



2005 - 2006 Board of Directors

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Programs and Services

Community Visions Program
for Adults with Disabilities
Counselling Services
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One Woman One Vote Initiative
Volunteer Services
YoWoChAs Outdoor
Education Centre

Special Events

Tribute to Women of
Distinction Awards
Week Without Violence

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FOR IMMEDIATE MEDIA RELEASE

WOMEN CANDIDATES 2005

The first federal election in which women could vote and run as a candidate was in 1921, when Agnes MacPhail, one of four women to run for office was elected to Parliament. Since that time 84 years ago women have reached a glass ceiling of approximately 20% representation in parliament. (1)

Only 21% of the members elected to the House of Commons in 2004 were women which is not a significant increase over the elections of 1997 and 2000, when women made up only 20% of the elected members.

Four generations, or over 100 years, is how long it will take for Canadian women to achieve gender parity in the House of Commons at the current rate of election.

Women are more than half the population, but only a fifth of its federal politicians. The support of the party leaders is critical to ensuring that more women will be nominated and subsequently elected to the House of Commons on January 23, 2006.

YWCA Edmonton calls on the party leaders to ensure their party's nominations process includes actions to recruit and nominate more women:

- 90% of Canadians support increasing the number of women in elected office in order to achieve a well-functioning political system. (2)

YWCA Edmonton began in 1907. YWCA Edmonton believes that: "equity and equality for women require that women's perspectives help shape society's direction". Since 2001 YWCA Edmonton, through its nonpartisan initiative One Woman One Vote encourages women to become informed on the election issues, to get out to vote, to run for office or to volunteer on the campaign of another woman.



For comment:

Contact: (please leave a message, your call will be returned)

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Research resources:

(1) Arscott, J. and Trimble L. *Still Counting: Women in Politics Across Canada*. Ontario, Canada. Broadview Press, 2003

(2) 2004 Centre for Research and Information on Canada www.cric.ca