

<http://www.greenparty.ca/media-release/2009-06-18/greens-support-equal-voice-commit-running-more-women-next-election>

June 18, 2009

Greens Support Equal Voice; Commit to Running More Women in the Next Election

OTTAWA--Green Party Leader Elizabeth May is no stranger to the barriers that women face as they enter the difficult field of politics. "As the only female leader of a federal political party, I am keenly aware of the strong overtones of a political culture that is aggressive, competitive and combative. We desperately need more cooperation, greater respect and less partisanship in our democratic process. To get there from here, we need more women elected in Canadian legislatures and parliament."

"Politics in its current form is unfortunately not conducive to an uninterrupted family life," said May. "Mothers, like myself, face spending limits on childcare during elections, which is compounded by lack of access to affordable childcare. With more support, it doesn't have to be a choice between family and civic engagement."

The Green Party is fully in support of efforts of organizations like Equal Voice, working on behalf of all Canadian women to raise awareness of the need to elect more women in Canada. Only 22.4% of Canadian MPs are women, fewer than in most of Europe and some developing countries, including Rwanda and Iraq.

The Green Party has worked very hard to welcome women candidates, including forming a women's caucus with the goal of encouraging and supporting more women candidates. Almost 30% of Green Party candidates were women in the last election, a level the party hopes to beat the next time around. The Greens' goal is to have 50% women candidates and an elected 50% women in the Green caucus in the House.

"We are happy to accept the challenge of Equal Voice and continue to raise the number of women nominated as candidates for the Green Party of Canada," said May. "All parties must work much harder to address the barriers faced by women who wish to be a candidate."