

Getting to the Gate

COUNCILLOR SHEILAGH O'LEARY, ST. JOHN'S

COUNCILLOR AMY COADY-DAVIS, GRAND FALLS-WINSOR





Equal Voice

- ▶ Work with all political parties to increase the nominations of women candidates;
- ▶ Promote electoral and other changes that would increase the numbers of women in politics;
- ▶ Conduct outreach with young women to inspire and engage them in politics as a future career choice;
- ▶ Encourage women to run for office through programs such as our comprehensive, bilingual on-line campaign school;
- ▶ Raising awareness about the impact of women's under-representation;
- ▶ Celebrating women in politics; and
- ▶ Communicating and implementing EV's goals and activities through innovative programming.

Critical Mass

- ▶ The active participation of women and the incorporation of women's viewpoints at all levels of decision making are considered fundamental to a healthy, just, and equitable political system.
- ▶ It is for this reason that in 1995, the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations endorsed the target of 30% women in positions at all decision-making levels.
- ▶ This target is a minimum requirement for women's interests to be truly taken into account.

Why is Critical Mass Important?

- ▶ Less resistance to women as elected officials
- ▶ Changes in the performance and efficiency of women politicians
- ▶ Changes in political culture.
- ▶ Changes in the political discourse.
- ▶ Change in policy

Women in Politics in Canada

- ▶ Despite the advances in women's political participation in Canada, women are under-represented, often significantly, in every federal, provincial and territorial legislature in Canada.
- ▶ Today, only 26 percent of elected members in Canada's National Parliament, the House of Commons, are women;
- ▶ Women's representation in provincial and territorial legislatures ranges from 9 to 37 percent.

Women in Provincial Politics in NL

- ▶ There are currently 10 women elected to the House of Assembly
- ▶ Only 25% of members are women
- ▶ There are 3 female members of the Provincial Cabinet
- ▶ In 1930 Helena Squires was the first woman elected to the House of Assembly... less than 40 women have been elected since.

Municipal Elections 2017

- ▶ 276 incorporated municipalities in Newfoundland & Labrador
- ▶ representing 89% of the provincial population

Municipal NL

- ▶ Women representation on council in NL
 - 2009 - 32%
 - 2013 - 34%
- ▶ Canadian average - 26%

Municipal NL

Women as percentage of total candidates

2009 - 31.6%

2013 - 32.3%

Municipal NL

Change from 2009 to 2013 in total number of:

- ▶ Women candidates - 2% increase
- ▶ Women on council - 4% increase
- ▶ Men candidates - 1% decrease
- ▶ Men on council - 4% decrease

Equal Voice



Contact us

Email: EqualVoiceNL@gmail.com

Twitter: [@EqualVoiceNL](https://twitter.com/EqualVoiceNL)

