



Mr. Howard Hampton,

Leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party,

April 27, 2006

Dear Mr. Hampton:

As you know Equal Voice is a national volunteer organization for the election of more women. We see the political parties—the gatekeepers to political life—as the single biggest barrier to women’s aspirations to share in governing. We need more women nominated in 2007 than in recent years. Otherwise, we cannot hope to see progress in the Ontario Legislature, where female representation is still only 23 per cent.

We applaud the Ontario New Democratic Party’s affirmative action policy for nominating women candidates, and your personal commitment to attracting more women to run on your slate. However, the status quo has persisted in the Legislature for many years, and we believe even stronger and more public outreach is needed.

Equal Voice is therefore challenging the three leaders of Ontario’s major parties to commit to running more women in 2007. We have not set a specific target. We are just asking the parties to do substantially better.

We are inviting you and the other two party leaders to take the Ontario Challenge; committing to run more women. If you would be willing to appear with Equal Voice representatives publicly, that would be an excellent start. We think commitment to the Challenge will have even more impact if we can get all three leaders together at a news conference.

What we want to do is to get the message out to women that Ontario’s political leaders truly want them on their teams. We believe a news conference at Queen’s Park, with all three of you discussing the importance of fairer representation for women, would be a huge boost for the cause.

Would you be willing to participate?

Rosemary Speirs,
National Chair, Equal Voice
rspeirs@equalvoice.ca

Join us and we’ll change this country for the better!
www.equalvoice.ca