

2020 - 2021

Year in Review





Year in Review

The 2020/21 year was like no other for Equal Voice, taking place entirely during the Covid-19 pandemic. It was a difficult year for women in Canada, with the pandemic having a disproportionate effect on women's participation in the workforce, the rise of intimate partner violence, and the impact of the pandemic on mental health. We thank the Board of Directors, Equal Voice Chapters across the country, and our staff team for their commitment to Equal Voice, and our mission of electing more women, during this unprecedented year.

To ensure the health and safety of all our staff, volunteers, members, and program participants, we quickly pivoted from in-person events to virtual formats with extraordinary impact. We launched a virtual Coffee Series with MPs, hosted the first-ever virtual National Campaign School, delivered the third edition and first virtual Daughters of the Vote (DOV), and continued our advocacy work. Our Chapters also hosted several meaningful online events that provided a space for connection during this difficult year.

We are incredibly proud of the work our small, yet mighty team accomplished in the 2020-2021 fiscal year, and feel honoured and inspired to work alongside hundreds of volunteers across the country who share our vision that Canada urgently needs more women in politics. It has been

extraordinary to see the real impacts our programs have on the lives and careers of women across Canada. Many participants have run for office, joined campaigns, or become involved in politics in other ways. DOV delegates continue to run community projects and initiatives while being supported by the Rosemary Speirs Leadership Grant.

However, as much as we know Equal Voice is making an enormous impact, we also recognize that there is still much more to be done, because until women, in all their diversity, have an equal voice and are truly heard at the decision-making tables of this country, our work must continue. This year saw 100 women MPs sitting in the House of Commons, and yet women still only represent 29% of MPs. Change in Canada has been slow and incremental, and if we want to see gender parity in our lifetime, we need to act now.

Horrific events in Canada and around the world in 2020-2021 have focused our attention on systemic racism directed against Black, Indigenous, Asian and all people of colour, as well as Islamophobia and other forms of hate. Equal Voice will continue to work against hate and injustice, as well as working to help elect women that represent the diversity of Canada. In the past year, we have continued our work to embed diversity, equity, inclusion (DEI) and

accessibility throughout the organization and our programs. This includes mandatory anti-racism anti-oppression training for staff, Board, Chapters and DOV participants; reviewing workplace policies and our programs through an equity lens; developing workplace values and anti-racism statements; and supporting the work of organizations committed to greater representation and inclusion in Canadian politics. We are committed to DEI and accessibility at the heart of all our work, and to supporting diverse women and gender diverse people get elected.

This coming year - 2021-2022 - is a big year for our organization; we celebrate 20 years of working to elect more women in Canadian politics and reflect on the 100-year anniversary of the first woman elected to the House of Commons. The Equal Voice Foundation was granted charitable status which will provide our supporters with new ways to support women in politics. We encourage you to support our work and more importantly, to support all women and gender diverse people who have the courage to stand for elected office.

The Hon. Eleni Bakopanos, P.C.
Chair of the Board

Eleanor Fast
Executive Director

Mission

Equal Voice is a multi-partisan organization dedicated to electing and supporting women at all levels of political office.

Vision

Gender parity in politics

Strategic Goals

2020 - 2024

1

Equipping women
to succeed in
politics

2

Retaining women
in politics

3

Advocating for
representation

4

Building
organizational
capacity

Guiding Principles

- We are multi-partisan and work with all political parties to nominate and elect more women.
- We are committed to equity, diversity and inclusion, and accessibility in all our work.
- We are bilingual and endeavour to incorporate Indigenous languages in our work.
- We are national and operate through regional Chapters across Canada.
- We are a non-profit, funded through individual donations, partnerships, and grants.

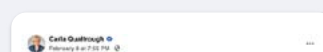
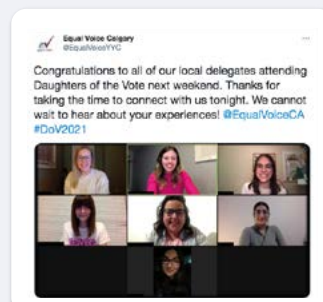
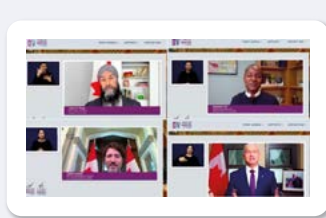
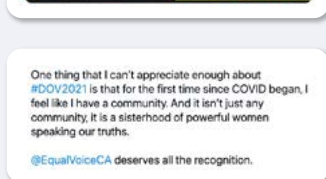
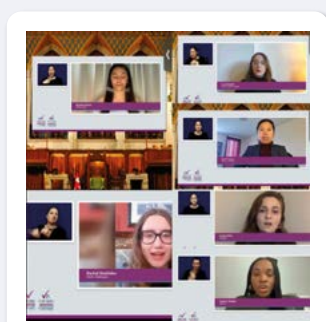
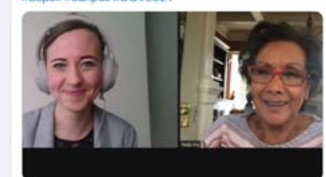
Daughters of the Vote

From March 5th to 8th, 2021, Equal Voice delivered our signature conference: **Daughters of the Vote (DOV)**. This was the third edition of the conference, but the first-ever virtual DOV. We had over 400 people participating, including delegates, Elders, panelists, partnering organizations, sponsors, and leaders from every federal political party in Canada.

MP and Delegate engagement

Members of Parliament have always played an important role in the success of DOV, and even more so this year as MP-delegate meetings were crucial in making the virtual conference more impactful.

We are always grateful for MPs' support for the continued success of the event.



Delegate participation

There was tremendous engagement from delegates before, during, and after the conference. We were thrilled that the virtual format provided great engagement, networking, and new learning opportunities such as the virtual parliamentary committee sessions in which each delegate represented their riding on a topic currently being discussed by parliamentary committees. The platform maintained a 99% attendance rate throughout the 4-day virtual conference (March 5-8, 2021).

During the event, delegates participated in:



A total of **126** breakout sessions,
4,000+ chat messages exchanged



315 one-on-one meetings
scheduled between delegates.



Forums for Black delegates
and Indigenous delegates



20+ parliamentary
committee simulations



375 live questions
asked to speakers



Opportunities to meet and get
involved with political parties



Speeches from all political party
leaders, including the Prime Minister



C'est un programme que j'ai entièrement adoré. C'est une expérience dont je me souviendrai toujours et tout ce que j'y ai appris pourra être appliqué en tout temps dans mon futur. J'ai pu garder contact avec des femmes ayant la même passion et motivation que moi et c'est vraiment génial!"

2021 Delegate



As someone who often doesn't see many people from my background in politics, it was an honour and privilege to take part in this leadership summit. I met countless intelligent and accomplished women, all of whom I am thankful to have met and built networks with. I was able to be present in spaces that traditionally exclude women of my identity or do not feel within reach for us, and for that, I am eternally grateful!"

2021 Delegate



Daughters of the Vote was a fantastic experience! For four days, I got to learn from some amazing women working in politics and connect with like minded individuals. I left feeling inspired and empowered! Thank you Equal Voice for giving me this awesome opportunity!"

2021 Delegate



DOV was powerful. I made friendships and connections I never thought possible. The emotion and sense of pride I felt throughout the program is indescribable. I am beyond grateful for the DOV team and everyone who came to share their story with us. I will cherish and carry this experience with me forever. All the way to the office!"

2021 Delegate

Delegate feedback was very positive in terms of speakers, platform, and overall program. Many reflected on the experience as one that gave them new connections and a sense of community during the pandemic isolation.

Rosemary Speirs Community Grant Fund

The Community Fund is named in honour of Dr. Rosemary Speirs, a founder of Equal Voice. The Grant was offered to 2017 and 2019 delegates to financially support them in realizing beneficial initiatives in their communities. The Grant is an excellent way for delegates to showcase their leadership skills and aims to connect delegates by allowing participating grant applicants to pool their funds and collaborate on a project. We have seen such tremendous passion, creativity, and strength of our delegates through these grants. We thank the Department for Women and Gender Equality for helping us support the next generation of leaders.

Some incredible projects have taken place!

- Number of projects: **96**
- Number of completed projects: **53**
- Number of delegates participating: **116 (21 projects were group projects)**

Types of projects:

- Community gathering and knowledge exchange
- Advocacy and social change initiative
- Girls and/or young women's program
- Skill-building and educational event/program
- Mentorship and support network
- Initiative advancing, decolonization and Indigenous rights
- E-learning
- Events and mentorship program

Dance Workshops for Inner-city Youth

Kayla Lariviere, 2019 delegate for Saint Boniface- Saint Vital, has successfully completed her project as part of the Rosemary Speirs Leadership Grant! Her initiative consisted in offering a day full of professionally taught dancing classes to the children in her community.



Finding Refuge

Tiffany Kwok, 2019 delegate for Spadina Fort-York, hosted an event to raise awareness on the issue of refugees arriving in Canada: their personal stories and testimonies of migration, the resources currently available in Canada (more specifically the GTA) to support these refugees, and examine areas in which the Canadian society is lacking in helping to support these people as of current.



Mamawi Project - Summer Gathering

Angelique Belcourt, 2019 delegate for Etobicoke-Lakeshore, used her grant to offer Métis youth time laughing, visiting, connecting with places important to Métis people. Her audience gathered to hear about Métis literature and poetry curated by community elders.



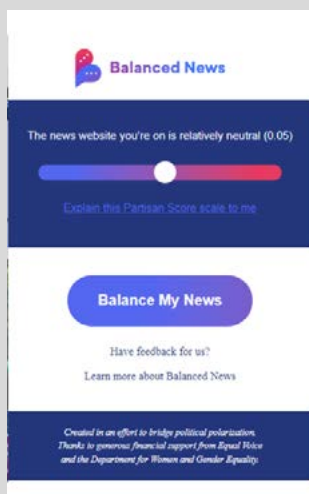
Lancement d'articles "zéro déchet" par des finissants du secondaire

Megan Audet, 2019 delegate for Abitibi-Ouest, hosted an event for youth to teach them how and why it was important to live waste-free. During her event, she even offered a cooking class to show her audience how to cook to avoid wasting food.



Balanced News

2017 delegate Carol Chen, developed with other students a Chrome Extension that helps read the news from different perspectives in the objective that critical thinking becomes easier for everyone. By making news from the other side a click away, Balanced News aims to simplify the process of seeking out news from the other side to bridge the deepening knowledge gap which contributes to political polarization.



Project Breaking Barriers

Bibi Hakim, 2019 delegate for Kitchener South Hespeler, hosted several events to bring awareness to mental health and access to education. 5 events were in total and 75 students participated along with community members. The project was able to reach 105 people.

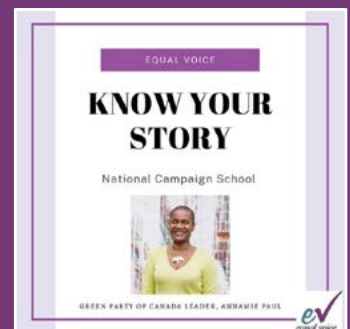


Virtual National Campaign School

Equal Voice has run many in-person campaign schools in past years. The Covid-19 pandemic encouraged us to move our campaign schools virtual. Instead of taking place over a weekend, the training was divided into eight themed 90-minute sessions every Tuesday and Thursday for a month. Guest speakers included elected officials, campaign managers, and public affairs specialists, and community activists. Participants completed an accompanying workbook and received a certificate after completion.

“The Equal Voice Campaign School is a great launchpad for women thinking about running for office! They cover a huge breadth of topics and engage with a fantastic group of speakers including those who have successfully run for office. Learning about the path other women have taken, and their reasons for entering politics, was an invaluable experience.”

2021 Campaign School Participant



Coffee Break Series

In the Spring of 2020, Equal Voice was an early adopter of webinar technology and put in place a "Coffee Break Series". This was an opportunity for Equal Voice members and supporters from across Canada to hear from different MPs about the transition to virtual politics.



Chapters

Campaign Manager + Candidate: the relationship



Kelly Gallagher, political veteran & Partner at Martin Charlton Communications

Alanna Koch, Saskatchewan political leader

Moderator Kaitlyn Krizan
Equal Voice Daughter of the Voice and youth political and agriculture leader

Thursday, June 11 at 12:00pm MST
RSVP to Saskatchewan@equalvoice.ca for your free Zoom details

equal voice

- Equal Voice Chapters are powerful catalysts across Canada. From networking to skills-building events, Equal Voice Chapters actively engage, educate, and promote multi-partisan networking, cooperation, relationship building, and mentoring opportunities.
- Throughout the pandemic, Equal Voice's Chapters have been active in connecting with our local members and organizing engaging events.

Highlights of EV Chapters Events in 2020 include:

Saskatchewan Chapter

- Change your world. Run for Mayor
- Federal Conservative/Liberal panel
- Campaign Manager & Candidate

Toronto Chapter

- Equal Voice Lunch and Learn

Calgary Chapter

- Post-stampede Event
- A Conversation with the Honourable Jean Augustine & Emma May
- Virtual Local Holiday Pop-up Shop
- She Governs: Participating in Municipal Leadership

Nova Scotia Chapter

- Bring EV's work to life in Nova Scotia

National Capital Region Chapter

- What I wish I knew - Panel Discussion

Newfoundland and Labrador Chapter

- Pop up Campaign School



Virtual Local Holiday Pop-Up

November 27, 2020
Noon-1:00pm MT

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Newfoundland and Labrador

Pop Up Campaign School

First Session: feat. Dr. Amanda Bittner, Memorial University Department of Political Science

March 13, 7pm at Rocket Bakery - Water St.
All are welcome, free of charge
For more info contact: NL@equalvoice.ca

Equal Voice is a national, bilingual, multi-partisan organization dedicated to electing more women to all levels of political office in Canada



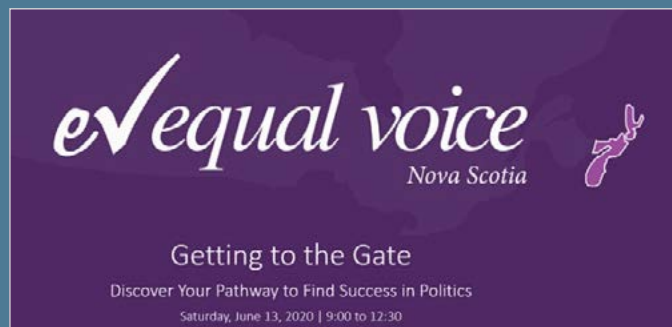
You're invited to a lunchtime discussion with...

AUTHOR AND CAMPAIGN ORGANIZER
PAT SORBARA

&

moderated by Supriya Duvvadi, Radio Host for Global News

Tuesday, June 30 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM (EST)
Free event. Please RSVP for Zoom link.



equal voice

Nova Scotia

Getting to the Gate

Discover Your Pathway to Find Success in Politics

Saturday, June 13, 2020 | 9:00 to 12:30

Thank you to our supporters

Equal Voice is grateful for the support and partnership of our incredible donors, sponsors, and supporters, who share our vision that Canada urgently needs more women in politics. Our work in 2020-2021 was only possible thanks to you. A heartfelt thank you to all our individual donors.

Thank you to the government and corporate sponsors of our work.





Equal Voice Canada

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Get involved with EV, stay engaged with the organization + get connected with your local EV chapter

To learn more about how you can support and get involved with Equal Voice, please visit our website:

https://www.equalvoice.ca/membership_plans

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