



A Few Statistics on Women in Elected Office

Women in federal politics

As of October 14, 2008, women hold 69 of 308 seats (22.4 per cent) in the House of Commons. There has been a slow but steady increase in the participation of women at the federal level. In 1972, only 5 seats in the House of Commons (1.9 per cent) were filled by women.

Women Running in Federal Elections

Election	# Candidates	# Women	% Women
1997	1672	408	24.4%
2000	1808	375	20.7%
2004	1685	391	23.2%
2006	1634	380	23.3%
2008	1601	445	27.8%

Source: Elections Canada

Women Candidates and Women Elected by Party, 2006 and 2008 Federal Elections

Party	# female candidates		# women elected		% women elected	
	2006	2008	2006	2008	2006	2008
Total	380	445	64	69	16.8%	15.5%
Liberal	79	113	21	19	26.6%	16.8%
New Democratic Party	108	104	12	12	11.1%	11.5%
Green Party of Canada	72	90	0	0	0%	0%
Conservative Party of Canada	38	63	14	23	36.8%	36.5%
Bloc Québécois	23	20	17	15	73.9%	75%
Other	60	55	0	0	0	0

Source: Parliament of Canada Website at:

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/information/about/process/house/hfer/hfer.asp?Language=E&Search=WomenElection>

Women in provincial politics

There is substantial variation in the proportion of women in provincial and territorial legislative assemblies.

Compared to the other provinces, New Brunswick has the lowest proportion (13 per cent) of women in its legislature while Manitoba has the highest (32 per cent).

In the provincial elections held since 1970, the proportion of women elected to Nova Scotia's Legislative Assembly has varied from a low of 0 per cent in both 1970 and 1978 to a high of 23 per cent in 2009.

Number of Female Candidates Running in NS Provincial Elections by Party

Party	1999	2003	2006	2009
NDP	19	12	12	16
Lib	13	9	11	11
PC	7	9	7	7
Green Party	-	-	19	20
NS Party	7	5	-	-
Independent	1	0	0	0
Total	47	35	49	54

Women in Provincial/Territorial Legislative Assemblies

<i>Province/Territory</i>	<i># of seats</i>	<i># of women</i>	<i>% women</i>
NL	48	11	23%
PE	27	7	26%
NS	52	12	23%
NB	55	7	13%
QC	125	36	29%
ON	107	29	27%
MB	57	18	32%
SK	58	12	21%
AB	83	17	20%
BC	85	25	29%
YT	18	2	11%
NT	19	3	16%
NU	19	2	11%

Current to July 8, 2009: Source: Parliament of Canada Website at:
<http://www2.parl.gc.ca/Parlinfo/compilations/ProvinceTerritory/Women.aspx?Language=E>

Women in municipal politics in Nova Scotia

Women Candidates in the October, 2008 Election

In the municipal election held on October 18th, 2008, there were a total of 71 candidates running for mayor, of which only three (4.2 per cent) were women. Of the 750 candidates running for municipal council positions in the province, 180 (24 per cent) were women and 570 (76 per cent) were men. There were six more women running and 73 fewer men running in the 2008 election than there were in the 2004 election.

Women Elected in the 2008 Municipal Elections

In the October, 2008 municipal elections, one of the three women running for mayor was elected (Marney Simmons of Mulgrave) and 93 of the 180 women (52 per cent) running for municipal and town councillor positions were elected (18 of whom were acclaimed). There was one less woman elected as mayor and one more woman elected as a councillor in the 2008 election compared to the 2004 election. As was the case in 2004, women now comprise 21 per cent of the 438 municipal council positions (mayors and councillors) in the province. Women also comprise 43 of the 91 people (47 per cent) elected to school board positions in the province.

Source: Vi Carmichael, Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations and Chronicle Herald newspaper (Oct. 20th 2008).

Revised July 8, 2009