



RE: Lysiane Gagnon's column in Dec. 22 Globe and Mail.

Quebec Premier Jean Charest did a groundbreaking and progressive thing by naming women to half of his cabinet posts. And now he's done it again. The proof of the effectiveness of his first 50% female cabinet was in the pudding. They were renowned for good decisions and effective leadership. Which is why many of them were rightfully re-elected and re-appointed. It is surprising to many that Canada has such a poor record at both electing women (over 50% of the population) and nominating them to cabinet. Federally, just 22% of the House is made up of women leaving Canada ranked 46th in the world in women's parliamentary representation. In fact, Mr. Charest should be applauded and congratulated for moving the bar up and establishing a worthy democratic tradition. He's sending a strong signal to women in Quebec: you should run and if you do well, you will have an opportunity to succeed, a privilege granted to very few women in Canadian history.

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