

G.P. MURRAY RESEARCH LIMITED
Government relations and information services

October 12, 2007

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SUBJECT: **Women MPPs at Queen's Park, 1981 through 2007**

SCOPE – The following tables show the number and percentage of women who were nominated and elected in the eight provincial elections fought during the period 1981 through 2007 (*Tables 1 through 7 & 10*) as well as in provincial by-elections from 2003 to 2007 (*Tables 8 & 9*). Totals are given for each of the three major parties represented at Queen's Park. The numbers of women elected as MPPs are represented as percentages of each party caucus as well as of the legislature as a whole.

ANALYSIS – The number of women **nominated** to seek provincial elected office has grown quite substantially over the eight elections, though it fell back in 1999 and the 1990 through 2003 totals remained below the 1987 high-water mark of 95 (24%). The 2003 number of 78 (25%), while higher than in 1999, was still well below the totals in the three previous elections. There was a substantial increase in the 2007 election, in which 104 women were nominated.

The percentages of women candidates **elected** as MPPs have also grown over the whole period, though progress was quite modest over the period 1987 through 1999. However, the 2003 increase, with more than one in five MPPs being female, set a new record. This pattern was further strengthened in the 2003-2006 by-elections and was boosted by the election of 29 women in the 2007 election.

PARTY STANDINGS – The NDP has consistently nominated far more women than the other two parties represented at Queen's Park, while the LIBs have edged the PCs in this regard since 1987. This pattern was repeated in the 2003 election, with 34 female NDP candidates, 23 LIBs and 21 PCs, as well as in the 2007 contest, with 42 female NDP candidates, 38 LIBs and 24 PCs.

The number of women elected has reflected party fortunes, with the largest cadre of female MPPs usually belonging to the victor in a majority government situation (PCs, 1981; LIBs, 1987; NDP, 1990; PCs, 1995 & 1999; LIBs, 2003 & 2007). This pattern reflects the tendency for a landslide to result in the winning party's acquisition of unexpected seats, many of them contested by women.

In regard to women elected as a percentage of the party caucus, the NDP has registered the highest numbers from 1985 through 1999.

It is noteworthy that the proportion of women contesting 2003-07 by elections was high for the two opposition parties (8 of 10 female nominees for the PCs, and 7 of 10 for the NDP), though not for the governing LIBs (4 of 10). (See *Table 8*.)

The (*Table 8*) by-election figures have been added to the 2003-07 by-election results (*Table 7*) to produce a pre-2007 election total of women MPPs (*Table 9*). It is striking that all three parties represented at Queen's Park now essentially meet or exceed the 25% threshold: LIBs – 26.8%; PCs – 26.9%; with the NDP still in the lead at 30.0%.

The Leg. as a whole went from 26 women MPPs occupying 25.2% of the 103 seats before the dissolution of the 38th Leg., to 29 women MPPs occupying 27.1% of the 107 seats in the 39th Leg.

It is also notable that there has been a significant increase from the number and percentage of women MPPs elected in 2003 – 22 of 103 MPPs or 21.3% – to the number and percentage of women MPPs elected in 2007 – 29 of 107 or 27.1%. That represents an increase of 5.8 percentage points, or in percentage terms a 27% increase.

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<i>Table 1</i> 1981 [n 125]	Nominated candidates #	Nominated candidates %	Candidates elected #	Candidates elected %
PC	13	10.4	4 / 70	5.7
LIB	8	6.4	1 / 34	2.9
NDP	20	16.0	1 / 21	4.8
Total	41 / 375	10.9	6 / 125	4.8

<i>Table 2</i> 1985 [n 125]	Nominated candidates #	Nominated candidates %	Candidates elected #	Candidates elected %
PC	17	13.6	2 / 52	3.8
LIB	14	11.2	2 / 48	4.2
NDP	27	21.6	3 / 25	12.0
Total	58 / 375	15.5	7 / 125	5.6

<i>Table 3</i> 1987 [n 130]	Nominated candidates #	Nominated candidates %	Candidates elected #	Candidates elected %
PC	22	16.9	2 / 16	6.2
LIB	27	20.8	15 / 95	15.8
NDP	46	35.4	3 / 19	15.8
Total	95 / 390	24.3	20 / 130	15.4

<i>Table 4</i> 1990 [n 130]	Nominated candidates #	Nominated candidates %	Candidates elected #	Candidates elected %
PC	19	14.6	3 / 20	15.0
LIB	26	20.0	6 / 36	16.7
NDP	40	30.8	19 / 74	25.7
Total	85 / 390	21.8	28 / 130	16.6

<i>Table 5</i> 1995 [n 130]	Nominated candidates #	Nominated candidates %	Candidates elected #	Candidates elected %
PC	20	15.4	11 / 82	13.4
LIB	31	23.8	4 / 30	13.3
NDP	38	22.8	4 / 17	23.5
Total	89 / 390	22.8	19 / 130	14.6

<i>Table 6</i> 1999 [n 103]	Nominated candidates #	Elected candidates %	Candidates elected #	Candidates elected %
PC	18	17.5	9 / 59	15.2
LIB	19	18.4	6 / 35	17.1
NDP	32	31.1	3 / 9	33.3
Total	69 / 309	22.3	18 / 103	17.5

<i>Table 7</i> 2003 [n 103]	Nominated candidates #	Nominated candidates %	Candidates elected #	Candidates elected %
PC	21	20.3	3 / 24	12.5
LIB	23	22.3	17 / 72	23.6
NDP	34	33.0	2 / 7	28.6
Total	78 / 309	25.2	22 / 103	21.3

<i>Table 8</i> Post-2003 by-elections [n = 10]	By-election candidates #	Elected candidates #
PC	8 / 10	3 / 8
LIB	4 / 10	0 / 4
NDP	7 / 10	2 / 7
Total	19 / 30	5 / 19

<i>Table 9</i> Women MPPs after Feb. 2007 by-elections #	Women MPPs after Feb. 2007 by-elections %
6 / 24	25.0
17 / 69	24.6
3 / 10	30.0
26 / 103	25.2

<i>Table 10</i> 2007 [n 107]	Nominated candidates #	Nominated candidates %	Candidates elected #	Candidates elected %
PC	24	22.4	7 / 26	26.9
LIB	38	35.5	19 / 71	26.8
NDP	42	39.2	3 / 10	30.0
Total	104 / 321	32.4	29 / 107	27.1