



chief electoral office

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news release

October 24, 2011

Elections Alberta works to recover enumeration binders

EDMONTON – Elections Alberta has recently established that one enumerator working in the Lesser Slave Lake electoral division and another working in the Edmonton-Strathcona electoral division, have each mislaid an enumeration binder. The binders contained enumeration records relating to a single polling subdivision within each electoral division.

The binders included names and addresses and, in some cases, phone numbers and birth dates of electors at 381 residential addresses. Elections Alberta was notified of the loss on October 14, 2011 and took immediate action to attempt to locate the missing binders. The loss was reported to the appropriate police detachments and to the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

The Chief Electoral Officer has contacted each of the individuals by mail whose names were included in the binders. The letter provides an overview of the situation and provides a contact number should those people affected have any questions.

Elections Alberta continues its investigation into these losses and as it has done in a previous incident, engaged the services of a retired RCMP officer to assist in the investigation. To date, the binders have not been recovered. Elections Alberta will continue with its efforts.

Elections Alberta apologizes to the individuals involved and is working directly with them to respond to their questions and assist in mitigating any further risk. Additional information will be provided to those affected as it becomes available.

There are severe penalties for anyone using elector information for any purpose not authorized by the *Election Act*. These penalties include a fine of up to \$100,000 or one year of imprisonment, or both.

Security, confidentiality and the protection of privacy of the elector information contained in the enumeration binders was emphasized in the training program



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delivered to enumerators by Returning Officers and in the Enumerator's Guide provided to all enumerators (see attachment 1).

Elections Alberta is an independent office of the Legislative Assembly that provides non-partisan administration of the electoral process.

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For media inquiries, please contact:

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From the Enumerator's Guide (Attachment 1)

- ✖ You are fulfilling a critical role in the election process and must be professional in your conduct and appearance. You must display your enumerator identification visibly at all times and carry your Appointment and Oath of Election Officer form with you as identification.
- ✖ Be prepared to answer electors' questions using the Question and Answer sheet provided to you.
- ✖ The information you are collecting is private and confidential. You must not disclose or share elector information you receive in the course of your duties with anyone. Only enumerators are to have access to confidential elector information. If someone else accompanies you, they must not be present when elector information is being provided.
- ✖ Completed enumeration records contain confidential information. Be careful to avoid loss or unauthorized access. Blank enumeration records must also be safeguarded, since they could be misused.





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- Advise the returning officer immediately if any records are lost or stolen.

Confidentiality of the information is protected by law, under the *Election Act*. Section 163 states that any person using this information for any reason other than electoral purposes is guilty of an offence and is liable to a fine of up to \$100,000 and/or imprisonment for a term of up to one year.

From the Training Session PowerPoint

Slide

Respecting the Privacy of Electors

Elector data is private and must be kept confidential

Safeguard all enumeration records



Elector data is used for electoral purposes only



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