

It's
About
Time: An
initiative
to elect
women
in PEI

A Gender Analysis of PEI's 2006 Municipal Election Results

PEI Coalition for Women in Government



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A Gender Analysis of PEI's 2006 Municipal Election Results¹

After the 2006 municipal elections, women held 30.1% of seats in municipal government, down slightly from the 2003 percentage of 30.9%.

Looking separately at communities where all day election polls are held and smaller communities which hold special election meetings is helpful in interpreting municipal numbers. Communities which hold special election meetings, such as Abrams Village, Brackley, Meadowbank and St. Nicholas, see women holding 30.8% of the seats, down from 2003, when women held 33.8% of the seats. In 10 (17%) of these communities, women represent at least 50% of the council. Sixteen of these community councils have female chairpersons, up from 5 in 2003.

Larger communities holding all day election polls more closely resembling provincial elections, such as Charlottetown, Summerside and Montague, have traditionally elected fewer women to council. Women held just 17.9% of council seats in 2003, and 9.2% in 2000. After the 2006 elections, women held 27.6% of seats, a phenomenal improvement. Two, or 22.2%, of municipalities which hold election polls, have female mayors, up from 2003, when there were no female mayors.

In the 2006 municipal elections, women represented 25.2% of all candidates in election poll municipalities. This represents a solid increase over 2003, when 19.9% of candidates in election poll communities were women, and 2000, when 13% of candidates were women.

How Does PEI Compare?

At 30.1%, PEI ranks 4th in total percentage of women elected municipally. Northwest Territories ranks first in Canada at 38.5%, with Manitoba in last place at 11.3%. The average percentage of women elected municipally across Canada is 25.1%.

At 25.7%, PEI ranks 3rd in percentage of women mayors/chairs. Yukon holds the top spot with 60%, while Manitoba ranks last with 4.2%. The average percentage of women mayors/chairs across Canada is 21.8%

The tables in Appendix "A" outline a comparison of percentages of women elected municipally and women mayors or chairs across Canada.

Notes

¹ Numbers were taken from Federation of Canadian Municipalities (<http://www.fcm.ca/english/policy/wstats.pdf>), Municipal Elections, 6 November 2006, Report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Prince Edward Island, Elections PEI, and independent research.

Appendix “A”

Table 1. Percentages of total women elected municipally in 2006 in each Province and Territory.

rank	Province/Territory	total % of women elected municipally
1	Northwest Territories	38.5%
2	Nunavut	34.5%
3	Yukon	31.6%
4	Prince Edward Island	30.1%
5	British Columbia	29.9%
6	Newfoundland and Labrador	24.8%
7	New Brunswick	23.6%
8	Province of Quebec	23.4%
9	Alberta	22.8%
10	Ontario	22.1%
11	Nova Scotia	20.9%
12	Saskatchewan	12.7%
13	Manitoba	11.3%

Table 2. Percentages of women mayors and chairs in 2006 in each Province and Territory.

rank	Province/Territory	% of women mayors/chairs
1	Yukon	60% (3/5)
2	Northwest Territories	35.3% (6/17)
3	Prince Edward Island	25.7% (18/70)
4	Nunavut	25% (5/20)
5	British Columbia	24.7% (37/150)
6	Newfoundland and Labrador	22.9% (52/227)
7	Alberta	20.5% (59/288)
8	New Brunswick	16.7% (15/90)
9	Ontario	16.6% (63/380)
10	Province of Quebec	14.9% (154/1033)
11	Saskatchewan	8.7% (54/745)
12	Nova Scotia	7.7% (4/52)
13	Manitoba	4.2% (8/191)