

# APPENDIX: SASKATCHEWAN

## DEMOGRAPHICS AND ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

Saskatchewan is divided into 58 “constituencies” that serve as provincial legislative assembly districts. The province has large rural areas; there are only 13 constituencies with populations over 5,000.<sup>1</sup> The total population of Saskatchewan is approximately 1 million,<sup>2</sup> and 734,290 individuals are voting age.<sup>3</sup> In the 2008 election, 715,291 people were on the voter rolls.<sup>4</sup>

Canada’s federal voter list is used solely for federal elections. Each Canadian province is responsible for maintaining its own voter list for use in provincial and local elections.

Elections Saskatchewan is the government agency charged with administering provincial elections and compiling the voter rolls.<sup>5</sup> Elections Saskatchewan employs a permanent staff of six.<sup>6</sup> However, the Chief Electoral Officer of Elections Saskatchewan appoints “returning officers” who oversee voter registration and voting in each of the 58 constituencies during election years. All together, the constituencies contain approximately 3,500 polling divisions of 300 voters each.<sup>7</sup>

Elections Saskatchewan manages an annual operating budget of \$9 million Canadian dollars, which includes money used to reimburse qualifying candidates for publicly funded election campaigns.<sup>8</sup> During an election season, the returning officers work out of temporary office space rented for 6 to 8 weeks; returning officers hire their own staff and manage their own budgets.<sup>9</sup>

## VOTER REGISTRATION

Saskatchewan is the only Canadian province that still compiles its voter list primarily by enumerating door-to-door.<sup>10</sup> Voter lists are created specifically for each election and must be destroyed after each election.<sup>11</sup> Accordingly, a new voter list is built each election cycle, or about every four years. The enumeration costs approximately \$2.1 million Canadian dollars.<sup>12</sup>

An enumeration begins immediately after an election is called. Elections Saskatchewan initiates a media campaign to make people aware that enumerators will be visiting their homes.<sup>13</sup> To prepare for conducting an enumeration, constituency returning officers — local election officials — monitor new building developments and construction in their areas, in order to update the geographical maps that enumerators will use as a basis for their routes.<sup>14</sup>

The local officials appoint and train 50-60 enumerators to canvass each polling division. There is one enumerator for each polling division, approximately 3,500 overall.<sup>15</sup> The enumerators are responsible for creating a list of all eligible voters in each polling division and are expected to visit each residence in that division.

Immediately following the calling of an election, two days are spent training enumerators. Over the next eight days, the enumerators make home visits and compile voter information.<sup>16</sup> On the tenth day, enumerators turn in their preliminary voter lists to the returning officers.<sup>17</sup>

During the enumeration period, enumerators, wearing buttons to identify themselves, have a right to access residences in order to tally eligible voters between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.<sup>18</sup> For each eligible individual at a given residence, the enumerator fills out a prescribed form, recording her name, occupation, mailing address, and residential address. The enumerators also leave behind cards with further information about the process, along with their contact information.

If a resident is not home when an enumerator visits, the enumerator leaves the aforementioned card to encourage the resident to call the enumerator in order to register to vote. In urban areas, enumerators are required to make at least one additional visit to empty households.<sup>19</sup> In rural areas, enumerators are authorized to conduct follow-up by obtaining information from other sources. They may visit municipal offices to consult the property assessment roll, which lists all taxpayers and their residences, in order to learn the names and phone numbers of the residents in question.<sup>20</sup> In rural areas, enumerators may also direct their inquiries about individuals who are not home to neighbors of those individuals.<sup>21</sup>

Although Elections Saskatchewan provides data to Elections Canada to alert them of changes within Saskatchewan's electorate, it does not currently utilize data from Elections Canada to update the provincial voter rolls.<sup>22</sup>

## FILLING GAPS AND CORRECTING INACCURACIES IN THE VOTER ROLLS

### **Publication of a Preliminary Voter List**

Voter lists are made available for public viewing approximately sixteen days before each election to invite additions and corrections.<sup>23</sup> They are posted at the municipal offices and, in some cases, post offices.<sup>24</sup> The lists are taken down after the polls close on Election Day.<sup>25</sup>

## Revision Day

Revision Day occurs the fourth day before each election. On Revision Day, the enumerator for each polling division is required to be present at a designated location (announced in the newspaper) from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. to accept additions or changes to the voter list.<sup>26</sup> In addition, eligible voters can call their enumerator anytime before Revision Day to make changes to their registration information.<sup>27</sup> Typically, 5% to 10% of the voter list is altered in the days leading up to Revision Day, after which no more changes to the list may be made until Election Day.<sup>28</sup> Voters who fail to make necessary corrections to the list during the revision period may still register at the polls on Election Day.

## Election Day Registration

Eligible individuals who missed the enumeration and were not added or updated during the revision period, or whose names were wrongly removed from the voter list, can register and vote at the polls on Election Day.<sup>29</sup> At the polls, these voters must present identification documents that include name, signature, and place of residence.<sup>30</sup> Voters who do not have appropriate identification may be vouched for by another registered voter.<sup>31</sup> A poll worker completes a prescribed voter's declaration form with the information provided by the voter, which must then be signed by the voter and witnessed by the poll worker.<sup>32</sup> The voter will be given a regular ballot.<sup>33</sup>

## PRIVACY PROTECTIONS

Election Saskatchewan shares data with municipal electoral authorities, Elections Canada, and registered political parties, but the information may be used only for electoral purposes.<sup>34</sup>

## ENDNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> Telephone Interview by Judith Joffe-Block with Jean Ouellet, Chief Electoral Officer, Elections Saskatchewan (Jan. 28, 2008 and Apr. 11, 2008) [hereafter Ouellet Interview].
- <sup>2</sup> Demography Division, Statistics Canada, *Saskatchewan Quarterly Population Report: Third Quarter 2008* (Dec. 19, 2008), available at <http://www.stats.gov.sk.ca/pop/QPR%202008%20Q3.pdf>.
- <sup>3</sup> Saskatchewan Bureau of Statistics, *Saskatchewan Census Population by Age and Sex, 2001 and 2006* (2006), available at <http://www.stats.gov.sk.ca/pop/Agese0106.pdf>.
- <sup>4</sup> Elections Canada, *Report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada on the 40th General Election of October 14, 2008*, at 60 (Feb. 2009), available at [http://www.elections.ca/gen/rep/re2/sta\\_2008/stat\\_report\\_e.pdf](http://www.elections.ca/gen/rep/re2/sta_2008/stat_report_e.pdf).
- <sup>5</sup> Elections Saskatchewan, Office of the Chief Electoral Officer (2009), <http://www.elections.sk.ca/officeofthechief.php>.
- <sup>6</sup> Ouellet Interview, *supra* note 1.
- <sup>7</sup> *Id.*; Elections Saskatchewan, Frequently Asked Questions—General Responses (2009), <http://www.elections.sk.ca/faq-general.php> [hereinafter Elections Saskatchewan FAQ].
- <sup>8</sup> Ouellet Interview, *supra* note 1.
- <sup>9</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>10</sup> Other Canadian provinces occasionally conduct enumerations to supplement other voter registration methods. Other countries, including Indonesia, conduct enumerations to build their voter rolls. For more information on Indonesia's enumeration practices, please see The Carter Center, *2004 Indonesia Election Report*, at 27, 48 (June 2005), available at <http://www.cartercenter.org/documents/2161.pdf>; International Foundation for Electoral Systems, *2004 Elections in the Republic of Indonesia: Looking Back and Looking Forward* (Dec. 2005), available at [http://www.ifes.org/publication/9ac91198c7eda20cf140c422923d85b7/IFES\\_Indonesia\\_Election\\_Report.pdf](http://www.ifes.org/publication/9ac91198c7eda20cf140c422923d85b7/IFES_Indonesia_Election_Report.pdf).
- <sup>11</sup> Ouellet Interview, *supra* note 1.
- <sup>12</sup> According to Jean Ouellet, each constituency spends approximately \$19,000 on enumeration. Enumerators are paid a basic fee of \$120, an additional \$35 for attending training, and \$50 for their service on Revision Day. They receive additional pay on a per-name basis: \$0.40 per name in an urban area and \$0.55 per name in a rural area. Overall, enumerators on average are paid \$250 to \$300 for their services. (All figures in Canadian dollars). *Id.*
- <sup>13</sup> These media campaigns have partially alleviated the challenges of reaching people at home and have also encouraged urban residents to answer their doors. *Id.*
- <sup>14</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>15</sup> Saskatchewan Election Act, S.S., ch. E-6.01, § 20(1) (1996) (Can.). Enumerators often enumerate for several election cycles.
- <sup>16</sup> Ouellet Interview, *supra* note 1. See also Saskatchewan Election Act § 22(1).
- <sup>17</sup> Saskatchewan Election Act § 24(1); Ouellet Interview, *supra* note 1.
- <sup>18</sup> Saskatchewan Election Act § 23.
- <sup>19</sup> Ouellet Interview, *supra* note 1.
- <sup>20</sup> *Id.*; Saskatchewan Election Act § 22(5)(b)(i).
- <sup>21</sup> Ouellet Interview, *supra* note 1.
- <sup>22</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>23</sup> Elections Saskatchewan FAQ, *supra* note 7.
- <sup>24</sup> Saskatchewan Election Act § 25(1)(b).
- <sup>25</sup> Ouellet Interview, *supra* note 1.
- <sup>26</sup> Saskatchewan Election Act § 25-27.
- <sup>27</sup> Ouellet Interview, *supra* note 1.
- <sup>28</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>29</sup> Saskatchewan Election Act §§ 65(2), 68, 70.

<sup>30</sup> One form of identification that bears all three pieces of information suffices. Alternatively, voters may present several forms of identification that, combined, provide the required information. Examples of acceptable identification documents that could be used in conjunction with other types include: a social insurance card, utility bill, property tax bill, mortgage document, or lease. Elections Saskatchewan FAQ, *supra* note 7.

<sup>31</sup> *Id.*

<sup>32</sup> Saskatchewan Election Act § 71.

<sup>33</sup> *Id.* § 73(1).

<sup>34</sup> Ouellet Interview, *supra* note 1.