

# news release



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## Chief Electoral Officer to Appoint Returning Officers and Election Clerks

EDMONTON – Alberta's Chief Electoral Officer, O. Brian Fjeldheim, is preparing for a busy summer as he begins implementation of the legislative changes prescribed by the *Election Statutes Amendment Act (ESAA), 2010*. Almost 100 amendments were made to the *Election Act* and the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act* with the passage of the *ESAA*.

The Chief Electoral Officer has been given the mandate to appoint Returning Officers and Election Clerks through a merit-based application and interview process. These election officers play a vital role in the fair and impartial management of elections in Alberta.

Election officers will be appointed to work within the electoral division boundaries to be proposed by the 2009/10 Electoral Boundaries Commission, which will be approved, or approved with alterations, by the Legislative Assembly. Elections Alberta will recruit 87 Returning Officers and 87 Election Clerks in preparation for the next provincial election, to be held on or before April 11, 2013, as prescribed by the *Legislative Assembly Act*. One of the first tasks for the Returning Officers will be to redraw the polling subdivision boundaries within the electoral divisions which will come into effect when the next general election is called.

Drew Westwater, Elections Alberta's spokesperson, notes that "Elections Alberta is moving forward to recruit qualified candidates who will complete our team for the next general election. These individuals will manage the election in each of the 87 electoral divisions across Alberta."

Successful applicants' qualifications and experience will vary, but all applicants must be electors, have managerial skills, be effective communicators with a knowledge of their communities, and employ strong leadership skills while meeting multiple deadlines. Candidates must be able to work part or full time as required.

For more information on Returning Officer and Election Clerk recruitment, qualifications, and the application process, visit [www.elections.ab.ca](http://www.elections.ab.ca) from May 25 to June 14, 2010. Advertisements for the Returning Officer and Election Clerk positions will appear in newspapers across Alberta and on employment websites.

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

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