



Town Residents Elect New Council

NEWS RELEASE – *For immediate release*

Chestermere, AB – October 19, 2010

After many hours of voting yesterday, the residents of Chestermere have elected their new Council for the 2010-2013 term.

Of the ten candidates running for office, the six who have been elected to Council are Patrick Bergen (1595 votes), Heather Davies (1593 votes), Kelsey Johnson (1561 votes), Stewart Hutchison (1526 votes), Christopher Steeves (1521 votes), and Terry Leighton (1299 votes).

“Congratulations to all those who worked hard and were successful in their campaign,” said Mayor Patricia Matthews, who was acclaimed in September. Although the race was only for the six available positions on Council (as the Mayor and school trustees had been acclaimed), it was a tense race.

Yet election staff are pleased with their work. “It was a very busy day for us” said the Town’s Returning Officer Cyndie McOuat. “There was a constant stream of people but we were continually ensuring that the election was conducted correctly.”

According to McOuat, election staff administered the election properly. The staff must adhere to the *Local Authorities Election Act* which is legislation created by the Provincial government. That Act outlines everything that election staff can and cannot do when running an election. It is that legislation that explains that once people sign a Voting Register Form and swear that they are eligible to vote, they must be allowed to do so.

“A few people were concerned that we were not taking ID” said McOuat. “However, Provincial law states that as long as people sign the legal affidavit swearing that they are eligible to vote, we must allow them to do so. Every person who cast a vote yesterday signed a legal form stating that they were eligible.”

Although the staff conducted the election according to the Act, Mayor Matthews said that she will be looking at options the Town can pursue to address concerns about taking ID. “This election was like no other in our history and is being reviewed so changes can be made prior to the next election.”

One change that had been made during this election that electors seemed to appreciate was the Town’s new electronic voting system.



“We enjoyed using the Votex system to collect and count votes” said McOuat. “Many electors and candidates commented on how much they appreciated the system and how easy it was to use. It made it a lot easier on election staff and allowed us to tabulate results within minutes of the close of the polls.”

While the results are the end of the electoral journey for some, it is only the beginning for the successful candidates. Once they are sworn in at an organizational meeting on November 1, both the new and returning members of Council will have a great deal of work ahead of them.

“Being successful on Council takes a lot of hard work and integrity,” said Mayor Matthews. “However, I have every confidence in the candidates that the people of Chestermere chose. Both the new and returning members have a lot to offer and I am certain that this team has the potential to accomplish many great things together over the next three years. I am looking forward to working with them for the benefit of the great community of Chestermere. ”

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