



***POUR UN PLUS GRAND NOMBRE DE FEMMES ÉLUES AU CANADA  
ELECTING MORE WOMEN IN CANADA***

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For Immediate Release

**Equal Voice Applauds Women in Cabinet: Harper appoints 11 women to Cabinet positions**

OTTAWA – Stephen Harper has changed the face of his Cabinet by appointing 4 more women to his Cabinet of 38, bringing the number of women to 11 from 7 in 2006.

“We are pleased to see capable women assume roles of importance in this Cabinet,” says Equal Voice Vice-Chair Donna Dasko. “In 2006, the Conservatives had 11 women MP’s, they now have 23, 11 of whom are in Cabinet.”

This past election saw more women nominated than ever before. A total of 387 women ran for office and 69 were elected. This brought female representation in the House of Commons to 22.4% from 21.6% in the 2006 election.

“We are almost at critical mass in Cabinet, which is significant,” says Françoise Gagnon, National Executive Director for Equal Voice. “Critical mass is 33% and we are at 29%. But what matters today is that women have been appointed to positions of influence in the Cabinet.”

Of note are the newcomers to the Hill, and to Cabinet. The Honourable Lisa Raitt takes on the portfolio of Minister of Natural Resources, The Honourable Leona Aglukkak, appointed as Minister of Health brings tremendous experience to this file. The Honourable Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries was the only female Conservative MP to be elected in PEI, and also brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the role.

Other female Cabinet positions include:

- Senator Marjory Lebreton, Leader of the Government in the Senate and Minister of State (Seniors)
- The Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Labour
- The Honourable Beverley J. Oda  
Minister of International Cooperation
- The Honourable Josée Verner  
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, President of the  
Queen’s Privy Council for Canada and Minister for La Francophonie
- The Honourable Diane Finley  
Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development
- The Honourable Helena Guergis  
Minister of State (Status of Women)
- The Honourable Diane Ablonczy  
Minister of State (Small Business and Tourism)
- The Honourable Lynne Yelich  
Minister of State (Western Economic Diversification)

“Mr. Harper had a very strong pool of talent to pick from,” continues Ms. Dasko. “The experience and perspective that these women bring to the table can only benefit this Cabinet.”

Equal Voice is a multi-partisan not for profit organization dedicated to the promotion and election of women to public office.

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