

POST-ELECTION ACTIVITIES

Quality of Service Received by Electors

A survey was conducted in the weeks following the election, in order to:

- understand the public's perceptions of voting,
- measure how effectively Elections Alberta informed the public of their rights and obligations, and
- measure the public's satisfaction with the voting process.

A total of 1,200 surveys were completed, including 931 with respondents who voted (self-reported) and 269 with respondents who did not vote. Surveys were completed between March 19 and April 3, 2008.

The survey (which is available in its entirety at www.elections.ab.ca) was conducted by an independent research and marketing firm to collect and tabulate public responses in a professional, objective manner. This research provides:

- insight into the patterns of voters, to ensure their needs will continue to be met into the future,
- insight into non-voters' reasons for not voting, to help plan meaningful ways to encourage participation, and
- assessment of current services, to identify opportunities for process improvements.

Voters were asked to comment on the service they received during the election. It was interesting to note that:

- 97% of voters found the staff at the polling place to be helpful
- 96% of voters found the polling place location to be convenient
- 95% of voters were satisfied with the time it took to vote
- 94% of voters were satisfied with their voting experience
- 88% of voters were satisfied with the availability of necessary information

It is heartening to note that over 97% of people surveyed believe that voting is important. The challenge is to find ways to translate that belief into action.

Official Results

The official results were announced by each of the 83 Returning Officers on Thursday, March 13, 2008. Results are presented in this Report beginning on page 169, in accordance with section 4(3) of *the Act*.

Custody and Inspection of Election Documents

Polling day documentation for 83 electoral divisions was returned to Elections Alberta following the announcement of the Official Results, in accordance with section 142 of *the Act*.

Legislation prescribes that candidates and their official agents may inspect all polling day documentation for their electoral division, with the exception of the ballots, in the thirty-day period following the publication of the names of elected Members of the Legislative Assembly in the Alberta Gazette, which occurred on April 15, 2008. Three candidates availed themselves of this opportunity.

Distribution of Poll Books

During the same thirty-day period, candidates and their official agents may request copies of the Poll Books used at the election. Ninety-five sets of copies were provided to candidates on a cost-recovery basis.

Judicial Recount

No judicial recount or appeal was filed for in any electoral division.

Controverted Election Petition

A petition was filed with the Court of Queen's Bench on May 26, 2008 by Ron Leech, an Independent candidate in the electoral division of Calgary-Montrose. The petition named Manmeet Bhullar, the candidate declared elected, as the respondent and sought to have the results of the election in Calgary-Montrose set aside. The application is still in its preliminary stages and there has been no decision on the application by the Court at this time.

Development and Distribution of the Post-Polling Day Lists of Electors

Elector information collected throughout the election period and on polling day was incorporated into the Register of Electors for preparation of future Lists of Electors.

Lists were updated following the election by:

- moving electors from old to new addresses,
- adding first-time electors,
- correcting polling place assignments, where necessary, and
- correcting names and addresses, where required.

On July 8, 2008, updated Lists of Electors were distributed to political parties and Members of the Legislative Assembly in accordance with section 19 of *the Act*. Recipients of the Lists of Electors were reminded of the statutory restrictions for use, to ensure elector information is used appropriately. Penalties for misuse include fines up to \$100,000, or a term of imprisonment up to one year, or both. “Guidelines on Access to and Disclosure of Alberta’s List of Electors” have been developed by Elections Alberta and were included in printed and electronic format to assist political parties and Members of the Legislative Assembly in the establishment of appropriate security procedures to safeguard the confidential elector data provided to them.