

MAKING VOTES COUNT WHERE WE LIVE

Whether or not you can vote, you can help shape the future of our country:



- ☒ Tell others why voting matters.
- ☐ Organize an event to make it fun to vote.
- ☐ Let the candidates know what matters to you. Ask a question at an all-candidates meeting or call their campaign office.

My name is..... I live in this riding.

I am concerned about....

This is important to me (my family, community, city) because.....

What will you do, if elected?

- ☐ Encourage others to ask questions.
- ☐ Support a candidate of your choice.

Volunteers are needed to organize and go door to door. Whether or not you can vote, this is a way to influence candidates and get great experience.

- ☐ Support others in getting to the polls.

Making Votes Count Where We Live
www.makingvotescount.ca

For more information on voting,
contact Elections Canada
at elections.ca or
call 1-800-463-6868.



OUR VOTES COUNT IN THIS FEDERAL ELECTION



COALITION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
AND RESOURCE CENTRES OF OTTAWA
Together we make a difference.

COALITION DES CENTRES DE RESSOURCES
ET DE SANTÉ COMMUNAUTAIRES D'OTTAWA
Ensemble, nous faisons la différence.

WHY DO FEDERAL ELECTIONS MATTER?



GOOD FOOD FOR ALL

IT'S TIME for a federal food policy that guarantees universal access to adequate amounts of healthy, affordable and culturally appropriate food.



IN OTTAWA:

- An alarming 1 in 13 Ottawa households don't have access to healthy food.
- People should not have to choose between fixed expenses and nutritious food.

ASK THE CANDIDATES:

- What steps will you take to establish a National Right to Food Policy to eliminate hunger in Canada?
- Will you increase federal investment to ensure access to healthy nutritious food among First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples?

POVERTY REDUCTION

ASK THE CANDIDATES:

- How will you support a National Poverty Reduction Strategy that ensures a liveable income, good jobs, health care and food for all, affordable childcare and housing?

GOOD JOBS FOR ALL

IT'S TIME for the federal government to create secure employment for everyone.

IN OTTAWA:

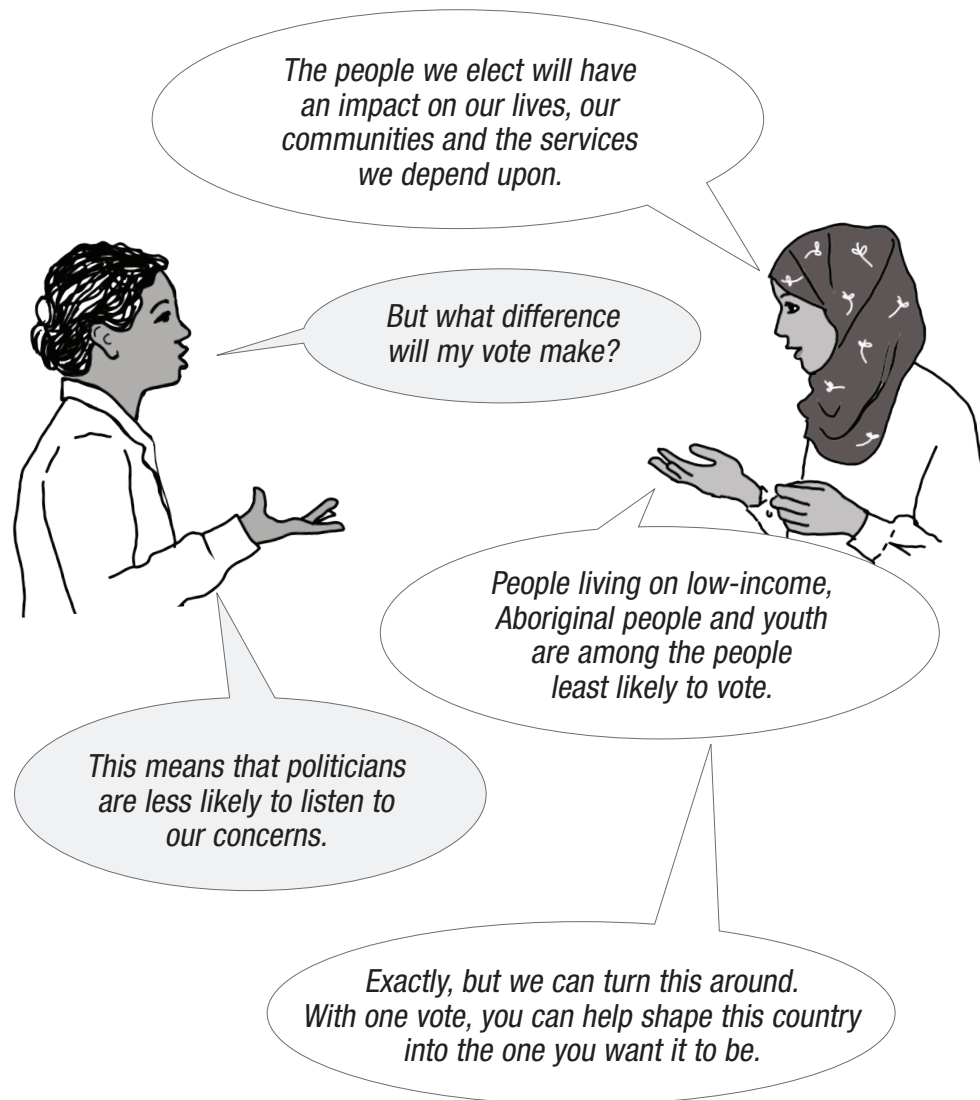
- Many people are underemployed or/and in precarious jobs that do not provide a livable wage.
- Unemployment and underemployment is especially high for youth, Aboriginal peoples, immigrants and people with disabilities.
- This is a growing marginalization of racialized communities which results in the increasing racialization of poverty.

ASK THE CANDIDATES:

- How will you support a National Jobs Creation and Training Strategy which ensures stable jobs with good benefits?
- What steps will you take to increase employment for youth, immigrants, Aboriginal peoples and people with disabilities?



VOTING? WHY DOES IT MATTER?



WHO DO WE VOTE FOR?

We will select the women and men who represent us as Members of Parliament (MPs).



MPs are elected to serve the people in geographic areas called “ridings”. There are 9 ridings in the Ottawa area. To find your riding, visit elections.ca and type in your address.

POLITICAL PARTIES AND THEIR PLATFORMS

Most candidates in the federal election are members of a political party. In Ontario, the main parties are:

- Conservative Party of Canada
- Green Party of Canada
- Liberal Party of Canada
- New Democratic Party (NDP)

Visit their web-sites to read their party platform or see what they say in the media.

YOUR VOTE DETERMINES THE NEXT GOVERNMENT.

The leader of the Party that wins the most seats becomes the Prime Minister of Canada.

AFFORDABLE TRANSIT

IT'S TIME for everyone to access affordable transit.

THE CONCERN:

Without consistent federal funding for transit, cities can't afford to have good transit that is affordable for everyone.



IN OTTAWA:

- Rising bus fares make it challenging for people on low incomes to afford public transit.

ASK THE CANDIDATES:

- Will you establish a long-term (10-20 year) National Transit Strategy with funding commitments made to municipalities for each year so they can make public transit more affordable for riders?
- Will you commit to regular meetings with provincial and municipal governments to plan and implement public transportation solutions?

AFFORDABLE QUALITY CHILDCARE

IT'S TIME for childcare services that meet the needs of our families.

THE CONCERN:

- Without a national childcare program, parents rely on a patch work of unregulated, expensive childcare.
- Without federal leadership and funds, provinces/territories have not developed the child care services needed.
- Quebec's childcare program at \$7/day, going up to \$15/day, has been shown to reduce poverty.



IN OTTAWA:

- The cost of childcare is a crushing burden for most families.
- There are 94,770 children 0-9 years living in Ottawa but only 11,300 licensed child care spaces (6,344 subsidized).

ASK THE CANDIDATES:

- How will you promote the creation of publicly funded, affordable, quality childcare for all families?
- Will you support a National Childcare Program to make quality, affordable childcare available across the country?

WHO CAN VOTE?

You can vote if you:

- are a Canadian citizen;
- are at least 18 years old on election day;
- can prove your identity and address.



HOW DO I KNOW IF I AM REGISTERED TO VOTE?

To check or to register, visit elections.ca/register or call 1-800-463-6868.

If you are registered, you will receive a voter information card in the mail soon after the election is called. Bring this card with you when you go to vote.

The card tells you where to vote and how to request language or sign language interpretation.

If you have not registered, you still can vote on election day.

Whether or not you can vote, you can raise your concerns with the candidates and support others to vote.

WHEN AND HOW TO VOTE?

Election Day is Monday, October 19, 2015. The polls will be open for 12 hours.

WHAT IF I CAN'T GO THAT DAY?

You can vote in advanced polls.

WHERE DO I VOTE?

Your voting locations will appear on your voter information card or can be found at elections.ca or call 1-800-463-6868 in the weeks leading up to the election.

WHAT IF I CAN'T GET TO THE POLLS?

If you're away from your riding or it is more convenient, you can vote by mail. Apply early for a voting kit at elections.ca.

I LIVE IN TWO PLACES, WHERE DO I VOTE?

Choose the one you consider home and register. If you are away from your riding, you can vote by mail.

BUT I DON'T HAVE A FIXED ADDRESS?

If you have gone to a shelter for food or lodging, you can ask the shelter administrator for a "Letter of Confirmation of Residence."

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Elections Canada at elections.ca or call 1-800-463-6868.



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

IT'S TIME for everyone to have an affordable, safe place to live.

THE CONCERN:

- The cost of housing is increasing faster than incomes.
- The annual federal funding of \$1.7 billion in social housing is gradually being withdrawn over the next thirty years.



IN OTTAWA:

- Over 10,000 households are on the social housing waiting list, with a wait time up to 5 years.
- The average length of stay in an Ottawa shelter is 77 days in 2014.
- Individuals with mental health challenges are more likely to have inadequate housing or risk homelessness, meanwhile poor mental health can be worsened by not having adequate housing.

ASK THE CANDIDATES:

- What will you do to increase the supply of affordable rental housing across the country?
- Moving forward, will you commit to retain current levels of annual investment - \$1.7 billion - in order to sustain and create new affordable housing?
- Will you support a National Housing Strategy with federal funding that recognizes the right to adequate housing?