

New Canadians to take oath, in style



DAVID PARKER
AROUND TOWN

The 50 people who take the oath of citizenship in Calgary today to become Canadians will form part of a ceremony to commemorate the official opening of the new Citizenship Ceremony Room.

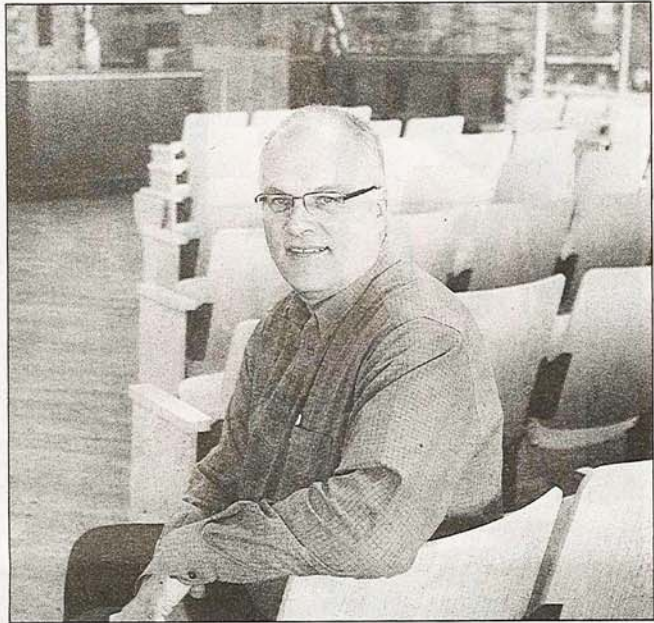
They will participate in a unique part of Canadian life — a celebration to reflect on the rights, responsibilities and benefits of being Canadians. Receiving their certificates is a proud moment for them. Also joining in the sense of pride and achievement is **Robert Ferguson**, who is the regional director of Citizenship and Immigration Canada and who spearheaded the design and construction of the new facility.

He certainly has the experience to tackle the significant growth in numbers of individuals and families immigrating to Canada, of which around 12,500 have their citizenship grants processed in Calgary each year.

Ferguson's 58 staff are responsible for immigration processing, settlement of immigrants — which includes language training through educational institutions and organizations — granting of citizenship and pre-removal risk assessment for those being returned to their former countries.

The task of redesigning the new space was given to **Riddell Kurczaba Architecture** and Ferguson is full of compliments for the way interior designer **Natalie Allen** managed the job.

The 15,000-square-foot area was turned into high-security judge's chambers, four interview rooms, a secure waiting room and service counter. The 5,400-square-foot Ceremony Room is furnished with 200 seats positioned to allow good views of the presiding judge and clerk of the court as well as a huge photo-mural that shows off the Calgary skyline, foothills and Rocky Mountains.



Ted Rhodes, Calgary Herald

Robert Ferguson of Citizenship and Immigration Canada shows off the newly renovated courtroom at the Harry Hays Building downtown.

The room is on the second floor of the north side of the building and opens to a large patio area overlooking the Bow River and its escarpment.

An adjacent area will be used as a reception room for new citizens to relax with families and meet other new Canadians.

Today's ceremony will be enhanced by a reception sponsored by the Canadian Progress Club — Calgary Downtown.

New Canadians will also be treated to a rather special welcome by senior representatives of federal, provincial and city governments. The senior citizenship judge from Ottawa, George Springate — whom many will remember as the field goal kicker for the Montreal Alouettes when

they defeated Calgary in the 1970 Grey Cup — will be the presiding judge.

An exciting merger has taken place within the Calgary communications industry with **Creative Intelligence (Ci)** joining **Twist Marketing** and moving over to Twist's space in Crossroads Market.

Ci president **Dean McKenzie** and his partners **Barry Anderson** and **Melanie James** will operate under the Twist Marketing brand, joining CEO **Roger Jewett** and managing director **Catherine Proulx** as partners in the merged company.

DAVID PARKER APPEARS TUESDAY, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY. HE CAN BE REACHED AT 403-830-4622 OR E-MAIL INFO@DAVIDPARKER.CA.