



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

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For Immediate Release

Search Committee Recommends Alberta's Ninth Ombudsman and Second Public Interest Commissioner

Edmonton—The Select Special Ombudsman and Public Interest Commissioner Search Committee is recommending the appointment of Marianne Ryan as Alberta's ninth Ombudsman and second Public Interest Commissioner.

As the Office of the Ombudsman celebrates its 50th year in Alberta promoting standards of fairness in public administration, Ryan will be the first woman appointed to this role as well as the role of the Public Interest Commissioner. The Office of the Public Interest Commissioner was established in 2013 to ensure protection of public sector employees under the *Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act*.

"Ms. Ryan brings to the role a demonstrated ability to instill a high degree of public confidence balanced with integrity and an enhanced sense of accountability and corporate management," said David Shepherd, MLA for Edmonton-Centre and search committee chair.

After a long and distinguished 35-year career in policing, Ryan most recently served as the Commanding Officer for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in Alberta, and was one of the highest ranking RCMP officers in Canada.

Over the course of her career with the RCMP Ryan has held a variety of policing roles throughout Canada, including Officer in Charge (Integrated Proceeds of Crime), Officer in Charge (Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit), Regional Change Management Leader, Human Resources Officer, Criminal Operations Officer and, of course, her most recent position as Alberta's top RCMP Officer, a position she retired from in March of this year.

Ryan joined the RCMP in 1982 after attaining her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Western Ontario. She is the recipient of the long-service medal, the bronze clasp and star and the silver clasp and stars for her service with the RCMP. She has also received the Queen's Golden Jubilee medal and is a member of the Order of Merit of the Police Forces. In 2014, Ryan was recognized by Global Television as a *Woman of Vision* and by *Alberta Venture Magazine* as one of *Alberta's 50 Most Influential People*. That same year she was also the recipient of the YWCA *Woman of Distinction* award.

The Select Special Ombudsman and Public Interest Commissioner Search Committee will table its report with the Legislative Assembly of Alberta May 25 recommending the appointment of Ms. Ryan to the position of Ombudsman and Public Interest Commissioner effective July 1, 2017.

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For more information contact:

Rhonda Sorensen, Manager of Corporate Communications

Phone: 780.908.8360

E-mail: rhonda.sorensen@assembly.ab.ca