

EQUAL VOICE

Year in Review
2018-2019



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



What a year for Equal Voice!

2018-19 was one of the most dynamic and exciting years in Equal Voice's history.

We focused on preparing the next generation of women leaders with our high-impact Daughters of the Vote program, a National Campaign School for Women, and new series of online tools to support women in their journey to political office. We made an impact on legislatures across Canada through our Systemic Change initiative, and provided information and analysis on women in politics.

We know Equal Voice's efforts are having an impact – Daughters of the Vote alumni are being elected to political office, and more are standing as candidates. We are so proud of all these women, and all those who are contributing behind the scenes to elect more women! We are especially proud of Nancy Peckford, who served as Equal Voice's Executive Director for a decade, and in 2018 was elected Mayor of North Grenville. I was excited to join Equal Voice as Executive Director in April 2019.

Despite our many successes in the past year, there is still so much to do, and Equal Voice's work is more urgent than ever. As this goes to press, Canada currently has no women premiers, our largest federal parties are led by men, as are most of our major cities. Equal Voice is making a difference, but we need your help to do more. Become a member, get involved in a local Chapter, or contribute to our national programs. Together we can elect more women.

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink that reads 'Eleanor Fast'.

Eleanor Fast
Executive Director

OUR MISSION

EQUAL VOICE IS A NATIONAL, BILINGUAL, MULTI-PARTISAN NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO ELECTING MORE WOMEN TO ALL LEVELS OF POLITICAL OFFICE IN CANADA.

OUR IMPACT

100+

Media impressions (excluding DOV) focused on all facets of women's representation in politics

1M+

Twitter impressions building widespread awareness of our mission and programs.

15

Equal Voice national events convening elected officials, young women leaders, supporters and corporate and community sponsors.

13

Equal Voice chapters across Canada, plus a growing network of university chapters.

52

Local Equal Voice chapter events across Canada, building skills, networks and community

"We need more women at all levels of government in order to make better and more balanced public policy decisions. Women still face multiple barriers to running for elected office, and it is important that elected men and women encourage, mentor, and support them."

*- The Honourable Hedy Fry, MP
Vancouver Centre*

SPEAKING OUT

Equal Voice is a go-to authority on women in politics. We regularly provide expert commentary in the media, at conferences and government tables on women's under-representation in politics, the issues, and the challenges.

- **Totalled 1,969 media hits, with a total reach of 19,597,976!**
- **Tracked election results for women candidates in the Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba, Newfoundland and New Brunswick provincial elections.**
- **Provided expert testimony to the Standing Committee on the Status of Women on barriers facing women in politics. The Committee's report cites Equal Voice's systemic change research 40+ times.**

Equal Voice is working to transform outdated systems in Canadian politics.

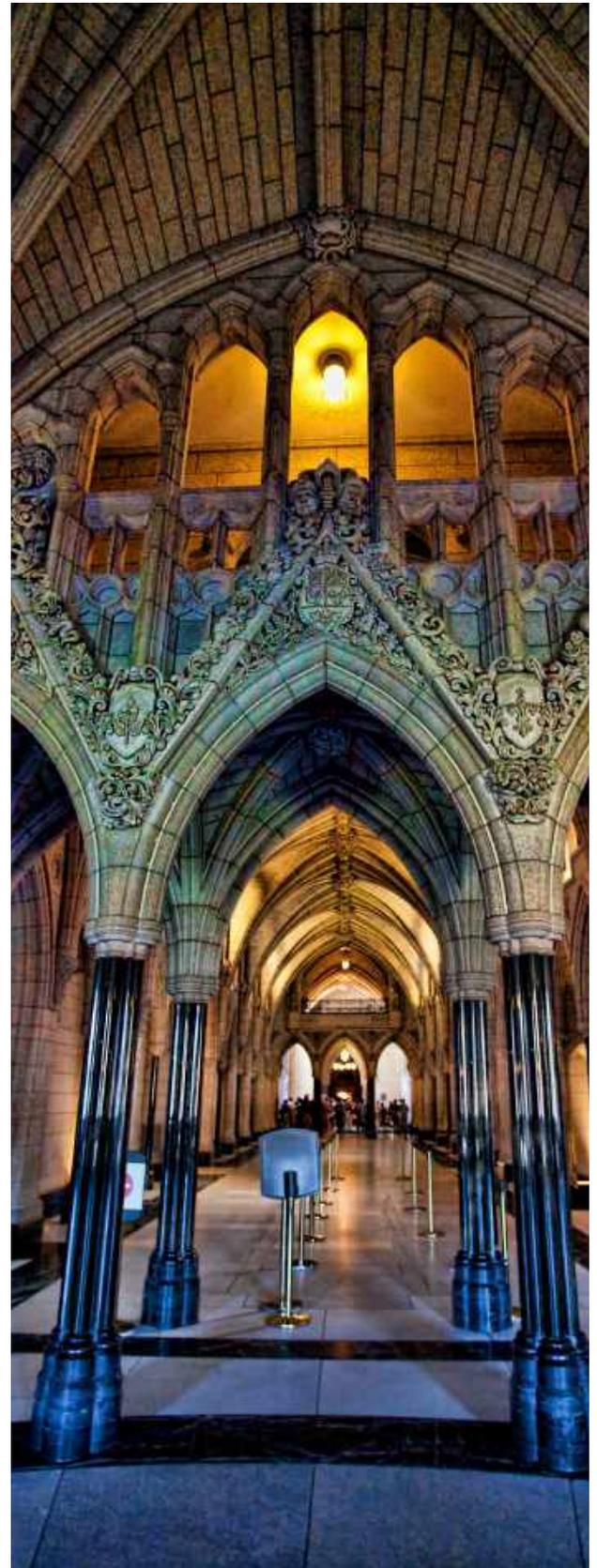
Our Systemic Change initiative advances recommendations to modernize Canadian federal and provincial legislative assemblies and to retain women in politics. We collaborate with elected officials from all parties and key stakeholders to advance changes.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Conducted research on gender-sensitive parliaments, including national surveys, international best practices, and consultations with experts.
- Reviewed Canadian legislative systems to identify systematic barriers and developed policy recommendations to support more inclusive legislatures. In partnership with elected officials, advanced the adoption of policies within provincial legislators such as sexual harassment and security policies.
- Successfully advocated for parity legislation to get more women on the ballot alongside Groupe femmes politique et démocratie in Quebec and with Regroupement féministe du Nouveau-Brunswick.

"Studies have proven that women improve the management and performance of companies. Meaning that we, as women in politics, must also be improving the management and performance of this country. So I will continue to work to ensure there are more women. This is not only an issue of moral or ethical equality - it's just good sense."

- The Honourable Lisa Raitt, MP Milton



DAUGHTERS OF THE VOTE



Our government is proud to support this important project that not only empowers young women from across the country to seek public office, but gives them the tools to lead in their own communities. Efforts like this are essential to ensuring a stronger, more representative democracy where everyone, regardless of gender, has an equal and fair chance at success."

-The Honourable Maryam Monsef, Minister of Women and Gender Equality

EQUAL VOICE EMPOWERS YOUNG WOMEN TO TAKE THEIR RIGHTFUL PLACE IN CANADIAN POLITICS.

Daughters of the Vote is our ground-breaking, multi-partisan political leadership program that brings together 338 young women and gender diverse leaders aged 18-23 – one from every federal riding across Canada – to represent their community and take their seat in Parliament.

Now in its second edition, we have seen how Daughters of the Vote has impacted the lives of participants. Many participants have gained a greater familiarity with Canada's political institutions and built lasting support networks with one another. Many have gone on to work in politics at different levels, lead advocacy and cause-based initiatives, and some have even run for office! We are inspired by their leadership and successes.

This program is funded by the Department for Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) as well as corporate and community sponsors.

"When we talk about a woman Prime Minister, it shouldn't be something people have to adjust their minds to"
- Elizabeth May MP, Leader of the Green Party





CELEBRATING WOMEN AND ALLIES

Equal Voice knows that representation matters.

We celebrate the gains that have been made and recognize that the work towards equitable political participation for women is far from complete.

- Rosemary Speirs, the Founder of Equal Voice, was recognized by Canada's Prime Minister for her visionary leadership and legacy to women in public life.
- Hosted a national Daughters of the Vote summit in Ottawa. The program included a historic sitting in the House of Commons and Senate, an Indigenous Forum, a Black Leaders Forum, leadership workshops, skills training and engagement opportunities with elected officials of all stripes.
- Presented a study on women's engagement in politics by Abacus Data. Data revealed that 77% of Canadians believe men and women are treated differently in politics and that mentorship and educational programs for women, like Daughters of the Vote, are critical for change.
- 2017 Daughters of the Vote participants developed advocacy toolkits for fellow young women and gender diverse leaders. Toolkits aim to accelerate advocacy efforts on issues such as gender-based violence, mental health and decolonization.
- Earned 1,969 national media impressions! #DaughtersoftheVote trended worldwide, nationally, and locally, and other organic hashtags also trended at different levels across Canada.
- On International Women's Day, Ontario MPP Lisa MacLeod was honoured with our National EVE Award for her work on livable legislatures and role as an early and crucial champion of Daughters of the Vote.
- The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau received our Catalyst for Change Award for his leadership in appointing Canada's first gender-balanced cabinet.



EQUAL VOICE CHAPTERS

Equal Voice chapters create opportunities for women across party lines.

From networking gatherings to skills-building events, Equal Voice chapters actively engage, educate and promote the participation of women at every level of government.



*"Advancing women's equality is not just fair and just, it's good for our community, it's good for our economy."
- Rachel Notley, MLA Alberta, Leader of the Opposition*

Equal Voice Chapters

- Alberta South
- British Columbia
- Central Vancouver Island
- Nova Scotia
- Manitoba
- National Capital Region
- Newfoundland and Labrador
- Quebec
- Saskatchewan
- Toronto
- Waterloo
- Victoria
- Yukon



EQUAL VOICE SUPPORTS WOMEN TO RUN AND WIN POLITICAL OFFICE

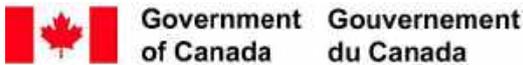
We equip women and gender non-conforming candidates through building networks, sharing experiences of other elected women, and demystifying the political process.

- Launched our From Votes to Victory campaign with approximately 100 supporters in Ottawa. This campaign's innovative tools include a political action chatbot; and an online guidebook and activity booklet.
- Led a series of in-person campaign schools for women – from our National Campaign School in Ottawa to pre-election trainings hosted by chapters across Canada.
- Embarked on an exciting partnership to support women municipal candidates with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Canadian Women's Foundation.



DONORS

**Thank you to our corporate and
community partners**



**We also extend our thanks to all of our individual donors and to
Equal Voice members across Canada.**

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THANK YOU

for supporting Equal Voice



MERCI

pour votre soutien d'À Voix Égales

