

YWCA ONE WOMAN ONE VOTE

FEDERAL Party Platforms: 2004 Elections Matrix

June 8, 2004

Please note: This chart has been designed to serve as a “starting point” for tracking the political platforms and campaign promises made by four of the major parties during this federal election. The YWCA of Edmonton encourages you to continue to fill in the blanks for the remainder of the campaign, and to add any regional issues that are specific to your constituency.

The YWCA of Edmonton One Woman One Vote initiative is providing this information from a nonpartisan perspective because we are encouraging people to vote in an informed manner.

Issues:	Liberal Party	Conservative Party	New Democratic Party	Green Party
Overall New Spending	-\$27 billion new spending over 5 yrs, & \$3 billion annual reserve	-\$58 billion in tax cuts & new spending over 5 yrs.	-\$61 billion in new spending over 5 yrs.	
Environment	-Quadruple funding for wind energy -Implement Kyoto's reduction of greenhouse gas emissions	-Kyoto Protocol “increasingly irrelevant” – redirect spending on Kyoto climate-change accord to “concrete” programs -Cut spending in Environment Dep't.	-1/2 federal gas tax to cities for transit -Nat'l retrofit program for conservation & energy efficiency -Mandatory emission targets for cars -build 10,000 wind turbines by 2010 -Implement Kyoto's reduction of greenhouse gas emissions -Make every building in Canada more energy efficient	-Supports further developing Kyoto Accord -Implement Kyoto's reduction of greenhouse gas emissions -Raise taxes on pollution, waste & inefficiency -Shift taxes onto land use, away from incomes -
Taxation		-25% tax cuts for middle income earners to cost \$6 billion over 4	-New inheritance tax on estates worth more than \$1 million	-Cut personal income taxes, to give Canadians a \$3.5 billion tax cut -Grant charitable

		<p>yrs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Tax credit of \$2,000 per child -Reduce EI premiums -Expand GST credit for people with low, fixed incomes -Raise tax brackets, phase out lower-middle brackets -Eliminate \$12 air security tax -Cut capital gains taxes -Cut business income tax rate -overhaul of Regional Dev. Agencies from grant/subsidy-giving to creating opportunities for regional business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Earnings under \$15,000 exempt from personal income tax -New income taxes for those earning \$250,000+ -GST to be scrapped on fem hygiene products, & family essentials -Increase in child tax benefit to \$4,900 per child from \$2,630 -Higher corporate & capital gains taxes -Full indexing of tax brackets & credits to inflation 	<p>status to nonprofit orgs serving cultural minority groups & women</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Change Canada Revenue Agency regs to allow legitimate political activism on social justice & environmental issues -Insist that Canada Revenue Agency make public its standards, enforcement procedures, & auditing criteria -Increase taxes on oil and gas, phased in over 3 yrs. -Tax incentives to homeowners who reduce home heating, electricity bills -Efficiency programs for landlords, ensure tenants do not carry costs of inefficient housing
Armed Forces/ Military	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Up to \$700 million on maritime security, intelligence gathering, biometric passports, national security roundtable -5,000 soldiers to be recruited -3,000 more reserves -Canadian 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Invest \$7 billion in defense funding over 4 yrs. -Add 20,000 more troops by 2008 to 80,000 -Replace old Hercules transport aircraft, acquire 3 new support ships, buy tanks, hybrid helicopter carriers, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -No troops sent abroad w/o vote in Parliament -Repeal of anti-terrorism laws -Boost spending for troops, buy better equipment, improve military housing, raise salaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -New investments -Merging of security/global/international Areas -Commit only to military action sanctioned by Parliament & the UN

	Peace and Nation Building Initiative to help failed states rebuild public institutions, social systems	upgrade CF-18 fighter-bombers -Increased parliamentary oversight of military operations overseas -Role for MPs in determining appointments to senior ranks	-	
Gun Registry/ Firearms	-Revise the gun registry	-Eliminate gun registry, save \$25 – \$100 million/yr -Use gun registry sav's to hire 200 more Mounties, pay for sex-offender registry -Mandatory minimum penalties for criminal use of firearms		-Revise gun registry: free registration
Seniors/ Low Incomes	-\$2.5 billion over 5 yrs. for seniors, raise Guaranteed Income Supplement for singles and couples pensioners -\$1 billion over 5 yrs. to help families caring for seniors, disabled -medical, disability-related expenses claimed by caregivers doubled to \$10,000 -new secretariat for	-Increase fixed incomes -Reduce personal income tax by 25%	-Protect pensions -Remove GST from family essentials	-Reform E I

	seniors			
Health Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Overhaul Canada Health Protection Act -\$3 billion transfer paymtns to provinces -\$4 billion to reduce waiting lists -@\$2 billion to nat'l home care program -Pharmacare -\$2 billion over 5 yrs. For intensive care, mental illness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$13 billion in extra health care funding -includes\$800 million for national catastrophic prescription drug program -All this is in addition to current \$37 billion, 5 yr. federal commitment of new health funding to provinces -uphold 2003 Health Accord of health care transfers - Explore ways with the provinces & Canada Health Council to reduce wait lists -More Drs and RNs -Not opposed to private services -Changes to drug approval process -Develop performance indicators on access, quality, sustainability of health care -Appoint Chief Public health Officer & create Canada Public Health Agency -Define fed/provincial roles during 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Almost \$30 billion new health care funding over 5 yrs -Ottawa to fund 25% of health care costs by 2008 -against expansion of privatized health delivery -Reinstate "ParticipAction" program -phased in Pharmacare program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -National referendum on changes to Health Care Act -Focus on Preventative Illnesses

		public health crisis -Settle compensation formula for public health emergencies		
Post Secondary Education	-Improve Canada Student Loans program -implement grants for low income students -Modernize workforce training programs --Increase venture capital resources to commercialize and profit-make from high-tech research at universities	-Increase maximum student loan limit -Offer grants to low income students -Introduce Canada Learning Bonds -Increase Canada Education Savings grants -Registered Lifelong Savings program	-Work with provinces to cut by 10% college & university tuition -Offer interest-free student loans -Ban for-profit private universities -Allow bankruptcy protection to graduates in debt	-Reinvest in core funding for post secondary -Roll back tuition costs -Fed Gov't to share in funding to school boards
Equal Marriage (Same sex)	-Would allow free vote when gay marriage legislation reaches H of C for vote next year -Asked Supreme Court to postpone hearing on constitutionality of draft leg allowing gays & lesbians to marry	-Would withdraw federal reference to Supreme Court -wants Parliament to decide not courts -allow free vote -would use Notwithstanding Clause (override the Charter of Rights & Freedoms) to maintain definition of marriage as union between man/woman	-Would amend Human Rights Act to add sexual orientation & recognize gay & lesbian marriages as equal to hetero marriages	-Supports upholding courts' decisions allowing gay marriages

Violence Against Women				-Greater resources to be allocated to reduce family violence
Children/ Childcare	-Expand GST tax credit to low income families -Expand tax credits to at home caregivers -Initiate 5 yr. \$5 billion national child care program, for 250,000 spaces, provinces not required to match federal funding	-Replace "public good" defense with zero tolerance of child porn -Fund research into years 1-5 of child's life -Expand "Understanding the Early Years" program -Create more quality child care centres -\$2,000 per-child tax deduction on dependent children under 16 yrs.	-Introduce National child care program -200,000 affordable day care spaces over 4 yrs. -Education plan to include pre & post natal care, early learning, support for parents at home	-National child care strategy
Marijuana	-Plan to decriminalize simple possession of small amounts	-Remain illegal, fines for possession of small amounts		-Legalize, tax, regulate marijuana production
Immigrants/ Immigration	-Speedier recognition of foreign credentials , prior work experience	-Speedier recognition of foreign credentials, prior work experience		-Reduce unnecessary barriers to reinstating professional credentials -Regulate practices of "immigration consultants"
International		-Fight for primary producers in trade disputes -Ally with intern'l bodies against	-Strengthen Canada's voice for peace, human rights, fair trade	

		terrorism		
Democratic Reform		-Canadians register their party affiliation on tax forms		
Trade		-Fight for primary producers in trade disputes		-Multilateral trade agreements to include protection of human rights, ecological reform
Agriculture		-Protect farmers from outside conditions -Faster aid for farmers coping with disasters -Defend in int'l trade negotiations		-Redesign policies, structure of sustainable agriculture
Fisheries		-Decentralize Fisheries' decision-making -Ensure E I provides adequate income		
Accountability	-Balanced Budget -Reduce national debt -Establish independent ethics commissioner	-\$50 million more per yr for internal audits by Auditor General -Control wasteful & corrupt spending -Will be accountable to promises made & actions taken	-Tougher rules for lobbyists -Budget Balanced - no federal deficit	-Maintain balanced budget -Reduce national debt
Abortion		-“No intention of discussing abortion during the election”. Stephen Harper		

Municipalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$2 billion annually to municipalities from federal – gas tax - Extra \$1.5 billion for affordable housing over 5 yrs. to total \$3.5 billion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$0.03 cents/litre gas rebates for cities for infrastructure, ceiling of \$1.5 billion/yr. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1/2 the federal gas tax to cities for transit - \$1.7 billion/yr for clean drinking water - \$1.6 billion for affordable housing - Walkable communities - Restore viability of rail industry - realign priorities of Transport Canada 	
Senate Reform		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supports Senate reform - Appoint only elected senators to Senate 		
Other		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fixed election dates every four yrs. - Allow free votes in the House of Commons except budget matters. - Permit Parliament to review/ratify appointments: Officers of Parliament, Supreme Court Justices, heads of major Crown Corps & agencies. - End statutory release for criminals who serve 2/3 of sentence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10 seats for aboriginals added to House of Commons - 2 new national holidays - Raising Intern'l Dev Aid to 0.7% of GDP by 2015 - Repeal 2000 Clarity Act, recognize a declaration of Quebec independence if sovereigntists won referendum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Reform public sector to be more responsive, accountable - Ensure corporations are socially responsible for commitments - Reduce standard work week -

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Sources:

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