

News Release

Sept. 18, 2007

C2E launches four-week public forum for Edmonton election

— *Unique-in-Canada forum offers unprecedented access to all candidates*

Connect2Edmonton.com (C2E) --- an online global community that encourages discussion and collaboration on topics of importance to Edmonton's future --- has announced an innovative new forum specific to Edmonton's municipal election.

All city council and school trustee candidates running in the Oct. 17, 2007 municipal election now have an unprecedented opportunity to communicate their ideas and qualifications to the entire electorate, at no cost, through Edmonton's virtual public forum.

A special 'Edmonton Election 2007' forum has been established on C2E with the names of all city council and school trustee candidates listed by ward, in alphabetical order. Edmonton voters can engage candidates in an online environment and candidates can share their platforms and answer issue-specific questions from constituents. Membership is free for everyone and only takes a moment to register online.

The forum will be available online Sept. 18-Oct. 19, 2007 (to accommodate post-election discussions) and will be divided in three categories moderated by C2E volunteers:

- Mayoral candidates
- City councillor candidates
- School trustee candidates

All declared candidates have been invited to participate in this four-week public forum. Several questions from C2E members are already posted in each ward thread to stimulate meaningful online discussions.

The goal of this pilot project is to increase voter education and engagement in the election process while providing a no-cost vehicle for all candidates to communicate directly with constituents.

C2E currently has 2,200-plus registered members in 27 countries and an astounding 58,800 online postings. Just as importantly, C2E's interactive website continues to attract 23,000-plus unique visitors each month and has a considerable following among local media and community leaders.



C2E was conceived and funded by Edmonton Economic Development Corp. and receives invaluable promotional support from Edmonton Airports, Edmonton Chamber of Commerce, Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) and the City of Edmonton. It is an autonomous, non-political, member-led organization supported by a cadre of pro-Edmonton volunteers and representatives from partner organizations.

Visit www.connect2edmonton.ca to participate in the Edmonton Election 2007 forum. For information on the municipal election visit the City of Edmonton's website at www.edmontonelection.ca/.

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