

Notley and the NDP win majority government in province-wide Student Vote

Edmonton, May 5, 2015 – More than 85,000 students under the voting age cast ballots in Student Vote Alberta for the 2015 provincial election.

After learning about the democratic process, researching the candidates and party platforms, and debating the future of Alberta, students cast ballots for official candidates running in their electoral division.

By the end of the school day today, 792 schools had reported their election results, representing all 87 electoral divisions in the province. In total, 82,474 valid votes, 2,526 rejected ballots and 2,123 declined ballots were cast by student participants.

There were many close races in the province, with 16 divisions decided by less than 25 votes.

Students elected Rachel Notley and the NDP to a majority government with 56 seats, including all 19 seats in Edmonton and 15 of 25 seats in Calgary.

The NDP increased their share of the popular vote to 37.1 from 12.9 per cent in 2012. Party leader Rachel Notley easily won in her electoral division of Edmonton-Strathcona with 74 per cent of the vote.

The Wildrose Party won 23 seats and will form the Student Vote official opposition. The party also won 23 seats in the last Student Vote, but the party's share of the popular vote decreased to 24.4 per cent, down from 28.2 per cent in 2012. Leader Brian Jean was defeated in his riding of Fort McMurray-Conklin by just three votes.

The Progressive Conservatives took 6 seats, down from 54 in 2012 when they won a majority government. Their share of the popular vote decreased to 20.3 from 34.6 per cent. Party leader Jim Prentice did not win in his electoral division of Calgary-Foothills.

Liberal leader David Swann was the only member of his party to win his seat, in Calgary-Mountain View. Overall, the party received 8.7 per cent of the popular vote, down from 18.1 per cent in the last election. The party won 5 seats in the last Student Vote.

Alberta Party leader Greg Clark was also the only member of his party to win a seat, receiving 32.6 support in his riding of Calgary-Elbow. The party received 6.1 per cent overall, up 2.8 from 2012.

This is the third provincial-level Student Vote program conducted in Alberta. In the 2012 provincial election, 85,186 Student Vote ballots were cast from 761 schools.

Results Highlights:

- Three political party leaders won their seats: Rachel Notley in Edmonton-Strathcona, David Swann in Calgary-Mountain View and Greg Clark in Calgary-Elbow. Jim Prentice and Brian Jean were defeated in their electoral divisions.
- The electoral division of Grande Prairie-Wapiti had the greatest number of participants with 2,272 votes cast. Medicine Hat was second, with 2,107.
- Drumheller-Stettler had 20 schools report results – more than any other electoral division.

VIEW COMPLETE RESULTS HERE: <http://www.studentvote.ca/ab2015/results>

Background:

Student Vote is a parallel election for students under the voting age that coincides with official election periods. Student Vote is the flagship program of CIVIX. CIVIX is a national registered charity building the capacity and commitment of young Canadians to participate in their democracy.

CIVIX coordinated the Student Vote program for the 2015 Alberta provincial election with support from Elections Alberta, Alberta Education, the Alberta Teachers' Association and the Government of Canada.

For further information:

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