

A Few Statistics on Women and Elected Office

Women in federal politics

Currently, women hold 65 of 308 seats (21.1%) 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%) 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%

Source: Elections Canada

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 (12.7%) of women in its legislature while Manitoba has the highest (31.6%).

Women in Provincial/Territorial Legislative Assemblies

<i>Province/ Territory</i>	<i># of seats</i>	<i># of women</i>	<i>% women</i>
NL	48	10	20.8%
PE	27	7	25.9%
NS	52	10	19.2%
NB	55	7	12.7%
QC	125	33	26.4%
ON	103	29	28.2%
MB	57	18	31.6%
SK	58	11	19.0%
AB	83	13	15.7%

BC	79	17	21.5%
YT	18	2	11.1%
NT	19	2	10.5%
NU	19	2	10.5%

Current to October 5, 2007: Source: Parliament of Canada Website at:
<http://www2.parl.gc.ca/Parlinfo/compilations/ProvinceTerritory/Women.aspx?Language=E>

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% in both 1970 and 1978 to a high of 17.3% in 2006.

Women in municipal politics in Nova Scotia

In the October, 2004 municipal elections, 92 women were elected as municipal councillors in the province. Of these, four women were elected to leadership positions, two as wardens and two as mayors. Women now comprise 21% of the 441 municipal councillors in N.S. In the same election, 53 women and 58 men were elected as school board members in the province*.

* 6 of these members are Mi'kmaq representatives who are appointed by the Minister of Education rather than elected. Of these 6 members, 3 are women.