



Mr. John Tory,

Leader of the Official Opposition,

April 27, 2006

Dear Mr. Tory:

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 your announced determination, as Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, to attract more women to your party. Two recent by-election victories for Ontario PC women boosted your caucus representation, and are proof of your commitment. However, the status quo has persisted in the Legislature for many years, and we believe even stronger and more public outreach is needed by all parties.

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,
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