



For Immediate Release

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## **ELECTIONS BC CONTINUES SEARCH FOR LOCAL LEADERS**

**VICTORIA** - Elections BC is continuing to look for district electoral officers and deputy district electoral officers to play a key role in the administration of provincial voting in several B.C. locations.

“Elections BC draws on the skills and expertise of local citizens to administer the on-the-ground activities related to provincial general elections and other potential voting needs,” said Harry Neufeld, Chief Electoral Officer.

“We are particularly interested in hearing from people in the Cariboo-Chilcotin, Cowichan-Ladysmith, Kootenay-Nelson, North Coast, Port Alberni-Qualicum, Prince George, Peace River and Powell River areas as well as all communities in the Lower Mainland.

“It would be very helpful if interested people in these areas could let us know of their interest in these roles by midnight, January 6, 2008,” Neufeld added.

Elections BC is looking for citizens who have management abilities and a commitment to democracy and impartial voting administration. Each district electoral officer and deputy district electoral officer represents the chief electoral officer in their assigned electoral district.

During the election period, the district and deputy district electoral officers prepare and distribute materials and supplies and provide information and services to the general public, political parties and candidates. They receive, check and acknowledge receipt of nomination papers and arrange for the printing of voters lists and ballots. They are also responsible for ensuring the accessibility of voting opportunities including advance voting, mobile voting and general voting day operations.

Applicants must be available part-time prior to, and full-time during April and May 2009. The next provincial general election and referendum on electoral reform is set for May 12, 2009.

During an election period, Elections BC hires over 31,000 staff including temporary personnel for its Victoria offices as well as district electoral offices in B.C. communities. For more information on the district and deputy district electoral officer opportunities, visit the Elections BC website [www.elections.bc.ca](http://www.elections.bc.ca) under employment.

Elections BC is a non-partisan office of the Legislature responsible for the fair and impartial administration of the provincial electoral process.

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**Editor’s note: Backgrounder attached**

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## **Backgrounder: Electoral Officer Recruitment**

The Election Act requires the chief electoral officer (CEO) to appoint a district electoral officer (DEO) and a deputy district electoral officer (DDEO) for each electoral district in British Columbia. While the number of B.C. electoral districts is still under review, the final number will determine how many district and deputy district electoral officers will be needed. In 2005 there were 79 District and 85 deputy district electoral officers.

These senior election officers lead and manage the local operations for the next provincial General Election and referendum on electoral reform, set for May 12, 2009. As representatives of the chief electoral officer, these positions are responsible for administering provincial general elections, by-elections and referenda (known as electoral events) in their assigned electoral districts.

During the election period, DEOs and DDEOs prepare and distribute materials and supplies and provide information and services to the general public, political parties, and candidates. They hire additional staff and local election officials, receive, check and acknowledge receipt of nomination papers and arrange for the printing of voters lists and ballots. They are also responsible for ensuring accessibility of voting opportunities, including advance voting, mobile voting, and General Voting Day operations.

After the election, DEOs and DDEOs oversee the counting of the votes and declare elected the candidates who have received the greatest number of votes. Although DEOs and DDEOs receive extensive training from Elections BC, they must have the ability to make many important decisions based on local circumstances and resolve issues that arise over the course of an electoral event.

Individuals who have been successful in the past generally have:

- previous experience working in electoral events (federal, municipal and/or provincial);
- an interest in supporting electoral events;
- excellent knowledge of their electoral district;
- the ability to be non-partisan;
- office management and administrative skills and experience;
- project management or event-management experience; and,
- the ability to use computers and computer software.

For more information, please contact Elections BC at:

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