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Changing the face of Politics

Dear Equal Voice members and supporters,

On behalf of Equal Voice, we wanted to offer our thanks to our volunteers, the candidates, political parties and all Canadian men and women who supported our mission of electing more women during this election period. As you know, this election saw an increase of 4 women to the House of Commons, meaning 68 total. There were 387 women running. These totals are the largest number in Canadian history. We know we aim for more representation, but it is important to celebrate our successes along the way. The Canada Challenge – launched in 2007, challenging the parties to recruit, nominate and ultimately elect more women – did have an impact.

There is our own team to thank for the hundreds of volunteer hours given to the Challenge and election, and there is our former (Ann Wicks) and current Executive Director (Françoise Gagnon – who lead the Take Our Girls to Vote project) who, as our sole full time staffers, kept the core of our organization moving, while working at very high-levels to reach our goal since the launch of the Canada Challenge. Thank you.

We would not be where we are today without all the political parties' contribution via the Canada Challenge and the women who put their names forth on the ballot. These women are the modern-day heroines who know what they are about to face to be able to become Members of Parliament. Thank you.

A final thank you to you: our members and supporters. Your continued encouragement, advice, financial support, and networking have enabled Equal Voice to become the most influential voice for all women in Canadian politics. The potential is endless!

We would like to take a moment to mention our election team volunteers who made everything possible:

Election Tracking Team: Vicky Smallman from Ottawa has been tracking the numbers of women for several elections. Her research and analysis is relied upon nationally and internationally. We are very lucky to have Vicky on our team. This year, Vicky was supported by members of our Equal Voice Youth Chapter: Beki Scott, Maddie White, Audrey Lemieux, Vanessa Welch and Emma Winsky. Thank you.

Media Team: Rosemary Speirs, Maddie White, Vicky Smallman, Kiloran German, Patricia Dumas, LeeEllen Carroll, Chi Nguyen, Lynne Hamilton, Kerry Patterson-Baker, and Lesley Byrne who chased stories, composed our media releases, created a cheeky election poster and provided well-balanced advice. Thank you.



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Thank you to Paul Paré, our translator who has been with Equal Voice since the beginning and has given so much.

A very special thank you must be given to our Founding Chair, Dr. Rosemary Speirs, for being the strong guiding force behind the creation and development of our organization. Rosemary's daily work on this election was invaluable. Thank you.

Onto our AGM planning for November 8!

Raylene Lang-Dion, National Chair & Donna Dasko, Vice-Chair