



# Chalk Talk

Greetings | Feature | Contest | Young Voters

**PLEASE SHARE CHALK TALK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES!!!**

## Letter from the Editor

Dear Educators,

There used to be a clothing chain TV ad which ran for 20 years that used the slogan "An educated consumer is our best customer." It makes me think, surely an educated citizen would be the very best kind of voter. Technology and social media have given us access to more information than ever but I wonder whether we are actually better informed.

Ontario's 2007 provincial election included a referendum on what was called *mixed member proportional (MMP) representation*. The proposal for a new voting system was defeated. The pros and cons of the system aside, it appears that voters rejected it primarily because they didn't understand it. Although this voting system has been adopted by a number of legislatures around the world, many voters felt that the concept was too complicated. Did voters disagree with the idea, or did they step back in apprehension and confusion?

We live in an increasingly complex world, where issues have global implications and learning curves can be steep. It isn't easy to be "informed." I think I understood the basics of MMP but was unsure of its impact. When I cast my first vote at 18, there were no personal computers, no Internet, no globalization, no cell phones, no 24-hour news cycle. Maybe things were simpler then. Imagine being a young person today, trying to sift through all the information – and get around the distractions – to gain a grasp of the issues.

Fewer than 40 percent of eligible voters aged 18 to 24 voted in the last federal election. How can we expect them to participate fully in our democracy if they aren't sufficiently educated about the electoral and legislative systems, or engaged on the issues that matter to them?

This week's *Chalk Talk* features free classroom resources and programs from **Elections Canada**. They help educators to increase students' political interest and understanding as well as promote dialogue and discussion with peers – two indicators of future voting behaviour. There is also information on the [National Democracy Challenge](#), which encourages young Canadians to use the arts, technology and social media to "show and tell" their take on democracy in action.

CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting the important work of teachers. Visit our website at [www.4edu.ca](http://www.4edu.ca) to view the many free teachers' resources on offer. [Your feedback is welcome](#)

Mary Kovack

## Elections Canada



### Elections Canada at your conferences!

Elections Canada staff will be exhibiting at several teacher conferences in October and 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:

**BC Social Studies Teachers Association Conference**

Vancouver Technical Secondary School  
Vancouver, BC  
October 25, 2013

**Conférence pédagogique des Éducatrices et éducateurs francophones du Manitoba**

Université de Saint-Boniface  
Winnipeg, MB  
October 24-25

**Manitoba Social Sciences Teachers' Association  
Special Area Groups of Educators (SAGE) Conference**

Kildonan East Collegiate  
Winnipeg, MB  
October 25, 2013

**Nova Scotia Social Studies Teachers  
Association Conference**

Lockview High School  
Fall River, NS  
October 25, 2013

**Teacher's Institute on Canadian Parliamentary  
Democracy Conference**

Lord Elgin Hotel  
Ottawa, ON  
November 5, 2013

**Colloque de l'Association des directions et directions  
adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes**

Courtyard by Marriott Hotel  
Toronto, ON  
November 6-8, 2013

**Ontario History and Social Sciences Teachers'  
Association Conference**

White Oaks Conference Resort and Spa  
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON  
November 15-16, 2013

**Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers  
Annual Convention**

Palais des congrès  
Montréal, QC  
November 21-22, 2013



# SHOW & TELL DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

PRIZES FOR BEST  
VIDEO • IMAGE • WRITING

ENTER THE CHALLENGE NOW  
[DEMOCRACY-DEMOCRATIE.CA](http://DEMOCRACY-DEMOCRATIE.CA)



DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 16, 2013



## SHOW & TELL DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

SCHOOL CHALLENGE  
**CALLING ALL TEACHERS  
HAVE YOUR STUDENTS ENTER NOW!**

The school with the most entries wins a 2014 Forum for Young Canadians bursary for one student.

Forum brings students (aged 15–19) to Ottawa for a week-long, behind-the-scenes look at Canadian politics and public affairs.

Visit [democracy-democratie.ca](http://democracy-democratie.ca) for challenge rules, lesson plans and educational resources.

[DEMOCRACY-DEMOCRATIE.CA](http://DEMOCRACY-DEMOCRATIE.CA)



DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 16, 2013

IN COLLABORATION WITH:



## Website of the week

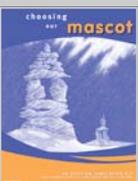
**Elections Canada** [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca)

**SPARK INTEREST IN VOTING**  
We provide the educational tools and resources!

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.

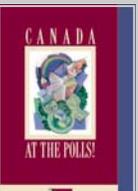
### Educational Products — Elementary Level



#### Choosing Our Mascot

**Audience:** Kindergarten to Grade 4

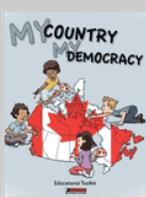
**Description:** Election simulation kit – Have your students choose a classroom mascot. The kit includes instructions on how to conduct a mock election, activity booklets and election materials.



#### Canada at the Polls!

**Audience:** Grades 5 to 8

**Description:** Election simulation kit and student council election guide – This kit contains a step-by-step guide and election materials (ballot box, voting screen, tally sheets, sample ballots) for conducting an election simulation or a student council election.



## My Country, My Democracy

**Audience:** Kindergarten to Grade 4

**Description:** Divided into three levels of difficulty, this workbook 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.

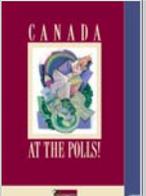


## Voting Rules!

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

**Description:** 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 – This kit contains a step-by-step guide and election materials (ballot box, voting screen, tally sheets, sample ballots) or conducting an election simulation or a student council election.



### Voting Rules!

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

**Description:** Civic education program that teaches students about democracy, voting, elections, government and active citizenship through experiential lessons in an engaging graphic novel format.

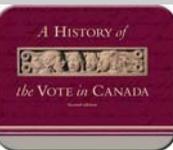
## Educational Resources



### I Can Vote!

**Audience:** All levels, ESL, low literacy

**Description:** Plain-language introduction to the electoral system and government in Canada.



### A History of the Vote in Canada

**Audience:** Teachers and secondary school students

**Description:** 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:** 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 election results.



### Classroom Posters

**Description:** *Voting Rules! Democracy in Canada* poster and the *Vox Populi – The Evolution of Electoral Democracy in Canada*.

## For more information and to order



Online

[www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca)

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

or

[bit.ly/election-education](http://bit.ly/election-education)



By phone

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

To be added to this mailing list, please opt in by clicking [here](#)

To be removed from this mailing list, please opt out by clicking [here](#)

We are the Company for Education Communications. We specialize in developing, producing and evaluating school resources and award programs. Working in conjunction with Departments/Ministries of Education, school district/boards, associations, teachers and subject specialists across the country; we provide free, curriculum-based educational resources to Canadian classrooms.

The opinions, conclusions and other information expressed in the preceding content do not necessarily reflect the views of and are not endorsed by CoEd Communications.

📞 416.955.9526  
📞 416.955.0815

THE COMPANY FOR EDUCATION COMMUNICATIONS INC.

66 George St., 3rd floor • Toronto, ON, Canada, M5A 4K8 • [www.4edu.ca](http://www.4edu.ca) • [info@4edu.ca](mailto:info@4edu.ca)