

news release



chief electoral office

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June 18, 2009

Elections Alberta is reaching out to new Canadians

EDMONTON, June 18, 2009 – Elections Alberta staff traveled to Calgary on June 3, 2009 to share election and voting information with representatives from the Canadian Immigrant Women’s Association (CIWA) as a part of the “Train the Trainer” program for their Civic Participation Project.

Seminar topics included Elections Alberta’s role in government, voter education, ways for new Albertans to involve themselves with the election process, and the secrecy and simplicity of voting. The trainers participated in a mock poll complete with sample ballots, polling place signage, and the OCEO staff standing in as poll clerks and registration officers. This activity helped to familiarize the trainers with polling materials and Election Day processes.

CIWA was founded in Calgary in 1982, and is a non-profit organization that addresses the “barriers, needs, and concerns of immigrant and refugee women, youth, and families.” The women who attended “Train the Trainer” will be teaching new Canadians – from countries including Bolivia, China, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, South Korea, Taiwan, and Venezuela – about elections in Alberta and the importance of voting.

“Providing outreach services that include education and information sharing to all stakeholder groups is an important and ongoing responsibility of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer,” said Elections Alberta spokesperson Drew Westwater.

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

Additional details about Elections Alberta’s outreach programs are on our website at <http://www.elections.ab.ca/Public%20Website/education.htm> .

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Further information about the Calgary Immigrant Women's Association (CIWA) can be found at <http://www.ciwa-online.com/> .

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Event Photos



"Train the Trainer" participants listening to the presentation.

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CIWAs trainers hail from a number of countries and backgrounds.



An attendee and Elections Alberta's Director of Operations discuss election policy in Alberta and Taiwan.