

Activities and Events from April to June 30th 2009

EV's Experiences Program

EVAN chapter members and members from University of Alberta EV Youth Chapter worked together to facilitate EV's Experiences youth consultations with Western Youth Coordinator Amanda Rheaume during the Alberta Girl Guides' 'mock Parliament' weekend. This event followed EVAN chapter's successful youth consultations for EV's Experiences program in March, with Nellie McClung all girls school at Avonmore site, and the EV University of Alberta chapter consultations on campus.

BC Women's Campaign School

Recognizing the value of BC's Women's Campaign School run by the Canadian Women Voter's Congress, and with 2 EVAN members having attended in 2003 and the other in 2007, one current EVAN chapter member attended the March 2009 School and reported back to the chapter. This has prompted further discussion amongst EVAN chapter members to think longer term to sponsoring a woman in future who is interested in running for office.

Chapter chair interviewed by U of A student

EVAN chapter Chair Janet Buckmaster was interviewed by political science student from University of Alberta's rural Augustana campus in Camrose, SE of Edmonton, as part of her university research project on women in politics in Alberta.

Women in municipal government

Equal Voice Alberta North, through one of its members, is working to create a relationship with the sub-committee of the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) to increase women in municipal government. Discussion of this strategy resulted in excellent discourse on the difficulties of balancing political life and professional entrepreneurial dilemmas, including conflict of interest, in small communities when one is both a business woman and a (part-time) elected representative.

North and south chapters hold joint meeting

As a prelude to EVAN chapter's fall 2009 strategic planning process, EV Alberta North and EV Alberta South chapters met together May 23rd for the first time, in Red Deer (central Alberta), to discuss areas of commonalities, strategies to increase Equal Voice's profile in Alberta, strategies for increasing public awareness of EV's goals and opportunities to work together during provincial and federal elections.

YWCA Edmonton's Tribute to Women of Distinction Award

EVAN member and Ophelia's Voice founder Joanne Cave was honoured as the Youth (under 18) recipient of YWCA Edmonton's Tribute to Women of Distinction award, with EVAN members cheering her on at the event.

Ophelia's Voice's 5th anniversary celebrations

EV Alberta North chapter was represented at Ophelia's Voice's 5th anniversary celebrations on June 30th, with a display table and distributing Experiences booklets to girls under 18 and their parents, encouraging the girls to consider the Experiences program. EVAN also seized the opportunity to speak to the two local Members of Parliament in attendance about the program and encourage each to get involved with either the Equal Voice chapter and/or be a mentor with the Experiences program.