

Equal Voice's
Electoral Reform Resource
Kit

Choose women.

Choose Choice.

On October 10th

Choose MMP.



On October 10th 2007 VOTE YES FOR MMP! Say yes to an **EQUAL VOICE** for Women.

Table of Contents

Introduction	Page 3
What is MMP	Page 6
Frequently asked questions	Page 8
Ideas for Action	Page 10
Step-by-Step Suggestions	
a. Planning an Issue Forum	Page 11
b. Working with the Media	Page 13
Media Outreach Strategies.....	Page 15
c. Meeting with Elected Officials	Page 16
Appendices	
A. Number of Women MPPs in Ontario since 1981	Page 19
B. # of Female Legislators in Other Countries	Page 23
C. Backgrounder on Women in Canadian Politics.....	Page 26
D. Sample Meeting Agenda with your MMP/candidate.....	Page 32
E. Letter to the 3 Ontario Party Leaders.....	Page 33
F. Equal Voice Resources.....	Page 34



On October 10th 2007 VOTE YES FOR MMP! Say yes to an **EQUAL VOICE** for Women.

Introduction

Few people in Ontario seem to realize there is a referendum on electoral reform this fall. Ontarians will vote on Oct. 10th 2007, at the same time as they vote in the provincial election. The Referendum question, posed by the Ontario Government, will be whether they want to continue with our present riding-based electoral system or want to change to a "mixed" system (called Mixed Member Proportional).

The Ontario referendum is a wonderful opportunity--and perhaps the last for many decades--to achieve reforms to our outmoded electoral system that would help more women get elected. Canada is one of the few modern democracies still clinging to our old Westminster model of electing Members from local ridings (others are the UK and US, which have ever worse records in electing women). We stand 48th in the world in terms of the number of women in our House of Commons (just under 21 per cent), and in recent years the numbers of women standing and being elected has started to decline.

This is why Doris Anderson, and others of us in the long fight for fair representation in politics, have concluded that we cannot hope to succeed without changing our electoral system. Out there in the ridings, local riding associations still conclude that white male professionals are the best candidates, so we end up with party slates that are 80 per cent male even when party leaders are publicly calling for more women.

The Oct. 10 referendum could throw open the doors of the male political club. A victory in Canada's most populous province would likely set off a domino effect. It is a last chance because efforts at electoral reform have failed or floundered recently in PEI, New Brunswick, Quebec and B.C. Not all women realize that political decision-making--particularly on issues such as child care, home care, and choice--lies so largely in the hands of men. It is time more women were in office helping men make decisions which often effect women more.

The Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform (103 Ontarians randomly chosen by Elections Ontario) is recommending moderate change--keeping a majority of seats (90) still elected in the ridings in the old way, but a minority (39) elected by Proportional Representations. They are calling it a Mixed Member Proportional system. Voters would get two votes--one for a local riding representative and another for their favourite party's "list" of candidates for the PR seats.



On October 10th 2007 VOTE YES FOR MMP! Say yes to an **EQUAL VOICE** for Women.

No modern party would dare present a public list that did not include good gender balance and visible minority candidates. The result would be more women in the Legislature, and likely more women of color. The Legislature and the Government would more fairly represent the actual makeup of the population. (There are now only 26 women (25 per cent) in the 103-seat Legislature and only eight Members who are visible minority. Both figures are half what they should be based on provincial demographics).

Equal Voice members are campaigning in favour of electoral reform, urging Ontarians to vote for change in the referendum, which is being held at the same time as the provincial election. But we are volunteers, with only a slender endowment in the Doris Anderson Fund, which is our vehicle for the campaign.

It is a daunting task. The Premier, who started out gung-ho on electoral reform, has set an almost impossible bar--to succeed the Mixed system must get 60 per cent of the votes in 60 per cent of ridings. The governing Liberals are split on the issue, the Conservatives keep raising doubts, and only the NDP and Greens are unequivocally in favour. But the polls show ordinary Ontarians favour the idea of reforming the system--at least they do if they know about it. But only a minority (about 30 per cent) have even heard about the Referendum, let alone about the details of the proposed reform. Male curmudgeon commentators in the media and the politicians are pooh-poohing reform and trying to keep the Referendum quiet. They are counting on public inertia to favour the status quo. The status quo is anti-woman.

Our present method of electing our politicians systemically discriminates against women. They simply do not get nominated in enough numbers to make a difference. (Typically only 20 per cent of total candidates are female, and 20 per cent of those elected are female). Once in office, women find themselves in a lonely and hostile atmosphere. Too many crash and burn (Kim Campbell, Sheila Copps, Belinda Stronach), and others quit.

MMP was recommended in May by the Ontario Citizen's Assembly, a group of citizens (half women) who were randomly chosen from each riding by Elections Ontario to consider whether we need to change the way we vote. According to their recommended model, 90 seats would be elected as usual, but 39 seats would be elected by proportional representation. Parties would draw up province-wide lists of candidates for the PR seats. If the reform is accepted, the election in 2011 would be different. Voters would get two ballots—one for their riding



On October 10th 2007 VOTE YES FOR MMP! Say yes to an **EQUAL VOICE** for Women.

candidate, and the other for the party of their choice. On election night, the parties' seats would be "topped up" with candidates from the top of their lists, according to how big a share they got of the popular vote.

Why should you care? Because this is about your future. We in Equal Voice are campaigning for the reform on the grounds that more women and more visible minority representatives would be elected. It would be the end of the status quo white male legislature (of 103 seats, only 26 are occupied by women and eight by visible minorities).

This Action Kit provides some information and tools around organizing on the side of Mixed Member Proportional for the October 10th referendum. We have a website – equalvoiceinpolitics.ca – which has further resources, and we are able to help on any of the issues discussed in this kit. Please feel free to contact us at info@equalvoiceinpolitics.ca.

The EV Referendum Team

CONTACT INFO

For general enquiries email us at: info@equalvoiceinpolitics.com

For print resources email us at: resources@equalvoiceinpolitics.com

For speaker requests email us at: speaker@equalvoiceinpolitics.com

This campaign is made possible by the donations of individual Canadians from across the country in the name of Doris Anderson, a champion for women's equality and advocate for electoral reform. To make a donation to the Doris Anderson Fund please visit: www.equalvoice.ca



On October 10th 2007 VOTE YES FOR MMP! Say yes to an **EQUAL VOICE** for Women.

What is MMP?

The provincial government mandated the Citizen's Assembly on Electoral Reform to assess Ontario's current electoral system and in particular, how votes are translated into seats in the legislature.

The Assembly was made up of its Chair, George Thomson, an educator, former judge and deputy minister, appointed by the Ontario government, and 103 voters selected at random by Elections Ontario, from each of province's electoral districts. The members reflect the age demographics of Ontario and come from a wide range of cultural and occupational backgrounds. Half of the Assembly members were women.

From September 2006 to April 2007, the Assembly studied electoral systems. They conducted research, listened to experts and politicians, consulted with Ontarians, debated and deliberated. They worked independently from the government and political parties. They concluded that the Mixed Member Proportional system will best respond to the needs of Ontario. For more information about the Assembly and its process, go to: www.citizenassembly.gov.on.ca.

Our current system is called "Single Member Plurality", or "First Past the Post". The party with the most votes wins the seat. This system results in a real disparity between a party's percentage of the vote versus the number of seats won. The leading party usually gains more seats than their share of the vote, while second and third place parties can have many votes but end up with few or no seats at all.

Under the MMP system, election results will be proportional: a party's share of seats in the legislature will reflect its portion of the vote.

Voters will get two votes on a single ballot. They can vote for a local candidate (the same as before). But voters would also get a second vote, to elect a party.

It often happens that a voter likes a local candidate but not their party, or alternately, supports a party but not its local candidate. Under the MMP system, a voter will have the option of electing their preferred candidate and party.



On October 10th 2007 VOTE YES FOR MMP! Say yes to an **EQUAL VOICE** for Women.

How MMP Works:

Locally elected candidates will win their seats as before. The party vote will determine the overall share of seats a party wins in the legislature.

If a party's number of elected candidates falls below their share of the party vote, there is a top-up from party "list members". Prior to the election, each party publishes a list of candidates, in the order they are to be elected. Candidates can run locally and be included on the list. If they win in their district, their name is crossed off and the position falls to the next person on the list. This allows a party to ensure that its priority candidates will have a seat.

Under the new system, there will be 129 seats in the legislature. 90 seats will be allotted to local candidates and 39 will be allotted for party list members.

Why we support it:

In countries that have adopted the MMP system, we have seen that it has increased the participation of women and underrepresented citizens in the legislature.

By ranking women high on their lists, parties can boost their chance of securing a seat in legislature. Because these lists will be made public, voters can see which party has the strongest slate of women candidates.

It will still take the commitment of party leaders and women to run as candidates to ensure that the MMP system results in the election of more women. But we believe that these reforms will accelerate women's participation in electoral politics.



On October 10th 2007 VOTE YES FOR MMP! Say yes to an **EQUAL VOICE** for Women.

Frequently Asked Questions about MMP

Won't this just create more conflict in the Legislature?

With parties only rarely able to form a majority, any government that wants to hold on to power will have to negotiate with other parties for their support. In other countries, this has led to more consensus-building and a less adversarial atmosphere.

We are going to have more politicians than before!?

Before the Legislature was reduced to 103 seats by Mike Harris, there were 125 MPPs in Ontario. The Citizen Assembly has proposed 129 seats, which would be 22 more seats than we will have in the Oct. 10 election, when the Legislature is being increased to 107 Members. Most jurisdictions have a higher proportion of legislators to serve their constituents. Some experts argue that we are under-served now.

Won't Mixed Member Proportional just create gridlock with endless minority governments?

We already get minority governments, and they often work well. Studies have shown that minority governments are more productive of major legislation than are majority governments. In a reformed Legislature, parties would form coalitions in order to govern, thus reducing the prospect of gridlock.

The coalition style has worked well in New Zealand and Germany, which both have "mixed" systems such as the Citizen Assembly proposes, with a majority of local constituency seats, and a minority of seats elected by proportional representation.

Won't there be less representation, as a certain number of MPPs will only represent backroom partisan interests, and not have a geographical constituency?

A mixed system offers more representation since those "List" MPs who do not have constituencies get assigned to work in the seats their party did not win. This means that voters can appeal to their elected local MPP for assistance, or may turn to the List MPP assigned by another party. Voters will have a choice.



On October 10th 2007 VOTE YES FOR MMP! Say yes to an **EQUAL VOICE** for Women.

How will this increase the presence of women and minority MPPs?

The "mixed" system proposed by the Ontario Citizen's Assembly will include 39 "list" seats and 90 constituency seats elected as usual. Once a party has won its constituency seats, its total will be "topped up" by a number of list seats, according to the party's share of the popular vote. Candidates on the lists will have been chosen by the parties, possibly at party nominating conventions, to represent the team intended to attract voters. Parties will want to use the lists to reach out to voters who traditionally have been under-represented—women, visible minorities and aboriginals. So, the list seats will increase the number of women and minorities elected, better representing the actual makeup of the population.

How is it more democratic if MPPs are being parachuted in?

Seventy per cent of MPPs will be locally elected, as they are now. The remaining 30 per cent will be elected too, only they will be elected off party lists. They will represent voters at large, and will be freer to represent all Ontarians, not just their constituencies. They will likely be assigned to some constituency work, either assisting local MPPs in several ridings, or shoring-up party representation in ridings that were lost.

If the List MPPs are chosen by their parties, won't this just enhance the power of the back-room boys?

The Citizens' Assembly recommended that List MPPs be chosen by a transparent process, and that parties must demonstrate the selection was fair and transparent to the Chief Elections Officer. Therefore, parties are likely to hold province-wide nomination conventions to elect their list candidates, which will empower delegates rather than backroom party honchos. In Ontario, the three major party leaders have committed themselves to the election of more women. They are not likely to permit their backroom boys to put up lists of all white male professionals.



On October 10th 2007 VOTE YES FOR MMP! Say yes to an **EQUAL VOICE** for Women.

Ideas for Action

- Send a letter to your MPP telling them why you are choosing Mixed Member Proportional, and why it's the better choice for Ontarians. See the Appendix letter-writing tips.
- Participate in our MMP Week of Action. From October 1-7, 2007, we are asking Ontarians from across the province to take a few minutes, a few hours, or a few days to canvass their communities and let their neighbours, colleagues, friends and family know about MMP and why it will change our electoral system for the better. Download our flyer or make your own. If you need us to mail the flyer to you, email us at resources@equalvoiceinpolitics.com and tell us how many you need. Then go stand in front of your grocery store, at your local mall, or knock on your neighbour's doors and talk to them about MMP, and why you are voting yes on October 10th.
- Organize a lunch-time meeting. In your place of work or school, or in your community centre, organize a 50 minute informational session, with about 20 minutes devoted to delivering your key message (why people should vote for MMP, how it will help women get elected, why it has benefited women in other countries), about 15 minutes on questions and answers, and about 15 minutes on networking, sharing resources, etc. If this is something that you would like to do, but would like to have a speaker come to you, contact us at info@equalvoiceinpolitics.ca.
- Hand out our brochures at your school, workplace, mall, etc. Contact us for copies.
- Put up posters at your local community boards. Remember, most people don't even know what MMP is. This is a chance to provide them with information about the issue. Again, contact us for copies.
- Sign our petition stating that the double-majority threshold is unfair. Or start your own petition. Visit our website for more info.
- Send a letter or op-ed piece to your local newspaper. See "Media Outreach" and "Working with the Media" for more information.
- Organize an information forum. See "Planning an Issue Forum" for more information.
- Join Equal Voice: <http://www.equalvoice.ca/idx.php?rl=30&lid=1>



On October 10th 2007 VOTE YES FOR MMP! Say yes to an **EQUAL VOICE** for Women.

Step-by-Step Project One: Planning an Issue Forum

An issue forum is an event that you organize to highlight a particular public policy, advocacy, or outreach issue that is important to you. It can take many different forms:

- A panel event – usually with three or four speakers plus a moderator. The speakers are experts or generally well-recognized in the field, and it is helpful if they represent a variety of different backgrounds. You set the panel theme and ask panellists to prepare a 5-10 minute presentation on the theme. Leave time for questions and answers.
 - An open house. Invite people to your home, workplace, or organization, for some food and drink, and host a speaker on MMP. Ask other partner organizations to participate and to bring information they can leave with the attendees.
 - A launch party. Host a party in an (allowed) public space, or rent space, or hold it in a private venue. Have some music, invite organizations to table at the event, have snack food, and other performers. Make your issue the theme of the event. I.e. Salsa for MMP! A lot of non-profit organizations offer fine arts and performance programs for youth, and they are often available to perform for free. If you need a list of these organizations, contact us at info@equalvoiceinpolitics.ca
 - A tag-along to another, already planned event. At your next women's caucus meeting in your workplace or union, or at your next church function, or at your local community group's monthly general meeting, ask if you can come speak for a few minutes about MMP. Remember to bring some brochures or flyers to leave with people.
- Working in coalition with a wide range of diverse organizations allows you to take on larger projects, reach more women and gain additional exposure.
 - Schedule the event at a convenient time. Avoid religious or government holidays, dates when other community functions are scheduled, and business hours.
 - Choose an accessible site that will attract a range of women from the community, preferably a well-known and wheelchair-accessible site, such as a local school, community center, or library.



On October 10th 2007 VOTE YES FOR MMP! Say yes to an **EQUAL VOICE** for Women.

- Advertise widely. Remember people are not going to know about the issue forum unless you tell them. Advertise on email listservs, on grocery stores and church bulletin boards, in the community section of your newspaper, and many radio and TV stations also offer a community events listing service.

Inviting Speakers

- Invite speakers with demonstrated knowledge or personal experience with the issue. Email us at info@equalvoiceinpolitics.ca for suggestions for speakers.
- Arrange for a moderator. A well-known, nonpartisan moderator who is respected in your community will generate interest in the event and add credibility. The moderator opens the forum by introducing the speakers and issues to be discussed. The speakers then give their presentations. The remainder of the forum should be open for questions from the audience.
- Thank the speakers with letters or phone calls to promote a good relationship. Be certain to send a letter of appreciation to the moderator.

Generating an Audience

- Send an advisory notifying the news media about your event three to five days in advance.
- Allocate central, unobstructed space close to electrical outlets for TV camera crews and reporters.
- Send invitations to coalition partners and other important guests. Invite as many groups as possible to participate, even if they did not help plan the event. A diverse group of co-sponsors will have more credibility and attract a much wider audience.
- Invite the public. You can find women voters living as close as next door. In addition to reaching your neighbours and co-workers, make an extra effort to market the event to the women you would like to attend. Outreach to coalition partners and the community can help you gain exposure and expand membership. Be sure to submit an announcement to free community bulletin boards in newspapers and community cable outlets.



On October 10th 2007 VOTE YES FOR MMP! Say yes to an **EQUAL VOICE** for Women.

Step-by-Step Project Two: Working With the Media

Preplanning

- Draw up a list of community newspapers, cable and commercial television stations, and radio stations that serve your area.
- Make sure you include newspapers and radio stations that serve specific ethnic or cultural groups.
- Think about including college and university papers, as well as newsletters and bulletins published by churches, community groups, hospitals, etc.

Prior to the Event

- Three to five days prior to the event, fax an appropriate media advisory to the reporters on your list. The advisory should include the who, what, when, where, and why of the upcoming event. Be sure to include contact information in case reporters have questions.
- Call reporters the day after you send the media advisory. Explain that you are following up on the materials you sent. If they haven't seen the materials offer to fax them again.

Morning of the Event

- Send a news release to capture a reporter's interest. News releases should give full details of the event including quotes from spokespersons or participants. In addition to your story, the release should include an attention-grabbing headline and the name and phone number of the contact person. Limit your release to one side of one typed page, make it available at your event, and distribute it more broadly afterward, particularly to those reporters whom you contacted but did not attend.



On October 10th 2007 VOTE YES FOR MMP! Say yes to an **EQUAL VOICE** for Women.

During the Event

- Prepare a table with a sign-in list and news media kit. Sign-in sheets help you identify which reporters attended your event. Media kits should provide the vital information a reporter will need to cover the event.
- Include items such as a forum agenda, statements from the speakers, copy of the press release, and background information on Equal Voice and other event co-sponsors. Help reporters write a complete story by talking with each reporter in attendance. Offer reporters a quick interview before or after the program.

After the Event

- Follow up again. Contact reporters who covered the event later that day to see if they need additional information or quotes to complete their story. Call reporters who did not attend the event to offer additional information, including the news media kit, in case they intend to publish an article on the event.



On October 10th 2007 VOTE YES FOR MMP! Say yes to an **EQUAL VOICE** for Women.

Media Outreach Strategies

- Send letters to the editor of your local paper.
 - Letter to the editor tips:
 - Focus on your local papers and include a local connection in your letter
 - Pick only one or two papers to which to send the letter
 - Most papers have a word limit on what they will print (generally 200 words). If you are brief you are more likely to be published.
- Write an op-ed on MMP. Coordinate the efforts of several good writers in your area and begin an op-ed campaign. Op-eds typically appear opposite a newspaper's editorial page (opposite editorial). Op-eds are generally 800 words or fewer and are a great forum for expressing your opinion on issues. Address the timeliness of the issue and the relevance to readers. Follow up with a brief phone call to ensure the editor received your piece. If your article is not used as an op-ed, it may be printed as a letter to the editor.
- Talk to the airwaves. Organize a group of women to regularly listen to talk radio shows and share information about the issues. Talk radio shows offer an excellent opportunity to bring your message to the public. By calling and posing a question or making a point, you can promote your local efforts. Listen to talk radio shows in your community. Morning and afternoon drive-time shows are particularly good targets.



On October 10th 2007 VOTE YES FOR MMP! Say yes to an **EQUAL VOICE** for Women.

Step-by-Step Project Three: Meeting with Elected Officials and/or your local candidate

Connecting with your elected officials and candidates about the referendum in a face-to-face meeting is a great way to develop a relationship with them and work to influence the stands they take on issues important to you. Below are some helpful tips for before, during, and after a visit.

Requesting the visit

- Make your request in writing and follow up with a call to the appointment secretary or scheduler. Make sure the scheduler knows that you are a constituent. Suggest specific times and dates for your meeting.
- Let the person know what issue and legislation you wish to discuss.

Preparing for the visit

- Decide who will attend the meeting. It can be a group of campaign supporters, you individually, or a coalition of people who represent different groups that have an interest in the issue
- Gather information. Learn about your MPP's and candidate's position on electoral reform. Become familiar with the differing views and arguments on the issues to help you answer questions.
- Agree on three main talking points. Keep your message simple and to-the-point. For example, see the attached appendixes for information about the historical record of electing women in Ontario, and the number of female legislators in other countries. (Hint: Canada is way down on the list!)
- Plan your meeting. People can get nervous in a meeting, and time is limited. Be sure that you lay out the agenda for the meeting beforehand, including who will start the conversation and who will make key points. See "Sample Meeting Agenda" for help.



On October 10th 2007 VOTE YES FOR MMP! Say yes to an **EQUAL VOICE** for Women.

- Decide what you want achieve. What is it you want your elected official to do? Asking your MPP to do something specific will give you a benchmark for success!
- Prepare materials to leave with the elected official or staff. Copies of relevant Equal Voice position papers, the Equal Voice MMP Brochure, and a letter or fact sheet summarizing your concerns are good examples.

During the visit

- Make introductions and be clear who is a constituent in the meeting. Parliamentarians are most responsive to the people who can keep them in office – their constituents – so always attempt to have some constituent representation in any meeting.
- Provide brief, clear statements about the problem and your solution.
- Personalize your comments and provide local context. Make a strong connection between the issue and the local community that the legislator represents. Use of personal stories and local examples help illustrate why your issue is important.
- Support your case with facts. Don't overwhelm with numbers, charts and data, but do use them judiciously to make your point and legitimize your argument.
- Stick to your talking points! Stay on topic, and back it up with no more than five pages of materials you can leave with your elected official
- Listen carefully to your MP's responses. What is the person saying about the issue? What is his or her position? What questions or concerns do they have that might be answered? Pay attention to the direct and indirect statements of support or opposition.
- Ask for their support. If you don't directly ask your MPP if they support your position, you may never actually find out what they think and what they intend to do. **THE ASK MUST BE CLEAR.** For example, "Can we count on you to support Mixed Member Proportional?" After you ask, pause. Let them answer and clarify if their response is not yet clear. Once you get an answer, you will know if your MPP supports you, opposes you, or is undecided.
 - If they support you, thank them, and thank them again. Be a resource to them. If they need additional information or help in any way, offer to make that available.



On October 10th 2007 VOTE YES FOR MMP! Say yes to an **EQUAL VOICE** for Women.

- If they oppose you, stay cordial and friendly. Even if you disagree on this issue, you maybe in agreement on another issue. Keep the door open to working together in the future.
- If they are undecided, ask if there is additional information they need on this issue and get it to them in a timely manner. Also think about whose voice it is important for them to hear from on the issue and try to mobilize it on your behalf.

After the visit

- Right after the meeting compare notes with everyone in your group to confirm what the elected official committed to do.
- Each person who took part in the meeting should promptly send a personal thank you letter to your elected official. Remind them of anything they may have agreed to do.
- Follow up in a timely fashion with any requested materials and information.



On October 10th 2007 VOTE YES FOR MMP! Say yes to an **EQUAL VOICE** for Women.

APPENDIX A: Women MPPs at Queen's Park, 1981 through 2006

(Graphs prepared by Graham Murray, G.P. Murray Research Ltd, for Equal Voice. Please do not use without crediting G.P. Murray Research)

SCOPE – The following tables show the number and percentage of women who were nominated in the seven provincial elections fought during the period 1981 through 2003 (*Tables 1 through 7*) as well as in provincial by-elections from 2003 to 2006 (*Table 8*). Totals are given for each of the three major parties represented at Queen's Park. The numbers of women elected are represented as percentages of each party caucus as well as of the legislature as a whole.

The (*Table 8*) by-election figures have been added to the 2003 results (*Table 7*) to produce a current total (*Table 9*).

<i>Table 1</i>	Female	Female	Women	Women
1981 (125 seats)	Candidates #	Candidates %	Elected #	Elected %
PC	13	10.4	4 / 70	5.7
LIB	8	6.4	1 / 34	2.9
NDP	20	16.0	1 / 21	4.8
Total	41 / 375	10.9	6 / 125	4.8



On October 10th 2007 VOTE YES FOR MMP! Say yes to an **EQUAL VOICE** for Women.

<i>Table 2</i> 1985 (15 seats)	Female Candidates #	Female Candidates %	Women Elected #	Women Elected %
PC	17	13.6	2 / 52	3.8
LIB	14	11.2	2 / 48	4.2
NDP	27	21.6	3 / 25	12.0
Total	58 / 375	15.5	7 / 125	5.6

<i>Table 3</i> 1987 (seats 130)	Female Candidates #	Female Candidates %	Women Elected #	Women Elected %
PC	22	16.9	2 / 16	6.2
LIB	27	20.8	15 / 95	15.8
NDP	46	35.4	3 / 19	15.8
Total	95 / 390	24.3	20 / 130	15.4

<i>Table 4</i>	Female	Female	Women	Women
1990 (seats 130)	Candidates #	Candidates %	Elected #	Elected %
PC	19	14.6	3 / 20	15.0
LIB	26	20.0	6 / 36	16.7
NDP	40	30.8	19 / 74	25.7
Total	85 / 390	21.8	28 / 130	16.6

<i>Table 5</i>	Female	Female	Women	Women
1995 (seats 130)	Candidates #	Candidates %	Elected #	Elected %
PC	20	15.4	11 / 82	13.4
LIB	31	23.8	4 / 30	13.3
NDP	38	22.8	4 / 17	23.5
Total	89 / 390	22.8	19 / 130	14.6

<i>Table 6</i> 1999 (seats 103)	Female Candidates #	Female Candidates %	Women Elected #	Women Elected %
PC	18	17.5	9 / 59	15.2
LIB	19	18.4	6 / 35	17.1
NDP	32	31.1	3 / 9	33.3
Total	69 / 309	22.3	18 / 103	17.5

<i>Table 7</i> 2003 (seats 103)	Female Candidates #	Female Candidates %	Women Elected #	Women Elected %
PC	21	20.3	3 / 24	12.5
LIB	23	22.3	17 / 72	23.6
NDP	34	33.0	2 / 7	28.6
Total	78 / 309	25.2	22 / 103	21.3

APPENDIX B: SELECTED LISTING OF COUNTRIES BY NUMBERS OF WOMEN ELECTED—SOME OF THE BEST AND SOME OF THE WORST

Countries that elect more than 30 % women (RANKINGS)	Electoral System	Quotas (voluntary or legislated)	Seats in lower house, number held by women	Percent women
(1)Rwanda	List PR	24 seats reserved for women elected by women only	80 seats; 39 held by women	48.8 per cent
(2)Sweden	Semi-open List PR	Three left parties have 50 % quotas for women on lists. Labour Party (SAP) zippers list	349 seats ; 165 women	47.3 per cent
(3)Costa Rica	Closed List PR	40 per cent legislated quota	57 seats; 22 held by women	38.6 per cent
(4)Finland	Open List PR	No quotas	200 seats; 76 women	38 per cent
(5)Norway	List PR	Political party quotas	169 seats, 64 women	37.7 per cent
(6)Denmark	Semi-open List PR	Party quotas ended in 1996	179 seats, 66 women	36.9 per cent
(7)Netherlands	List PR	Left party quotas	150 seats;55 women	36.7 per cent
(8)Cuba	One party (Communist) elections	One candidate per riding chosen by grassroots groups including women's	609 seats, 219 women	36 per cent
(8)Spain	List PR	Labour party quota; legislated	350 seats;126	36 per cent

		next time	women	
(9)Argentina	List PR	Legislated quota	257 seats, 90 women	35 per cent
(10)Mozambique	List PR	Legislated quota	250 seats, 87 women	34.8 per cent
(11)Belgium	List PR	Legislated quota	150 seats, 52 women	34.7 per cent
(12)Iceland	List PR	Left party quotas	63 seats, 21 women	33.3 per cent
(13)South Africa	List PR	ANC Party quota	400 seats, 131 women	32.8 per cent
(14)Austria	List PR	Party quota	183 seats;59 women	32.2 per cent
(14)New Zealand	Mixed Member Proportional	No quotas	121 seats, 39 women	32.2 per cent
(15)Germany	MMP	Party quota	614 seats, 194 women	31.6 per cent
(16)Burundi	List PR	Legal quota	118 seats, 36 women	30.5 per cent

Research by Wilfred Day, Equal Voice member, from the Inter-Parliamentary Union website www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm , and from The Global Database of Quotas for Women, www.quotaproject.org/country.cfm

(Note: Two other interesting jurisdictions with good results, Wales and Scotland, both with “devolved” assemblies but not full nation status, boast 50 per cent and 38 per cent female representation respectively. Under their “mixed” systems, labour parties boosted the results for women by “twinning” ridings and requiring them to elect one man and one woman. Affirmative action (they call it “positive discrimination”) was dropped after the first elections in 1999, but despite that, in the second elections in 2003, the numbers of women rose, with female candidates doing well in the riding seats as well as the PR seats. However, a recent article in the Scotsman quoted women Members as saying support for gender balance is waning and they fear losses unless fresh action is taken.)

Selected Low ranking countries	Electoral System	Quotas, Legislated or Voluntary	Number of seats; women elected	Percent Women
(47) Canada	FPTP	None	308 seats;64 women	20.8 per cent
(52) United Kingdom	FPTP	None	848 seats;127 women	19.7 per cent
(66) United States of America	FPTP	None	431 seats;70 women	16.2 per cent
(80) Ireland	STV	None	166 seats; 22 women	13.3 per cent
(100) Malta	STV	None	65 seats; 6 women	9.2 per cent

Appendix Two Research by Wilfred Day, Equal Voice member, from the Inter-Parliamentary Union website www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm , and from The Global Database of Quotas for Women, www.quotaproject.org/country.cfm

APPENDIX C - Equal Voice Fact Sheet : Backgrounder on Women in Canadian Politics

What is Equal Voice?

Equal Voice is a multi-partisan non-profit organization devoted to the still-bold idea that more women must be elected to every level of government in Canada. Some of Canada's most prominent women politicians -- all groundbreakers in their time -- serve as members of Equal Voice's Advisory Board: Former Progressive Conservative Prime Minister, Kim Campbell, Conservative Senator Pat Carney, former Liberal Deputy Prime Minister Sheila Copps, Former Mayor of Ottawa and NDP MP Marion Dewar, former Ontario Progressive Conservative Minister Janet Ecker, former Liberal Minister Judith Erola, former Mayor of Toronto Barbara Hall, Former leader of the NDP and MP Alexa McDonough, former leader of the NDP Audrey McLaughlin, former leader of the Ontario Liberals Lyn McLeod, former Progressive Conservative Minister Flora MacDonald, Liberal MP Anita Neville, Liberal Senator Lucie Pépin, and Conservative Senator Nancy Ruth.

For biographical information on Equal Voice's Advisory Board, please visit:

<http://www.equalvoice.ca/idx.php?rl=195>

Equal Voice Contact Information:

Ann Wicks

Executive Director

Cell: (613) 294-0872

Email: awicks@equalvoice.ca

Raylene Lang-Dion

National Chair

Cell: (613) 355-3428

Email: rlang-dion@equalvoice.ca

Canada is Falling Behind on Women's Representation

Canada's international ranking on the Inter-Parliamentary Union, "List of Women in National Parliaments," has recently slipped again to 48th in the world¹. Despite enjoying economic prosperity and political stability, Canada now has fewer women in parliament than most of Europe and many less developed countries such as Mauritania, Uganda, Rwanda, Afghanistan and Iraq.

To level the playing field, many parliaments and political parties are implementing well funded national action plans to reduce the barriers by recruiting and training women candidates, offering family friendly work environments, introducing proportional representation, electoral financing reforms, setting targets, constitutional reforms, and public awareness campaigns.

¹ <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm>

Women's Representation in the House of Commons has not increased in over a decade

The representation of women in the House of Commons has reached a plateau of 20.8 per cent with only 64 women sitting as Members of Parliaments. Similarly, the glass ceiling for women in municipal² and provincial governments hovers around 21 per cent³.

The numbers of women in the House of Commons has not dramatically increased since 1993 when we saw a jump from 13.3% to 18%.

What happened in 1993? The Liberal Party decided to run 25% women candidates, the NDP implemented an affirmative action process for nominations and for the first time Canada had a woman Prime Minister. When all parties are committed to taking action, we see results.

Since the 2000 election, the number of women elected to the House of Commons has hovered around 20% and even decreased following the 2006 election.

Election	Total Number of Seats	Seats Held by Women	Proportion of Seats Held by Women
1984	282	27	9.6%
1988	295	39	13.3%
1993	295	53	18%
1997	301	62	20.6%
2000	301	62	20.6%
2004	308	65	21.1%
2006	308	64	20.8%

Source: Parliament of Canada website.

The Current Composition of the House of Commons:

Political Party	Women Elected	Total MPs	% of Women MPs
NDP	12	29	41%
Bloc Québécois	17	51	33%
Liberal	21	101	21%
Conservative	14	125	11%

Source: Parliament of Canada website.

² Federation of Canadian Municipalities, "Getting to 30% by 2026," page 1. Available at: <http://www.fcm.ca/english/policy/wreport.pdf>

³ Linda Trimble and Jane Arscott, Still Counting, Broadview: 2003, page 43.

Women still encounter barriers when seeking elected office

Women still encounter barriers when seeking elected office: stereotyping and perceptions of women's roles and abilities; few women role models; media imbalances in the treatment of women politicians, family commitments; masculine political environment, failure of political parties to bolster women candidates, finances and exclusion from informal party networks⁴

We have studied this issue to death. We need less talk and more action:

- Canada has already had two Royal Commissions documenting the need for more women in politics and barriers for women: the Royal Commission on the Status of Women and the Royal Commission on Electoral Reform and Party Financing.
- Florence Bird's findings still hold true today: (page 349 Bird Report):
 "a number of impediments to women seeking candidature; in particular prejudice in the constituency associations, inadequate financial resources and limited mobility...Women who have been successful at the polls confirm that winning the nomination is a more formidable hurdle than winning the election."

Political parties are the gatekeepers to elected office and can be catalysts for change:

- Women are less likely to win nomination meetings because of financial constraints, limited access to informal networks, and subtle or overt opposition from within party networks⁵.
- The power of incumbency can also be a barrier to women seeking public office. Given that incumbent Members of Parliament have a better chance at seeking re-election and few ridings elect a new MP in any given election, the power of incumbency can serve to reinforce parliament's current composition.
- The lack of women elected or appointed to top political jobs serves as a visible indication of how women are undervalued in society.

Women are more educated but still make .72 for every dollar that men make:

- Statistics Canada has also documented that women continue to hold a disproportionate share of household and family responsibilities⁶. This can serve to limit their ability to participate in public affairs and reinforces the social roles assigned to each sex. Given that working environment in the House of Commons is not family friendly, many women are excluded. This should change.
- Women see the way female politicians are treated in Ottawa and they get the message – politics is a man's game and you are not welcome. This should change.
- Despite the fact that the majority of all university graduates are women⁷, women working full time still make .72 cents for every dollar that men make⁸. Women who are

⁴ Elizabeth Goodyear-Grant, Canadian Journal of Political Science/Revue canadienne de science politique (2004), 37: 1029-1030 Cambridge University Press.

⁵ Manon Tremblay and Linda Trimble. Women and Electoral Politics in Canada. Oxford, 2003, Page 5.

⁶ Statistics Canada. <http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/060719/d060719b.htm>

⁷ Statistics Canada. <http://www.statscan.ca/english/freepub/81-004-XIE/200410/mafe.htm#d>

visible minorities are on average more educated and make even less⁹. Given that women are not paid as much as men, they start out in a less favourable financial position than their male colleagues. Women have a smaller amount of disposable income to make political donations or finance election campaigns.

Canadians want more women elected:

- Polling conducted by the Centre for Research and Information on Canada revealed that 90 per cent of Canadians want more women elected¹⁰.
- During the 2006 election, Equal Voice tracked the number of women candidates nominated by each political party. The numbers reveal that Canadians are more than willing to elect women candidates when given the choice. For instance, the NDP ran 41% female candidates and 35% women were elected. The Liberals ran 25.6% of female candidates resulting in 21% female MPs. The Conservatives ran 12.3% female candidates ended up with 11% female MPs.
- This combined with strong polling numbers indicating that Canadians want more women to hold elected positions and the large pool of educated women to draw from, provides the opportunity for political parties to make a difference.
- Political parties can catalysts for change. All that is required is political will on the part of party leaders to make a difference.
- The Conference Board of Canada says that the lack of CEO commitment impedes women's advancement in the workplace and that women still face barriers in their advancement¹¹. The same is true for politics.

Candidates Nominated and Elected by Political Parties –2006 Election								
Political Party	Total Candidates		Male Candidates		Female Candidates		% Female Candidates	
	Nominated	Elected	Nominated	Elected	Nominated	Elected	Nominated	Elected
Bloc Quebecois	75	51	52	34	23	17	30.6%	33%
Conservatives	308	125	270	111	38	14	12.3%	11%
Liberals	308	101	229	80	79	21	25.6%	21%
NDP	308	29	200	17	108	12	35%	41%
Green Party	308	0	236	0	72	0	23%	0%

Gender Balanced Government is Good for Canada:

- Canadians have decided that fairness and equality are important values.
- We have decided that democracy should be genuine partnership of men and women. We have a Charter of Rights and Freedoms that reinforces this belief by guaranteeing

⁸ Statistics Canada. <http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/060307/d060307a.htm>

⁹ Statistics Canada: *ibid.*

¹⁰ Canadian Research and Information Canada, New Release, "Canadians Want More Women in Elected Office," Available online at: http://www.cric.ca/pdf/cric_poll/portraits/portraits_2004/eng_dem_reform_2004.pdf

¹¹ http://www.conferenceboard.ca/press/2001/womens_advancement.htm

equality for women. Despite these values, women still encounter barriers to public office.

- Canadians need to ask their political leaders: is it just for the voices of half the population to be excluded from power? What are you going to do about it?
- Canada has made international commitments to change this. Now we need action from our political parties and government. At the United Nations World Conference on Women, Canada committed to "take measures to ensure women's equal access to and full participation in power structures and decision-making" and to "increase women's capacity to participate in decision-making and leadership"¹².

Women in politics can make a difference:

- Polling shows that women care about different issues. The United Nations says that a critical mass of at least 30% women is needed before legislatures produce public policy representing women's concerns and before political institutions begin to change the way they do business.
- UNICEF released a report advocating for more women in politics because legislatures with more women produce better policies to fight child poverty¹³.
- The World Bank released report indicating that governments with more women legislators are more productive. The report concludes "women are effective in promoting honest government and national parliaments with the largest numbers of women have the lowest levels of corruption"¹⁴.
- The Conference Board of Canada says that companies with more women represented in senior management and corporate boards are more productive and produce higher rates of return¹⁵.
- The Economist magazine commented recently:
 "Women remain perhaps the world's most under-utilized resource...A recent study¹⁶ found that American companies with more women in senior management jobs earned a higher return than those with fewer women at the top. This might be because mixed teams of men and women are better than single-sex groups at solving problems and spotting external threats."

What is Equal Voice Doing?

- Equal Voice launched our **National Awareness Campaign** aimed at increasing media awareness on women in politics, publicizing our Getting to the Gate online campaign school, tracking female participation in Canadian political parties, tracking women candidates nominated to run in the upcoming federal election, and promoting the

¹² <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/beijingdeclaration.html>

¹³ http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/The_State_of_the_Worlds_Children_2007_e.pdf

¹⁴ The World Bank, "Are Women Really the Fairer Sex? Corruption and Women in Government" Online at:

http://www.wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2000/08/26/000094946_0008120532266/Rend ered/PDF/multi_page.pdf

¹⁵ <http://www.conferenceboard.ca/documents.asp?rnext=374>

¹⁶ <http://www.catalyst.org/files/exe/fpexe.pdf>

incorporation of gender sensitive courses in high school social studies programs in at least two provinces.

- **Getting to the Gate Online Campaign School** – bilingual and free of charge;
- The **Ontario Challenge** Public Awareness Campaign: Equal Voice issued a challenge to the three leaders at Queen’s Park who all agreed to run more women candidates in the upcoming election. With their statements, the leaders sent a strong message that they want more women elected. This resulted in a **5% increase** in the numbers of women elected - in just one by-election.
- The **Canada Challenge** Public Awareness Campaign: Equal Voice issued a challenge to the four federal leaders asking them to run more women candidates in the next federal election;
- **Equal Voice Regional Chapters and University Campus Clubs** aim to increase public awareness, hold events with women politicians, provide networking and mentoring opportunities, and host campaign training schools;
- Equal Voice **tracks the numbers of women candidates running during elections**;
- Equal Voice advocates for **electoral reform** to increase the numbers of women elected.

Appendix D: Sample Meeting Agenda with your Elected Officials or Candidate

The following is a sample agenda which may help you structure your visits with elected officials and their staff. Before your meeting, decide who will take the lead in the meeting.

1. Thank the elected official or candidate for the meeting.
2. Introduce members of your delegation.
3. Tell them about Equal Voice.
 - a. Equal Voice is a group of more than 1200 women and men nation-wide, who have formed a multi-partisan non-profit organization devoted to the still-bold idea that more women must be elected to every level of government in Canada. Equal Voice offers a variety of programming, public awareness campaigns, and initiatives to support the involvement of women in politics.
4. MMP
 - a. Pick 2 or 3 talking points to review.
 - b. Include personal story from the delegation (if you have one).
 - c. Make your ask.
 - d. Listen to their response.
 - e. Give the elected official or candidate your materials (signed letters, position paper, brochures)
5. Thank the elected official or staffer again for the meeting.
6. Promptly send a personal thank you letter to your elected official. Remind them of anything they may have agreed to do.
7. Follow up with any promised materials or answers to any questions.

Appendix E: Tips on writing your MPP

If you can't meet with your MPP, the next best thing is to write them a letter. Below are some tips for your letter.

TIPS ON WRITING YOUR MPP:

- Keep your letter short. Make at most two or three points - on a single sheet of paper, if possible.
- Handwritten letters are fine, as long as they are legible. They indicate you're serious about the issue and you're expressing your views, not those of someone else.
- Avoid form letters and letters signed by a group. Such letters are viewed as indicating weaker interest than individual letters. Five letters count much more than one letter signed by five people.
- State your views simply and clearly. Use your own words to state your own beliefs. Do not copy a letter.
- Show the number of voters affected. Illustrate the problem at the grass roots.
- Get the facts and get them straight. Nothing can more quickly divert a debate away from the merits of a case than charges of sloppy research, factual errors.
- Ask that the member reply to your letter.
- Increase the impact of your letter - send copies to other members, ministers, the premier, opposition leaders.
- Be sure to address your member correctly when writing.
- If you do not receive a reply within three weeks, or if the response does not clearly answer your questions, telephone or write again.

The information above was an excerpt from Working for Literacy: Public Attitudes and Political Persuasion, by Community Services Consulting Inc., Alberta., 1995, pp. 68-69.

Appendix F – Resources

For more information about MMP and on why this is a historic event visit:

<http://www.citizensassembly.gov.on.ca/en/default.asp>

Equal Voice is a group of more than 1200 women and men nation-wide, who have formed a multi-partisan non-profit organization devoted to the still-bold idea that more women must be elected to every level of government in Canada.

www.equalvoice.com

Vote for MMP is now the registered campaign to support the Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) voting system proposal in the October 10 electoral reform referendum in Ontario

<http://www.voteformmp.ca/>

The Doris Anderson Fund is devoted to woman-friendly electoral reforms that assist women to be nominated, to finance their campaigns, and to get elected to all levels of government in Canada. For more information about Doris Anderson, or to make a donation please visit:

<http://www.equalvoice.ca/idx.php?rl=335&lid=1>

Recommendation of the Ontario's Citizen's Assembly on Electoral Reform

<http://www.citizensassembly.gov.on.ca/assets/One%20Ballot,%20Two%20Votes.pdf>

Women for Fair Voting advocates for electoral systems that provide fair and democratic representation for women.

<http://www.fairvotecanada.org/en/women>

A Mixed Member Proportional Model for Canada

<http://www.wilfreddaylawoffice.com/Page1.htm>

Why the Double Majority Threshold is Unfair

http://www.fairvotecanada.org/files/Pilon%20threshold%20presentation%20-%20bill%20155%20-%20feb%2007_0.pdf