

HOW TO VOTE IN THE PROVINCIAL ELECTION

Who is eligible to vote in a provincial election?

Albertans must meet the following requirements to be qualified to vote in the polling subdivision in which they reside:

- Must be Canadian citizen
- Must be at least eighteen years of age
- Must be ordinarily resident in Alberta for six months prior to Polling Day
- Must not be excluded under section 45 of the Election Act (Call Elections Alberta)

How can I have my name added to the List of Electors?

Contact Elections Alberta in person or by telephone, email, or facsimile. Your information will be added to the Register of Electors to ensure that it will appear on subsequent List of Electors.

If I am working or studying away from home, where do I go to vote?

According to Section 43 of the Election Act, an elector must vote in the particular polling subdivision of the electoral division in which the person is ordinarily resident. For more information, call Elections Alberta, or visit www.electionsalberta.ab.ca.

If I cannot go to the polls on Polling Day, how can I vote?

Advance Polls are held from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the Thursday, Friday and Saturday prior to Polling Day. Addresses of Advance Poll locations are published in local newspapers and can also be obtained from Returning Officers.

For more information about voting:

Elections Alberta

Suite 100
11510 Kingsway Avenue
Edmonton AB T5G 2Y5
Telephone: (780) 427-7191
Fax: (780) 422-2900
Email: info@electionsalberta.ab.ca
Monday - Friday
8:15 a.m. to 12:00 (noon) and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Closed on weekends and statutory holidays

“By exercising their right to vote, women become active participants in shaping the public agenda.”

For the YWCA, encouraging women to vote doesn't mean encouraging them to vote in a certain way. It means helping women to be informed about their choices and the political process, encouraging dialogue regarding candidates' positions on public policy topics, and increasing women's understanding of their own power to affect change.

Every vote does count, even with our present electoral system. If every woman voted, women could be a deciding factor in who gets elected.

You can help shape public policy by voting for the candidate who reflects your interest in issues and the solutions to them. Make informed choices about who you vote for by asking questions of your candidates on issues of importance to you.

Vote because:

- You can - the YWCA works in countries around the world encouraging women to vote - many fear reprisal and for their personal safety as they fight for their right to place a mark on a ballot beside a candidate's name.
- It takes only 15 minutes, but lasts for years.
- You care how Alberta is viewed on the provincial and national stages.
- You care about cost of living, education costs, childcare, poverty and other provincial issues such as health care.
- Your choice matters as much as the choice of your spouse, or your boss, or your partner, or a millionaire CEO, or a homeless person - unless you make no choice at all.
- You like the way things are, and want to make sure they stay the same.
- You are unhappy with the way things are, and want to make sure they change in the direction you want.

VOTE FOR SOMEBODY!



Alberta Provincial Election 2004

“By exercising their right to vote, women become active participants in shaping the public agenda.”

What would Alberta look like if every eligible woman cast a vote?

In 2001 Provincial Election voter turnout was 52.83%.

In Alberta, women make up 49.5% of our population. (Statistics Canada)

That is a lot of voting power - if we all voted!



www.onewomanonevote.org

www.ywcaofedmonton.org

Questions for the Provincial Candidates

YWCA One Woman One Vote urges women to vote and to participate in shaping public policy.

Throughout the upcoming provincial election, YWCA Edmonton encourages women to use the following questions and talk to all candidates in their respective constituencies.

This information pamphlet includes examples of questions, but is not an all-inclusive list of areas of interest for women and their families.

Cost of Living

- Deregulation increased costs of natural gas and electricity which is a concern, particularly to people on fixed incomes.

Q. *What will you do to alleviate the financial burden placed on individuals and families by the rising costs of natural gas and electricity?*

Poverty

- In Edmonton, over half of all single parent families live in poverty and 80% of single parent families are headed by women.

Q. *What will you do to ensure that student loan policies, tuition levels and welfare policies enable women to pursue education and training or re-enter the workforce?*

Health Care

- The proportion of individuals who reported that they were affected by waiting for care ranged from 10% for non-emergency surgery to 19% for specialist visits. The primary effects of waiting for specialized care were worry, stress and anxiety, pain, and problems with activities of daily living.

Q. *What will you do to ensure that access to specialized health care will be timely?*

Q. *What will you do to ensure that universal access to quality health care is maintained?*

Housing

- At the 2001 Provincial election, Edmonton had 19,000 units of subsidized long term housing, with nearly 55% designated for seniors. In Edmonton the homeless population has doubled from 836 in 1999 to 1,915 in 2002. Edmonton currently requires additional long term and affordable housing units for low-income households. Without affordable and adequate housing, it is difficult to address other matters such as health, education, safety and labour force participation.

Q. *What will you do to ensure that there are more provincial public dollars allocated to help meet the need for more housing units for low-income households?*

Violence

- In 2002-2003 there were 5,601 women and 5,766 children admitted to shelters in Alberta as a result of issues of family violence. An additional 5,056 women and 5,517 children were turned away.

Q. *What will you do to ensure there is full funding for women's shelters?*

Q. *What will you do to ensure there are sufficient dollars for the Outreach phase of support which is provided post-stay?*

Q. *What will you do to ensure that staffing levels in Family Law are adequate to ensure that women can obtain restraining orders without delays that are potentially dangerous?*

Q. *What will you do to ensure that there are sufficient emergency and follow-up services available to anyone who has experienced family violence?*

Maintenance Enforcement

- The Maintenance Enforcement Program of Alberta Justice currently has 90,000 files and serves over 63,000 children. In the 2003-2004 fiscal year, the Program collected \$153 million of the \$192 million outstanding in payments (80%).

Q. *What will you do to ensure that all families and children receive their court ordered maintenance payments?*

Childcare

- Currently daycare subsidies combined with parent fees provide only enough resources to meet basic licensing requirements. To ensure high quality early childhood development programs and to strengthen families, more funding is needed.

Q. *Will you work to ensure that there are funds provided for well-trained, fairly-paid staff, support and for early intervention programs, and for parent support programs?*

Q. *Will you work to ensure that a significant portion of the federal early childhood development dollars will be directed to accredited, licensed childcare centres and dayhomes?*

After the election, the work of YWCA Edmonton and YWCA One Woman One Vote continues, advocating on behalf of women and their families and in keeping the community informed and proactive on women's issues.

**YWCA One Woman One Vote
YWCA Edmonton
100, 10350 - 124 Street
Edmonton AB T5N 3V9**

**Telephone: 423-9922 ext. 504
Fax: 425-7467**

**www.onewomanonevote.org
www.ywcaofedmonton.org**