

Select Special Chief Electoral Officer
Search Committee 2009



Select Special Chief Electoral Officer
Search Committee
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SELECT SPECIAL CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER SEARCH COMMITTEE

CHAIR:

LEN MITZEL, MLA
Cypress-Medicine Hat

DEPUTY CHAIR:

TY LUND, MLA
Rocky Mountain House

MEMBERS:

LAURIE BLAKEMAN, MLA
Edmonton Centre

MANMEET BHULLAR, MLA
Calgary Montrose

ROBIN CAMPBELL, MLA
West Yellowhead

FRED HORNE, MLA
Edmonton Rutherford

THOMAS LUKASZUK, MLA
Edmonton Castledowns

HUGH MacDONALD, MLA
Edmonton Gold Bar

RICHARD MARZ, MLA
Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills

RACHEL NOTLEY, MLA
Edmonton Strathcona

GEORGE ROGERS, MLA
Leduc-Beaumont-Devon

November 19, 2009

To the Honourable Ken Kowalski
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
of the Province of Alberta

The Select Special Chief Electoral Officer Search Committee has the honour to submit its report containing the recommendation of a candidate to the position of Chief Electoral Officer for consideration by the Legislative Assembly.

Sincerely,

[Original signed by Chair]

Len Mitzel, MLA
Chair, Select Special
Chief Electoral Officer Search Committee

MANDATE

Government Motion

11. Moved by Hon. Mr. Hancock:

Be it resolved that a Select Special Chief Electoral Officer Search Committee of the Legislative Assembly be appointed, consisting of the following Members, namely:

Mitzel (Chair)	Campbell	Marz
Lund (Deputy Chair)	Horne	Notley
Bhullar	Lukaszuk	Webber
Blakeman	MacDonald	

for the purpose of inviting applications for the position of Chief Electoral Officer and to recommend to the Assembly the applicant it considers most suitable to this position.

1. The Chair and members of the Committee shall be paid in accordance with the schedule of Category A Committees provided in the most current Members' Services Committee Allowances Order.
2. Reasonable disbursements by the Committee for advertising, staff assistance, equipment and supplies, rent, travel, and other expenditures necessary for the effective conduct of its responsibilities shall be paid, subject to the approval of the Chair.
3. In carrying out its responsibilities, the Committee may, with the concurrence of the head of the department, utilize the services of members of the public service employed in that department, and of the staff employed by the Assembly.
4. The Committee may, without leave of the Assembly, sit during a period when the Assembly is adjourned.
5. When its work has been completed, the Committee shall report to the Assembly if it is sitting. During a period when the Assembly is adjourned, the Committee may release its report by depositing a copy with the Clerk and forwarding a copy to each Member of the Assembly.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP (appointed April 9, 2009)

Chair:

Mr. Len Mitzel, MLA
Cypress-Medicine Hat (PC)

Deputy Chair:

Mr. Ty Lund, MLA
Rocky Mountain House (PC)

Members:

Ms Laurie Blakeman, MLA
Edmonton-Centre (LIB)

Mr. Manmeet Bhullar, MLA
Calgary-Montrose (PC)

Mr. Robin Campbell, MLA
West Yellowhead (PC)

Mr. Fred Horne, MLA
Edmonton-Rutherford (PC)

Mr. Thomas Lukaszuk, MLA
Edmonton-Castledowns (PC)

Mr. Hugh MacDonald, MLA
Edmonton-Gold Bar (LIB)

Mr. Richard Marz, MLA
Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (PC)

Ms Rachel Notley, MLA
Edmonton-Strathcona (NDP)

Mr. Len Webber, MLA
Calgary-Foothills (PC)
(until October 28, 2009)

Mr. George Rogers, MLA
Leduc-Beaumont-Devon (PC)
(appointed October 28, 2009)

Substitutions pursuant to Temporary Standing Order 56(2.1-2.4)

Verlyn Olson, MLA
Wetaskiwin-Camrose (PC)
September 25, 2009
October 20, 2009

Janice Sarich, MLA
Edmonton-Decore (PC)
November 16, 2009

RECOMMENDATION

At the November 19, 2009 meeting of the Select Special Chief Electoral Officer Search Committee, the following recommendation was passed by the Committee:

MOVED by Mr. Lund that the Select Special Chief Electoral Officer Search Committee approve the draft report dated November 19, 2009 and recommend the appointment of Olaf Brian Fjeldheim to the position of Chief Electoral Officer and authorize the Speaker to enter into a contract with Mr. Fjeldheim effective at the time of the appointment.

SELECTION PROCESS

The Committee held its first meeting on April 20, 2009 and its final meeting on November 19, 2009. The Committee, with the assistance of Communications and Committee support staff from the Legislative Assembly Office, and Ms Alayne Stewart, Director-Executive Search, and Ms Trish Mills, Executive Search Consultant, Corporate Human Resources (CHR), developed guidelines for advertising, the position profile, search timetable and general procedures.

Advertisements for the position of Chief Electoral Officer were placed in daily newspapers in: Calgary, Edmonton, Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, and Red Deer. The advertisement ran nationally in the Globe and Mail, and in the National Post. The advertisement and position profile were also posted on the Legislative Assembly of Alberta website, the external Committee website, as well as on the internal website for elections offices across Canada.

The Committee received a total of 42 applications for the position of Chief Electoral Officer; 34 of these were from Alberta and 8 were received from applicants outside of Alberta. Executive Search, CHR completed comprehensive screening reports for each candidate and the Committee reviewed the résumés received along with the screening reports to determine a short-list for preliminary interviews. At the direction of the Committee, Executive Search conducted preliminary interviews with 4 candidates and the Committee then selected 2 candidates for final interviews. These were held on October 5, 2009.

After the interview process was completed, it was the decision of the Committee that Olaf Brian Fjeldheim be recommended to the Legislative Assembly for appointment as the Chief Electoral Officer for the Province of Alberta.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Committee acknowledges the contributions of Ms Alayne Stewart, Director of Executive Search, and Ms Trish Mills, Executive Search Consultant with Alberta Corporate Human Resources. Ms Stewart's and Ms Mill's knowledge and expertise in all matters relating to a search of this nature were invaluable and contributed to the completion of the Committee's mandate in a timely fashion.

BIOGRAPHY OF OLAF BRIAN FJELDHEIM

Olaf Brian Fjeldheim was born in central Alberta and attended Mecca Glen School, east of Ponoka, Camrose Lutheran College, and the University of Alberta.

Mr. Fjeldheim has over 19 years of experience at Elections Alberta in the positions of Director of Election Operations; Deputy Chief Electoral Officer; and Chief Electoral Officer. He has also worked for Lakeland College and taught school at C.F.B. Cold Lake.

Following his retirement from Elections Alberta in 2005, Mr. Fjeldheim worked as an elections observer in British Guyana; conducted a systems audit for Elections Ontario during its 2007 provincial election; and recently returned from Afghanistan where he worked as an advisor to the Election Complaints Commission.

Mr. Fjeldheim was President of the Vegreville Chamber of Commerce, a Town Councilor in Vegreville, and has served on numerous boards and committees, including the Forum for Young Albertans. He has been involved as a volunteer in the Ford World Curling Championships and the Roar of the Rings Curling trials for the Winter Olympics in 2010.

Mr. Fjeldheim is married and has two adult children.

