

*Campaign: A
planned course of
action for some*

Campaign



The Newsletter of the Canadian Women Voters Congress

A Message from the President



Charlene Brisson

With the federal election well behind us, we're now into preparations for the BC provincial election, which looks like it will take place in early spring. Of course, no matter how you feel about the results of the federal election, it is a reminder of how important it is for each one of us to get out there and cast our vote ... to participate ... to have a say in how our country, province, cities or communities are run. It's our right as individuals and it's our duty as citizens. I was told a very long time ago that if you don't vote, you can't complain. Given my favorite hobby of "soap boxing" ... I haven't

missed an election since.

I encourage you to get out there and prepare yourself for the next provincial election. Participate in any way you can. Check out the candidates in your area. Go to all-candidates meetings when they start up, visit their websites or those of the different parties. Do you feel confident they will represent you and your family well? Do you trust them? Have you really heard where they stand on issues? Have you picked up the phone and called them? You may want to check out what the 52% Coalition has

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SCHOOL GOES INTERNATIONAL

CONGRESS BRINGS WOMEN FROM UKRAINE TO SCHOOL

By: Joanne Silver, 2nd Vice-President, Chair, Campaign School

The Congress was successful in securing funding from the Partnerships For Tomorrow Program, Association of Canadian Community Colleges, to sponsor two women from Ukraine to attend the third Women's Cam-

paign School. Tetyana Kondratijuk, Head, All Ukrainian Women's People's Democratic Association and staff member Svetlana Zhdanovych will travel to Vancouver to be our first International Students.

The All-Ukrainian Women's People's Democratic Association (DIYA) is a non-governmental non-profit public organisa-

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"A Message from the President"

to offer you as a woman voter. Find out where the parties stand on women's issues. Get a copy of their voters manual. You can also call up your favorite woman candidate and offer to help out on her campaign.

Across the board, we gained

one woman in the federal election. Anytime we haven't lost ground, it's a good thing. But ... 20% female federally elected officials is not acceptable. In order to have an equitable government, we must have an

equal number of women and men in office. The Women's Campaign School (WCS) being held January 25 – 28th at Simon Fraser University, Harbour Centre is a vehicle to assist women candidates ... to give them the skills, courage and tools to throw their hats in the ring ... to win campaigns.

This marks the 3rd year of the School and with it comes a Canadian first. The WCS now offers an expanded program including government of First Nations along with non-partisan federal, provincial and municipal political systems. Nowhere else

in Canada can women learn how to run an election campaign in a non-partisan learning environment that includes the First Nations electoral process. Thanks to the participation of Status of Women Canada, Chief Sophie Pierre of the St. Mary's Band will keynote the Alumni Reception on January 25th at the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue in Vancouver. We are also thrilled to have Viola Thomas, the first woman elected as president of the United Native Nations conducting a full session on First Nations government. For more information call (604) 291-5069.

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"School Goes International"

tion registered at the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine in December, 1997.

DIYA is aimed at promoting the role of women in modern society, including preparing and supporting women-candidates for political office. The organisation has more than 22,000 members in 25 regions of Ukraine. It works in collaboration with the Ukrainian Ecological League, the People's Democratic League of Youth and the National Council of Women of Ukraine – a recently established intergovernmental agency to promote the role of women and women's rights.

Recent changes in the Ukrainian government led to a dissolution of the State Committee for Family and Youth Issues on January 1, 2000 with some functions carried out by the Ministry of Labour. However, it is yet

unclear what state body will deal with women's issues in Ukraine. DIYA believes that in this critical moment it is very important for women's non-government agencies to consolidate efforts and get more international visibility.

DIYA looks forward to long and beneficial co-operation with other women's groups as well as working to uplift the status of women in their communities and indeed through the world. Tetyana and Svetlana are excited to be part of the common goals and interests of women in political life at our Vancouver school. They will be giving a talk to their student colleagues on the Friday evening of the programme and meeting with the Minister of Women's Equality and her staff. As well, they will travel to Victoria to tour the Parliament Buildings and participate in discussions with representatives from all main BC/Canada political parties, addressing the role of women and politics in



The 52% Coalition

By: Benita Bunjan, Coordinator, 52% Coalition

The 52% Coalition is a diverse group of women's organizations, independent women and social justice groups in the Lower Mainland. Presently, there are 25 members/member organizations. The Coalition is committed to raising awareness on women's issues amongst political parties and the general public during the BC provincial election. The Coalition aims to actively develop a critical agenda of women's public policy and service issues by:

- Putting women's equality and social justice issues on the agenda of political parties.
- Assessing political parties' commitment to women's rights and equality.
- Informing women and the general public of the political parties' platforms on women's issues.
- Organizing all-candidates meetings specific to

women's issues and rights.

- Mobilizing women to attend and participate at all-candidates meetings.
- Targeting the media to address women's equality issues by providing a media kit.
- Producing and distributing the 52% Pocket Guide to women which will provide basic voter information and political parties' platform commitment to women's issues.



Please join the 52% Coalition for its next meeting on Thursday January 18th, 10-noon at The Vancouver Status of Women, #309-877 E. Hastings St., Vancouver. For more information, please contact the 52% Coalition Coordinator, Benita Bunjan @ 255-6554 or email "fifty_two_percent@hotmail.com"

INAUGURATION of the WOMEN ARE PERSONS! MONUMENT

PARLIAMENT HILL PERSONS DAY OCTOBER 18, 2000

*From Naomi Brunemeyer
SCWIST Coordinator (SFU)*

Judge Emily Murphy, Nellie McClung, Louise McKinnon, Irene Parlby and Henrietta Muir Edwards are now on Parliament Hill, celebrating their moment of victory.

The 1 ¼ life size figures, created by Edmonton sculptor Barbara Patterson, invite you to sit in Emily's chair, to pose with an arm around Nellie who is holding up the paper declaring "Women are Persons." Henrietta, seated at her table, raises her tea cup in salute with Louise beside her clasping her hands in victory while elegant

Irene surveys the scene. It is this extraordinary 'ordinariness' of the monument that makes people feel momentarily part of our history. As with the similar monument in Calgary Plaza that was unveiled on Persons Day, 1999, people move among the figures choosing which woman to be beside for a photo memory.

On October 18, 1929, the 'Five' achieved a great victory for all Canadian women when Lord Sankey of the British Privy Council reversed an earlier decision by the Supreme Court of Canada and declared that, indeed, women were 'Persons' under the British North America Act, and therefore eligible for appointment to the Senate. This historic decision was a major step towards women's equality in

Canada. The monument reaffirms the contributions of all women, not only in the struggles for our equality, but also in the building of Canada. Don't miss it when in Ottawa.

Website: <http://www.famous5.org>





2000 Federal Election Report

By: Ann Ashley – Member

The General Election that was held on November 27, 2000 returned the Liberal government to office with a 9.5% increase in seats, at the expense of all of the other parties. The Liberals became more entrenched in Ontario, and even took seats away from the Bloc Quebecois in Quebec. The total number of seats held by women increased by one. There is still a lot of work to be done to elect women to office in federal politics.

It can be argued that the election represents a victory for the *status quo*, and domination of the political area by central Canada and the “reigning” Liberals. The independent members have vanished, and the New Democrats simply do not have the numbers to pursue their social ideals. The Canadian Alliance party, an amalgam of the Reform Party and some Progressive Conservatives, and now the Official Opposition, still needs to establish a power base in Ontario and Quebec, while the Bloc, once the King-maker in Canadian politics, now has to re-evaluate it’s relevance to Quebec voters. (Ed. Note – The recent resignation of Lucien Bouchard is evidence of this party’s need (and desire) for a re-tooling.)

On the other hand, a lack of change also means stability. The Cabinet and most of our MPs are experienced and seasoned veterans. Canada is not thought of by the rest of the world as a volatile and violent place; rather one where everything runs smoothly and efficiently. Certainly, we can allow ourselves a chuckle when we compare our election with the one that just took place in the US. As be-moaned one American commentator: “We took three weeks to elect a President: Canada did it in three hours.”

Following are the statistics of the 2000 Federal election. You may want to keep this article for future reference. For general information about federal matters, see the Government of Canada web site at “<http://canada.gc.ca>”.

Government of Canada – Date of Election: November 27, 2000 (Last election June 2, 1997)

	LIB	ALL	BLOC	NDP	PC	IND	Political Division
1997	157	57	44	20	18	5	
2000	172	66	38	13	12	0	
2000 (women)	39	7	8	5	1	0	

	Total Seats	By Party					Women	Percentage of	Cabinet Posts	Cabinet Posts
		LIB	ALL	NDP	PC	BQ				
AB	26	2	23	0	1	0	3	12%	1	1
BC	34	5	27	2	0	0	5	15%	2	1
MN	4	5	4	4	1	0	3	21%	2	0
NB	10	6	0	1	3	0	2	20%	1	0
NF	7	5	0	0	2	0	0	0%	2	0
NS	11	4	0	3	4	0	2	18%	1	0
NUN	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0
NWT	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	100%	1	1
ONT	103	100	2	1	0	0	25	24%	14	4
PEI	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0%	1	0
PQ	75	36	0	0	1	38	17	23%	13	2
SK	14	2	10	2	0	0	2	14%	1	0
YK	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0
Total	301	172	66	13	12	38	61	20%	39*	9*

(TOTAL SEATS – 301 – Number of seats held by women – 1997 – 60 (19.9%)/2000 – 61 (20.3%))



INSPIRED BY WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE

By: Sharleen Suszezewicz
Secretary

In the Spring of 2000 I attended the opening reception of the Women's Campaign School out of curiosity and interest, and left with my name submitted to join the Canadian Women Voters Congress Board of Directors.

I was inspired by women making a difference and affecting change

at many levels – municipal, regional, provincial and federal - and decided I wanted to be a part of an organization such as the Canadian Women Voters Congress that both educates and assists women to become more politically astute.

I believe it is important for women to come together in non-partisan forums to learn from

community leaders, share ideas, and discuss issues that may impact their communities. The Congress sponsors such forums and provides information for women to make informed choices for their future.

I presently sit on the Canadian Women Voters Congress Board as Secretary along with a dynamic group of women that are

Provincial Election Imminent – Still time to take part.

By Ann Ashley – Member

The current session of the Legislature of British Columbia was elected on May 28, 1996, with the New Democratic Party of BC holding the majority of seats. Since then there have been many changes in both the leadership and cabinet, and on the back-benches. For a country whose politics are usually thought of as boring, in British Columbia it is anything but!

As no government may hold office for more than five years, a Provincial election must take place some time in the next few months. The major political parties will soon be looking for nominations for candidates, although active campaigning can only begin after the Writ (dissolving the Legislature, and announcing the date of the election) has been issued.

At the time of publication of this Newsletter, there is still time for any woman who wishes to run for election to enroll in the *Women's Campaign School* to be held at Simon Fraser University (downtown cam-

pus) on January 25 – 28. At the School, students will learn the nuts and bolts of winning an election. Mikael Gorbachov once described politics as a bonfire: if you can't stand the heat, get out of your kitchen and onto the campaign trail!

Listed below are the statistics of the current Legislature. You may want to keep this issue for future reference. Also listed are the web sites for the various government department, and unless you wish to run as an independent, the major political parties.



If you voted in the recent Federal election, you will likely be on the Provincial Voters List, but if in doubt, check with your Electoral Officer. Don't forget, it is your right AND your obligation to vote.

Government of British Columbia –
["www.gov.bc.ca"](http://www.gov.bc.ca)
 Premier's Office –
["www.gov.bc.ca/prem"](http://www.gov.bc.ca/prem)
 Members –
["www.legis.gov.bc.ca/mla"](http://www.legis.gov.bc.ca/mla)
 Office of Chief Electoral Officer –
["www.elections.bc.ca"](http://www.elections.bc.ca)

Political Parties
 NDP – ["www.bc.ndp.ca"](http://www.bc.ndp.ca)
 LIB – ["www.bcliberals.com"](http://www.bcliberals.com)
 GREEN – ["www.greenparty.bc.ca/~bcgreens/"](http://www.greenparty.bc.ca/~bcgreens/)
 REFORM – ["www.reformbc.net"](http://www.reformbc.net)
 SOC CRED – ["www.bcsocialcredit.org"](http://www.bcsocialcredit.org)
 ALL – ["www.canadianalliance.ca"](http://www.canadianalliance.ca)

Date of last election – May 28, 1996

Political division: 1996 – NDP (40), LIB (33), IND (2) /At dissolution – NDP (39), LIB (34), IND (2)
 Number of seats held by women –



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May 1996 – 22 (29%)/Jan 2001 – 23 (31%)
 Cabinet Members – 20/Women Cabinet Members – 6 (30%)

Current Members (* Holds a Cabinet Post)

<i>New Democrat</i>	<i>Liberals and Independents</i>
Boone, Lois	Abbott, George
Bowbrick, Graeme *	Anderson, Val
Brewin, Gretchen	Barisoff, Bill
Calendino, Pietro	Campbell, Gordon
Cashore, John	Chong, Ida
Clark, Glen	Clarke, Christy
Connroy, Ed *	Coell, Murray
Dosanjh, Ujjal *	Coleman, Rich
Doyle, Jim *	Dalton, Jeremy
Evans, Corky *	De Jong, Michael
Farnworth, Mike *	Farrell-Collins, Gary
Giesbrecht, Helmut	Hansen, Colin
Gillespie, Evelyn *	Hawkins, Sindi
Goodacre, Bill	Hogg, Gordon
Hammel, Sue *	Jarvis, Daniel
Hartley, Bill	Kasper, Rick (IND)
Janssen, Gerard *	Krueger, Kevin
Kwan, Jenny *	Masi, Reni
Lali, Harry *	McKinnon, Bonnie
Lovick, Dale	Nebbeling, Ted
MacPhail, Joy *	Nettleton, Paul
McGregor, Cathy *	Neufeld, Richard
Miller, Dan	Penner, Barry
Orcherton, Steve	Plant, Geoff
Petter, Andrew	Reid, Judith
Priddy, Penny	Reid, Linda
Pullinger, Jan	Roddick, Valerie
Ramsey, Paul *	Sanders, April
Randell, Fred	Stephens, Lynn
Robertson, Glenn*	Symons, Doug
Sawicki, Joan	Thorpe, Rick
Sihota, Moe	Van Dongen, John
Smallwood, Joan *	Weisbeck, John
Stevenson, Tom *	Weisgerber, Jack (IND)
Streifel, Dennis	Whittred, Katherine
Waddell, Ian *	Wilson, John
Walsh, Erda	
Wilson, Gordon *	
Zirnhelt, David	

The Canadian Women Voters Congress

- will create an informed and vigilant body to monitor government, governmental policies, plans and actions.
- will stimulate thinking and initiate action plans.
- will provide coaching for prospective and declared candidates.
- will provide a forum where women can clearly and effectively articulate their views to all politicians.

Use Your Voice. Shape Your Future.



Our apologies to The National Action Committee (NAC) of the Status of Women which has a new address of **2150 Maple St, Vancouver, BC V6J 3T3**. We incorrectly included the NAC's old address in the last issue of the Newsletter.

Please e-mail suggestions for campaign to Kathryn Sainty at

Ksainty@hotmail.com

or call the Congress at
 (604) 878-8228.

Campaign is a publication of the Canadian Women Voters Congress.

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