

## Advance Polling

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Advance polling is helpful to all women because it gives them a choice to vote when it's convenient for them.

2006 Federal Election Advance Polling dates:

Friday, January 13, 2006

Saturday, January 14, 2006

Monday, January 16, 2006

For more information visit Elections Canada online at: [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca)

Or call toll-free: 1 800 463-6868

## Election Day

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Election date is **January 23, 2006**,  
Voting takes place between  
**7:30 am - 7:30 pm**

For more information visit Elections Canada on-line at: [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca)

Or call toll-free: 1 800 463-6868

**One Woman One Vote  
YWCA Edmonton  
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[www.onewomanonevote.org](http://www.onewomanonevote.org)  
[www.ywcaofedmonton.org](http://www.ywcaofedmonton.org)**

**“By exercising their right to vote, women become active participants in shaping the public agenda.”**

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**For the YWCA, encouraging women to vote doesn't mean encouraging them to vote in a certain way.** It means helping women to be informed about their choices and the political process, encouraging dialogue regarding candidates' positions on public policy topics, and increasing women's understanding of their own power to affect change.

Every vote does count, even with our present electoral system. **If every woman voted, women could be a deciding factor in public policy.**

You can help shape public policy by voting for the candidate who reflects your interest in issues and the solutions to them. Make informed choices about who you vote for by asking questions of your candidates on issues of importance to you.

### Vote! Because:

- You can - the YWCA works in countries around the world encouraging women to vote - many fear reprisal and for their personal safety as they fight for their right to place a mark on a ballot beside a candidate's name.
- It takes only 15 minutes, but lasts for years.
- You care how Canada is viewed on the international stage.
- Your choice matters as much as the choice of your spouse, or your boss, your partner, a millionaire CEO, or a homeless person - unless you make no choice at all.
- You like the way things are, and want to make sure they stay the same.
- You are unhappy with the way things are, and want to make sure they change.

### **Vote! Because.**



## Federal Election 2006

“By exercising their right to vote, **women** become active **participants** in shaping the public agenda.”

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What would Canada look like if every eligible woman cast a vote?



[www.onewomanonevote.org](http://www.onewomanonevote.org)

[www.ywcaofedmonton.org](http://www.ywcaofedmonton.org)

One Woman One Vote funding provided by:  
Status of Women Canada ([www.swc-cfc.gc.ca](http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca))

## Questions for the Federal Candidates

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**YWCA One Woman One Vote** urges women to vote and to participate in shaping public policy.

Throughout the upcoming federal election, YWCA Edmonton encourages women to use the following questions and talk to all candidates in their respective constituencies.

This information pamphlet includes examples of questions, but is not an all-inclusive list of areas of interest for women and their families. For additional questions visit the Coalition for Women's Equality: [www.canadaelection.net](http://www.canadaelection.net)

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### Housing

The Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIAOW) ([www.criaw-icref.ca](http://www.criaw-icref.ca)) over the last two years has been active working with women in communities across the country on women's economic security. Far too many women in Canada are living in poverty with none or minimal social service support. The lack of decent and affordable housing also makes it incredibly difficult, if not impossible, for women living on minimum wage, let alone on social assistance, to escape poverty.

**Q:**  
**Will your party expand social housing initiatives through programs such as the Affordable Housing Program, and increase political pressure on provinces to hold to the 'matching funds' commitment outlined in the Affordable Housing Framework Agreement?**

**Q:**  
**What will your party do to ensure that single parents, about 80 percent of whom are women, have safe, accessible, and affordable housing?**

### Pay Equity

Data from the 2001 census indicates that the average employment income for women working full-time in the year 2000, was equal to 70.8% of the average income for men.

**Q:**  
**Will your party implement the recommendations of the federal Pay Equity Task Force and adopt proactive pay equity legislation?**

### Violence

The UN has recommended that Canada ensure that all provinces provide necessary government and non-government services to those who suffer the violence. But instead federal dollars have been withdrawn from women's equality driven advocacy groups. Further, welfare cuts, disqualifications and work-fare force women into dangerous dependencies on abusive men.

**Q:**  
**Will you support a \$75 million federal allocation to women's centers, transition houses and rape crisis centers to enable their frontline and national anti-violence work toward women's equality?**

### Immigrant and Visible Minority Women

Immigrant women face several barriers in achieving their full potential and integrating into Canadian society such as language barriers, and difficulty in getting recognition for credentials earned in their countries of origin or outside of Canada.

**Q:**  
**Will your party provide increased funding for appropriate second language training programs to help immigrant women upgrade their language skills, participate in the work force and be better informed about their rights in Canada?**

### Political Representation

Women comprise 52% of our population, yet at dissolution we made up only 21% of the Members of the House of Commons. For the 2006 federal election, women make up only 24.5% of nominated candidates (see [www.equalvoice.ca](http://www.equalvoice.ca)). Because Canada has never achieved a critical mass of elected women representatives, deemed by the United Nations to be 30% of the total number of elected members, the potential impact of women's perspectives is not being realized in Parliament.

**Q:**  
**What has your party done to support the nomination of women candidates for this upcoming federal election? What will you promise to do next time around?**

**Q:**  
**How will you and your party support the introduction of proportional representation into Canada's electoral system?**

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For further information on where the major political parties stand on these and other issues, view our matrix on the federal party platforms at:



[www.onewomanonevote.org](http://www.onewomanonevote.org)