



2003 - 2004 Board of Directors

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To all presenters and participants of the
2004 YWCA Women's Political Action Forum

Please find enclosed, or attached if you are receiving this by email, the results of our One Woman One Vote – Women's Political Action Forum held in Edmonton in February 2004. Enclosed/attached documents include:

- Package of presenter materials
- Contact list of all participants
- Saturday morning discussions and commitments.

You will recall from the YWCA One Woman One Vote – Women's Political Action Forum in February that the YWCA of Edmonton offered to coordinate teleconferences in the next year for the purpose of developing a national strategy based on the results of Forum discussions. The strategy is intended to represent all our actions across the country that are designed for encouraging women to become involved in the political process (either by voting, seeking public office, or working on the campaign of another woman). At this time, we are inviting interested organizations or individuals to work with us to develop a national strategy out of the results from the Women's Political Action Forum.

The time commitment will be several teleconferences in the next year, perhaps monthly, but to be determined by the group. There will also be tasks, mostly writing and consultation, in between the teleconferences. There will be a finite end date for the task group so it is not intended to be an ongoing commitment. I expect that the "national strategy" will look much like a strategic directions document when written and perhaps one or two pages at most in length.

Our intent is to have a group of about 6 – 8 people representing all regions of the country and all aspects of women's political involvement (ex. research, training, electoral reform, etc.). The YWCA of Edmonton will review the responses to this call for interest to ensure that the makeup of the task group is representative of the diversity of the above-mentioned aspects of women's political involvement. Of course we also hope to have representation from the different regions of Canada, large and small organizations, and so on. We hope to have our first teleconference in late May so, if you are interested, we would appreciate your responses by Friday, May 7. If you are interested in working on this with the YWCA of Edmonton, through teleconference, please call the YWCA One Woman One Vote Coordinator Janet Buckmaster who will be collecting names of interested parties. Please leave your name, organization (if applicable) and daytime telephone number at (780) 423-9922 extension 504.

In terms of YWCA Edmonton's 2004 One Woman One Vote activities, we are gearing up for a federal election and municipal election later this year. We hope to do some advertising designed to get young women out to the polls. In addition, we hope to work with organizations serving immigrant women to do workshops leading up to the election in order to help women understand the voting and election process. We hope that many of you are also working in your communities to get women out to vote in this election.

Once again, thank you for attending the Women's Political Action Forum in Edmonton this past February. We hope that the momentum gained there can be carried forward as each of our communities has elections and referendums in the upcoming months.

I believe that our collective actions will make a difference for women.

Sincerely,

Kelly Sloan
Executive Director
YWCA Edmonton.