



Chalk Talk

Greetings | Feature | Contest | Young Voters

PLEASE SHARE CHALK TALK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES!!!

Letter from the Editor

Dear Educators,

In my lifetime, the population of Canada has more than doubled, now counted at just under 35 million. The results of the last census indicate that, not only is Canada's population growing larger, it is increasingly moving west. Provincial committees were



established to study the numbers and to make recommendations on where there was a need to create new ridings. Legislation has been introduced to increase the number of seats in the House of Commons by about 10% from the current 308 to 338 seats in time for the next federal election, which is scheduled for October 2015. Independent provincial commissions have looked at the

census data, electoral boundary maps and have consulted with Canadians on creating new boundaries and adjusting existing ones. The biggest seat increases will coincide with the provinces which have experienced the most population growth – Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia. Quebec will also see its number of seats increase.

As I've been fortunate to have visited Parliament Hill and the Centre Block where the House of Commons is situated many times, I couldn't help but wonder where they would put 30 new seats. Even years ago as a student on a school trip, sitting excitedly in the Gallery during a lively session of Question Period, watching Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, wearing a rose in his lapel, spar with Robert Stanfield and David Lewis, it seemed to me that space was pretty tight. Thirty new voices representing more Canadians in more ridings will have a significant impact on shaping Canada's future. But where will they sit? As it turns out, there is a plan in the works that will see the House moved temporarily to the West Block on Parliament Hill while renovations are made to enlarge the space.

There are too many Canadians who do not exercise this most democratic of rights, especially among eligible young people. This week's *Chalk Talk* features free classroom resources and programs from **Elections Canada** that will help educators to increase student interest becoming future voters. CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting the important work of teachers. Visit our website at www.4edu.ca to view the many free teachers' resources on offer. [Your feedback is welcome.](#)

Mary Kovack

Elections Canada



Elections Canada in your community!

Elections Canada has been speaking with teachers at conferences across Canada this fall, learning about what you need to teach Civics and Social Studies and in presenting our current offering of civic education products. We've had great chats and a great time meeting teachers from Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan.



And we're not done yet! Elections Canada staff will be presenting an exhibit at several teacher conferences in November. Have questions about how to run an exciting election simulation in your classroom? Looking for resources to teach students about democracy, elections, voting, government and active citizenship?

Come see us at our exhibit at the following locations:

Alberta Teachers' Association Social Studies Conference 2012

Rimrock Hotel
Banff, Alberta
November 9-11, 2012

Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers Annual Convention

Palais des congrès
Montréal, Quebec
November 22-23, 2012

Ontario History and Social Sciences Teachers' Association Conference

White Oaks Conference Resort and Spa
Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario
November 23-24, 2012

Have your students enter the **National Youth Challenge** – it's not too late!



Looking for a classroom activity that combines Civics and Social Studies with technology and media arts? If so, get your class involved in the [National Youth Challenge](#).

The Challenge is a creative, student-focused project that you can do in your Civics, Politics, History, Law and Social Studies classes.

Using photography, video, tweets and blogs, students are asked to answer the following question: **What are you doing for your democracy?**

This year's **prizes** include a trip to Ottawa, an iPad, netbooks and gift certificates.

Encourage your students to participate or use the Challenge as a classroom project!

Visit democracy-democratie.ca for more information on the Challenge.
The deadline to enter is **November 30, 2012!**

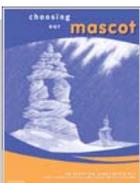
Website of the week



As educators, your role is more crucial than ever in showing the relevance of our parliamentary and democratic institutions to students – the voters of tomorrow.

Elections Canada offers elementary, high school and ESL teachers **free** educational resources, all designed to make your work a little easier.

Educational Products — **Elementary Level**

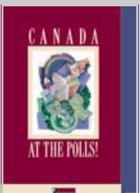


Choosing Our Mascot

Audience: Kindergarten to Grade 4

Description: Election simulation kit

Have your students choose a classroom mascot. The kit includes instructions on how to conduct a mock election, activity booklets and election materials.



Canada at the Polls!

Audience: Grades 5 to 8

Description: Election simulation kit and student council election guide

Want your students to experience the democratic process? Running a student council election? This kit contains a step-by-step guide and materials for electing a student council or conducting an election simulation, including tally sheets, a ballot box, a voting screen, and more.



My Country, My Democracy *NEW!*

Audience: Kindergarten to Grade 4

Description: Interactive learning activities guide

Divided into three levels of difficulty, this tool kit provides a variety of activities and interactive learning ideas to allow students to increase their sense of the wider Canadian community and their understanding of Canadian citizenship.



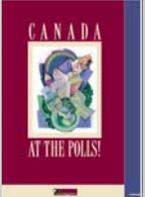
Voting Rules! NEW!

Audience: Ontario Grade 5 (or elementary-level Social Studies across Canada)

Description: Civic education program

Developed in partnership with Elections Ontario, *Voting Rules!* is a civic education program that teaches students about democracy, voting, elections, government and active citizenship through experiential lessons in an engaging graphic novel format.

Educational Products — Secondary Level



Canada at the Polls!

Audience: Grades 9 to 12

Description: Election simulation kit and student council election guide

Want your students to experience the democratic process? Running a student council election? This kit contains a step-by-step guide and materials for electing a student council or conducting an election simulation, including tally sheets, a ballot box, a voting screen, and more.



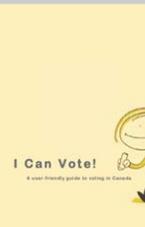
Voting Rules! NEW!

Audience: Ontario Grade 10 (or secondary-level Civics/Social Studies across Canada)

Description: Civic education program

Developed in partnership with Elections Ontario, *Voting Rules!* is a civic education program that teaches students about democracy, voting, elections, government and active citizenship through experiential lessons in an engaging graphic novel format.

Educational Product — ESL, Low Literacy



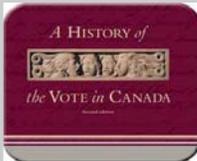
I Can Vote!

Audience: All levels, ESL, low literacy

Description: Teaching resource

I Can Vote! takes the mystery out of voting and shows that voting is all about choice. It is intended for literacy classes and the Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) program but can be used in any venue as a plain-language introduction to the electoral system and government in Canada.

Educational Resources



A History of the Vote in Canada

Audience: Teachers and secondary school students

Description: Background resource

This 150-page, full-colour book is a great background resource for any teacher. It recounts how Canadians acquired the right to vote and how they overcame obstacles in exercising this right.

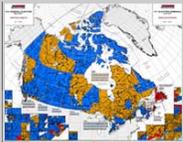


The Electoral System of Canada

Audience: Teachers and secondary school students

Description: Background resource

Ever wonder what happens behind the scenes at Elections Canada? *The Electoral System of Canada* explains how Canadian elections are run and describes key aspects of the federal electoral process.



Maps Corner

Description: Maps of Canada's provincial and territorial electoral districts and regions

Searching for a visual way to explain how federal elections take place? Check out the Maps Corner to find provincial and territorial maps with the federal electoral boundaries and voting results from past elections.



Classroom Posters

Description: Background resources for educators and students

Elections Canada has two informational posters for the classroom: the *Voting Rules! Democracy in Canada* poster and the *Vox Populi – The Evolution of Electoral Democracy in Canada* poster.

For more information and to order

Online



www.elections.ca

(click on "teacher" under "I am a:")

or

bit.ly/election-education



By phone

1-800-463-6868 (TTY 1-800-361-8935)

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