

December 13, 2012

Returning Officers Appointed in Each of Nova Scotia's 51 Electoral Districts

(Halifax) -- The amendments to the *House of Assembly Act* and the delineation of the new electoral boundaries have triggered the appointment of 51 returning officers to manage provincial elections and plebiscites. Changes to the Nova Scotia *Elections Act* introduced last year led to these appointments being made independent of government for the first time.

The Chief Electoral Officer, Richard Temporale, today announced the appointment of returning officers for each electoral district in the province following a merit-based competition held over the past 6 months.

"The primary duty of returning officers is to run electoral events in their electoral districts," said Temporale. "In addition to those many and varied tasks, during an electoral period, returning officers must also be free to participate in a variety of activities between electoral events. They receive briefings on any changes to legislation and training in new procedures. They also participate in special projects and consultations between elections, and participate at technical development sessions."

Appointed for a 10-year period, a returning officer must have broad management experience and a variety of skills. The work is diverse, challenging and rewarding, and, by its nature, it is impartial and non-partisan. Elections Nova Scotia has been conducting operational training of prospective returning officers over the past few months in preparation for these appointments.

List of provincial returning officers, by electoral district

Annapolis, Marcia Corneal; *Antigonish*, Allan Armsworthy; *Argyle-Barrington*, Daniel Muise; *Bedford-Birch Cove*, Robert Ripley; *Cape Breton Centre*, Joseph "Cotter" Oliver; *Cape Breton-Richmond*, Raymond J. Leblanc; *Chester-St. Margaret's*, Jim Breeze; *Clare-Digby*, Nora T. Saulnier; *Clayton Park West*, Stephen Clancey; *Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley*, Sharon O'Leary; *Colchester North*, Lorraine Dawson; *Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage*, Malcolm Macdonald; *Cole Harbour-Portland Valley*, Ron Norquay; *Cumberland North*, Joe Webb;

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Cumberland South, Shelley Trenholm; *Dartmouth East*, Dermot Jardine; *Dartmouth North*, Heather Collins; *Dartmouth Preston*, Brenda Brushett; *Dartmouth South*, Peter Chaffey; *Eastern Shore*, Darlene Redman; *East Nova*, Marcia Connolly; *Fairview Clayton Park*, John Hart; *Glace Bay*, JoAnn Shanahan; *Halifax Armdale*, Janice Atkins; *Halifax Atlantic*, Eileen Pelham; *Halifax Chebucto*, David Smith; *Halifax Citadel-Sable Island*, Krista Daley; *Halifax Needham*, Ken Eisan; *Hammonds Plains-Lucasville*, Michael Baker; *Hants East*, Lawrin Armstrong; *Hants West*, Garth Hazel; *Inverness*, Agnes (Angie) Carroll; *Kings North*, Albert Kingsburry; *Kings South*, Paul Dennison; *Kings West*, Karl West; *Lunenburg*, Clare Blyth; *Lunenburg West*, Helen Chisholm; *Northside-Westmount*, Alden MacLeod; *Pictou Centre*, Lorne Smith; *Pictou East*, James Jeffrey; *Pictou West*, Josephine MacDonald; *Queens-Shelburne*, Ted Bulley; *Sackville*, Mark Jamieson; *Sackville-Cobequid*, James Drolet; *Sydney*, David Muise; *Sydney River -Miramichouan*, Doug Foster; *Timberlea-Prospect*, Bernard Conrad; *Truro-Bible Hill*, Christine Blair; *Victoria-The Lakes*, Philip MacRae; *Waverley-Fall River-Beaver Bank*, Shera-Lee Kerr; *Yarmouth*, Marie Atkinson.

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The inauguration of returning officers, presentation of appointment certificates by the Lieutenant-Governor, and the official administration of the oath of office is scheduled for 9 a.m., January 23, 2013 at the Red Chamber of Province House.

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