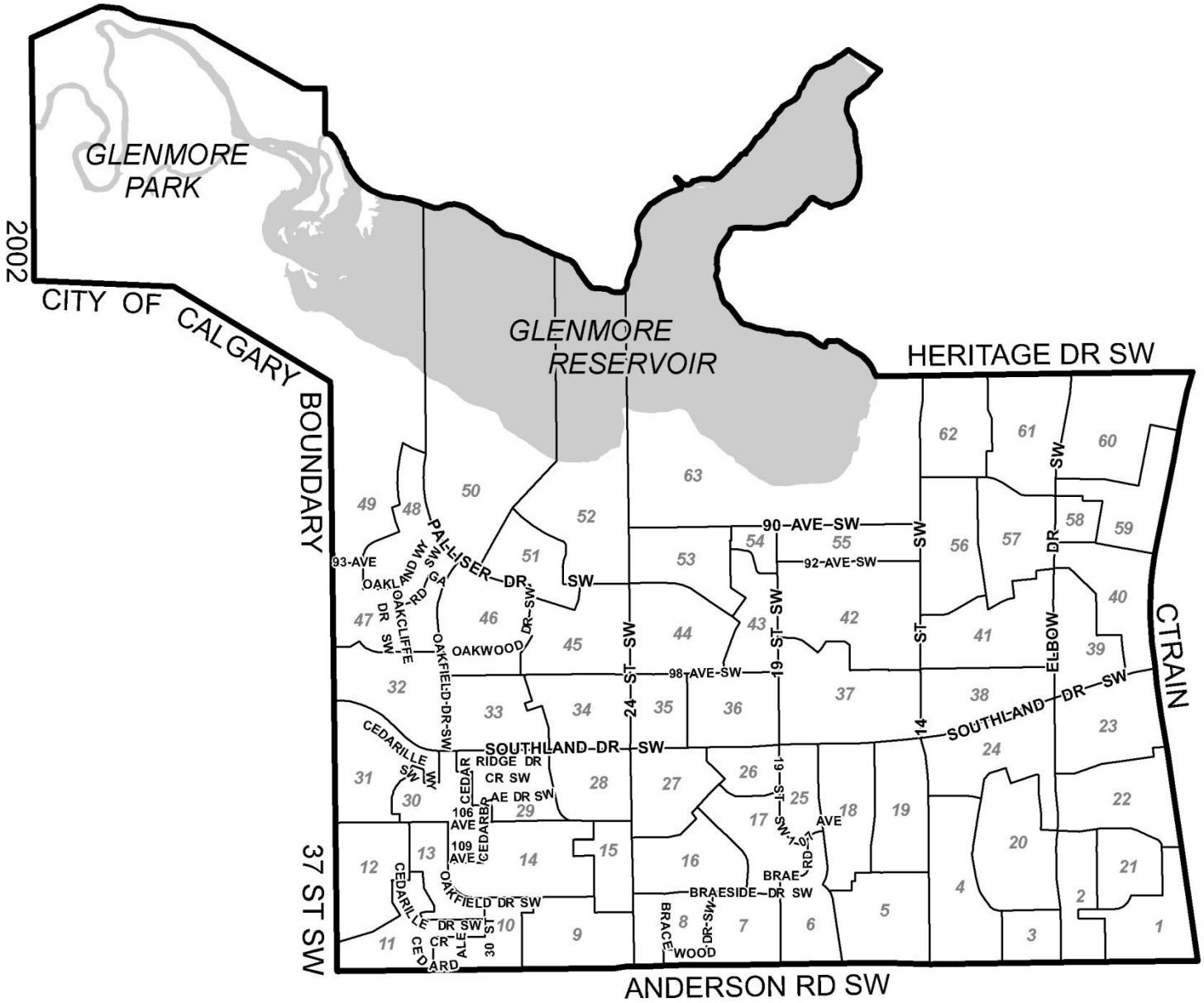
Poll	Poll Name	Names On List	ERIC CARPENDALE NDP	DIANE COLLEY-JURQUHART PC	ANTONI (TONY) GROCHOWSKI IND	PAUL HINMAN WAP	AVALON ROBERTS LIB	LEN SKOWRONSKI SC	V	S	D	R	Voter Turnout (%)
1	SOUTHWOOD A	364	4	20	0	17	18	1	60	0	0	0	16.5
2	SOUTHWOOD B	481	3	29	0	27	25	1	85	0	0	1	17.9
3	SOUTHWOOD C	516	4	11	0	15	28	0	58	0	0	0	11.2
4	SOUTHWOOD D	453	2	42	2	126	40	3	215	0	0	1	47.7
5	BRAESIDE A	388	1	39	3	68	34	0	145	0	0	2	37.9
6	BRAESIDE B	449	2	38	1	47	57	1	146	1	0	0	32.5
7	BRAESIDE C	439	4	36	3	52	49	1	145	0	0	0	33.0
8	BRAESIDE D	514	3	11	1	43	26	2	86	0	0	0	16.7
9	CEDARBRAE A	440	2	23	2	44	60	1	132	0	0	0	30.0
10	CEDARBRAE B	554	3	38	2	39	54	2	138	0	0	2	25.3
11	CEDARBRAE C	447	1	38	0	27	24	7	97	0	0	0	21.7
12	CEDARBRAE D	456	0	41	0	38	46	0	125	0	0	0	27.4
13	CEDARBRAE E	428	3	29	0	47	38	1	118	0	0	0	27.6
14	CEDARBRAE F	452	3	53	0	47	49	3	155	0	0	0	34.3
15	CEDARBRAE G	401	2	28	1	23	26	2	82	0	0	0	20.4
16	BRAESIDE E	411	0	24	0	22	37	4	87	0	0	0	21.2
17	BRAESIDE F	460	1	56	3	81	45	1	187	0	0	0	40.7
18	BRAESIDE G	362	0	32	2	60	49	2	145	0	0	0	40.1
19	BRAESIDE H	452	2	53	2	81	54	2	194	0	0	0	42.9
20	SOUTHWOOD E	441	3	38	1	71	70	0	183	0	0	1	41.7
21	SOUTHWOOD F	488	5	35	0	25	32	1	98	0	0	0	20.1
22	SOUTHWOOD G	494	4	56	2	45	48	2	157	0	0	0	31.8
23	SOUTHWOOD H	458	1	28	0	67	43	2	141	0	0	0	30.8
24	SOUTHWOOD I	468	1	40	2	88	49	0	180	0	0	0	38.5
25	BRAESIDE I	406	3	37	2	23	37	0	102	0	0	0	25.1
26	BRAESIDE J	435	0	39	1	21	55	0	116	0	0	0	26.7
27	BRAESIDE K	483	4	37	1	73	41	2	158	0	0	0	32.7
28	CEDARBRAE H	411	2	36	1	53	52	1	145	0	0	0	35.3
29	CEDARBRAE I	439	6	38	0	71	59	0	174	0	1	0	39.9
30	CEDARBRAE J	434	1	54	1	66	48	0	170	0	0	0	39.2
31	CEDARBRAE K	456	3	26	1	66	77	0	173	0	0	0	37.9
32	OAKRIDGE A	455	6	27	0	77	99	0	209	0	0	0	45.9
33	OAKRIDGE B	401	1	53	0	58	45	4	161	0	0	0	40.1
34	OAKRIDGE C	428	2	18	0	39	39	1	99	0	0	0	23.1
35	OAKRIDGE D	473	2	44	1	43	62	1	153	0	0	0	32.3

V = Valid Ballots S= Spoiled Ballots D = Declined Ballots R= Rejected Ballots

Poll	Poll Name	Names On List	ERIC CARPENDALE NDP	DIANE COLLEY-JURQUHART PC	ANTONI (TONY) GROCHOWSKI IND	PAUL HINMAN WAP	AVALON ROBERTS LIB	LEN SKOWRONSKI SC	V	S	D	R	Voter Turnout (%)
36	OAKRIDGE E	447	1	56	0	41	43	0	141	0	0	0	31.5
37	PUMP HILL A	451	0	67	1	67	61	2	198	1	0	0	43.9
38	HAYSBORO A	400	2	47	3	48	40	1	141	1	0	0	35.3
39	HAYSBORO B	422	4	34	0	55	44	2	139	1	0	0	32.9
40	HAYSBORO C	402	4	27	0	79	42	3	155	0	0	0	38.6
41	HAYSBORO D	492	8	59	3	76	68	2	216	0	0	0	43.9
42	PUMP HILL B	515	0	61	1	85	40	0	187	0	0	0	36.3
43	PALLISER A	455	1	95	6	60	66	0	228	0	0	0	50.1
44	PALLISER B	445	1	41	3	61	104	2	212	0	0	0	47.6
45	OAKRIDGE F	497	2	44	1	68	119	2	236	0	0	0	47.5
46	OAKRIDGE G	450	3	47	1	80	73	1	205	0	0	0	45.6
47	OAKRIDGE H	393	0	39	0	52	84	2	177	0	0	2	45.5
48	OAKRIDGE I	407	0	44	1	74	62	0	181	0	0	2	45.0
49	OAKRIDGE J	482	2	50	0	80	83	0	215	0	0	0	44.6
50	OAKRIDGE K	498	2	39	2	114	61	2	220	0	0	0	44.2
51	OAKRIDGE L	416	2	35	0	75	77	0	189	0	0	0	45.4
52	OAKRIDGE M	367	2	21	0	46	38	0	107	0	0	0	29.2
53	PALLISER C	441	3	65	0	78	89	1	236	0	0	0	53.5
54	PALLISER D	410	4	39	0	24	40	0	107	0	0	1	26.3
55	PUMP HILL C	457	0	58	2	28	32	2	122	0	0	1	26.9
56	HAYSBORO E	472	1	27	1	93	108	3	233	0	0	3	50.0
57	HAYSBORO F	511	6	53	2	100	68	6	235	0	0	2	46.4
58	HAYSBORO G	394	2	25	1	30	36	0	94	0	0	0	23.9
59	HAYSBORO H	482	2	32	0	45	36	0	115	1	0	0	23.9
60	HAYSBORO I	444	2	27	2	51	39	0	121	0	0	0	27.3
61	HAYSBORO J	464	1	42	0	88	64	2	197	0	0	1	42.7
62	HAYSBORO K	381	4	29	1	72	58	5	169	0	0	0	44.4
63	BAYVIEW	532	0	74	1	93	72	1	241	0	0	0	45.3
64	ADVANCE		3	252	2	317	316	11	901	0	0	1	
65	MOBILE: BEVERLY CENTRE		1	7	0	3	5	1	17	0	0	1	
66	SPECIAL		1	64	2	79	91	0	237	0	0	8	
TOTAL		28,164	148	2,847	71	4,052	3,774	99	10,991	5	1	29	39.1

V = Valid Ballots S= Spoiled Ballots D = Declined Ballots R= Rejected Ballots

Map – Electoral Division of Calgary-Glenmore



Financial Summary

Mail-Out Enumeration Costs	\$ 23,645.05
Target Enumeration Costs	1,635.00
Returning Office Operations	
Staff Costs	24,436.29
Office Costs	8,836.65
Election Advertising	23,486.84
Printing Ballots	3,000.00
Telecommunications	1,972.70
Miscellaneous	753.43
Polling Costs	
Staff Costs	37,072.50
Polling Place Rentals	7,245.00
Office of the Chief Electoral Officer	
Support Staff	7,309.39
Materials and Supplies	46,242.88
Total Costs	<u><u>\$ 185,635.73</u></u>

Comparative Statistics – By-Elections 1979-2009

By-Election Date	Electoral Division	Valid Ballots	Rejected/ Declined Ballots	Ballots Cast	Names on List	Voter Turnout
Sept. 14, 2009	Calgary-Glenmore	10,991	30	11,021	28,164	39.1%
June 12, 2007	Calgary-Elbow	10,538	16	10,554	30,538	34.6%
June 12, 2007	Drumheller-Stettler	7,251	16	7,267	22,509	32.3%
April 8, 2002	Wainwright	6,552	12	6,564	19,563	33.6%
Sept. 25, 2000	Red Deer-North	4,150	7	4,157	20,409	20.4%
June 12, 2000	Edmonton-Highlands	8,237	28	8,265	19,714	41.9%
June 17, 1998	Edmonton-McClung	9,406	10	9,416	23,094	40.8%
May 21, 1996	Redwater	8,680	20	8,700	19,130	45.5%
April 20, 1995	Calgary-McCall	5,720	17	5,737	20,514	28.0%
Oct. 26, 1992	Three Hills	10,337	34	10,371	17,736	58.5%
July 21, 1992	Calgary-Buffalo	8,602	47	8,649	26,029	33.2%
Mar. 5, 1992	Little Bow	5,585	18	5,603	9,158	61.2%
Dec. 17, 1990	Edmonton-Strathcona	9,339	24	9,363	19,252	48.6%
May 9, 1989	Stettler	7,789	15	7,804	11,618	67.2%
Nov. 23, 1987	Chinook	5,441	9	5,450	10,149	53.7%
Dec. 11, 1985	Edmonton-Whitemud	9,900	10	9,910	30,082	32.9%
Feb. 21, 1985	Spirit River-Fairview	6,839	11	6,850	10,545	65.0%
Feb. 17, 1982	Olds-Didsbury	9,523	10	9,533	13,798	69.1%
Nov. 21, 1979	Barrhead	6,342	29	6,371	11,409	55.8%