

An AVG Anti-Virus Solution for Elections Alberta

Office of the Chief Electoral For Elections Alberta, gearing Officer of Alberta up for general and senate not



For Elections Alberta, gearing up for general and senate nominee elections in November 2004 meant equipping the Returning Officers' offices throughout the province with computers to update and maintain voter registration. And that meant Tom de Beyer, Director of the Register of Electors and

System Support, was faced with protecting about 200 additional computers— and the organization's vital database — from viruses.

The Challenge to Elections Alberta

Elections Alberta was created to impartially and effectively administer the electoral process within the Canadian province. Charged with conducting elections and tallying the results, the organization reports to the Legislative Assembly and ultimately, answers to the people of Alberta.

Based in Edmonton, Elections Alberta operates yearround with a staff of 10. Eighty-three Returning Officers were appointed to conduct the 2004 elections. These Returning Officers were then responsible for the hiring and supervision of over 12,000 elections officers who staffed the polling stations. To provide the computing power necessary to enter new voters and update the registry of electors, each Returning Officer was temporarily provided with two computers. The Edmonton office also added 20 computers to provide temporary help desk services to the Returning Officers' staff as well as voters.

As with any organization that depends on computers, Elections Alberta was concerned with protecting those resources and mission-critical data from disruption or loss due to a computer virus. Since the computers were to be used only short term, it was important that the anti-virus solution be simple and cost-effective.

Finding the Solution

"I had used AVG Anti-Virus software on my computers at home for the past few years and thought it was a good solution for us here at Elections Alberta," says de Beyer. "We needed something that was less complex to set up and use than many other products are." Elections Alberta purchased 200 Network Edition licenses for use on all of its temporary computers. "Working with Grisoft and installing the software was so straightforward, I was very pleased," according to de Beyer.

Benefits of AVG Anti-Virus

AVG Anti-Virus software is competitively priced, making it a practical solution for organizations of all types and sizes. It also features a simple download process and free Technical Support 24x7 via e-mail.

For de Beyer and Elections Alberta, AVG Anti-Virus was so simple to use that they never had to ask for help. "With Returning Officers and temporary employees who may not know much about computers, ease of use was a potential problem," he says. "But with AVG, we were able to manage users and handle any issues ourselves."

Even when users had to set up e-mail scanning themselves, AVG Anti-Virus proved easy to manage. "Most users were able to set up e-mail scanning on their own and with the few who did have questions, we were able to talk them through it with no problems."

Best of all, with AVG Anti-Virus software, Elections Alberta had no virus issues. "We could see AVG at work," according to de Beyer. "It detected anything suspicious that tried to get through and quarantined it in the Virus Vault. So even with all of our temporary computers and users, we had absolutely no problems with viruses."

Find Out More!

To learn more about AVG Anti-Virus software and what it can do for your organization, visit www.grisoft.com or contact your local Authorized Grisoft Reseller.