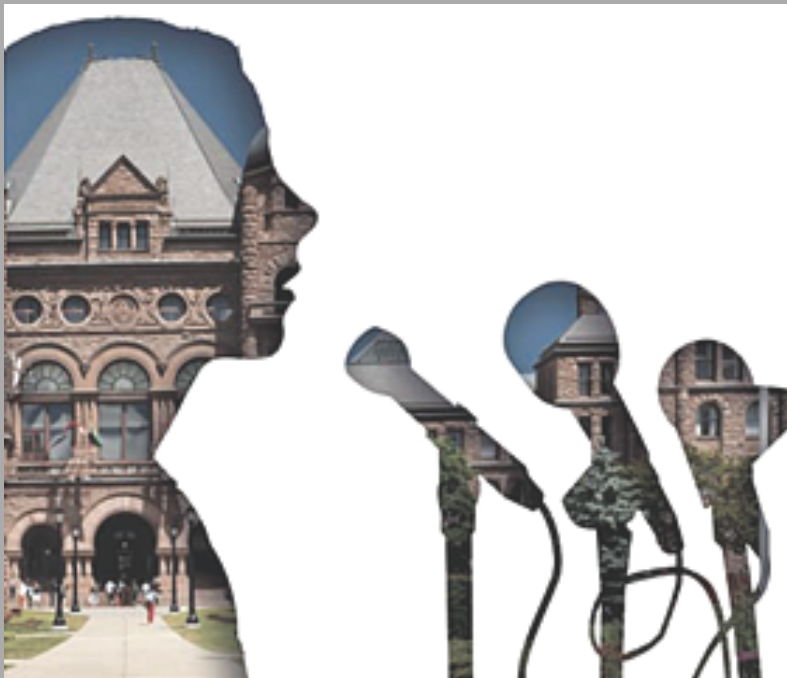




# GIRLS'

## GOVERNMENT

*Engaging Grade 8 Girls in the process of  
Provincial Government*



# So, what exactly is

## GIRLS' GOVERNMENT?

Equal Voice Toronto is a non-partisan organization dedicated to electing more women to all levels of political office in Canada. Equal Voice promotes the election of more women through a range of activities and initiatives, including outreach with young women to inspire them to consider politics as a future career choice.

Girls' Government was created by Parkdale-High Park MPP Cheri DiNovo in 2008 and has been run by MPPs from all three major parties in previous years.

Girls' Government engages and educates participants on the political process through experiential learning. Girls meet monthly with MPP Lindo and her staff over an 8 month period. Through a variety of activities, participants will decide on a social issue that they are passionate about. They will engage with relevant community leaders and learn how to advocate for positive change on their issue.

# WHY is this initiative important?

## GIRLS' GOVERNMENT

39.5%

The current % of women MPPs  
in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

mentorship

community  
building

visibility

The 2018 provincial election saw a record number of women MPPs elected to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. But there is still much more work to be done before we reach gender parity at all levels of government. Young girls need to see women in elected office so that they too will aspire to serve their communities. Representation matters!

**HELLO**

MY NAME IS

*The next Premier of Ontario*




# WHO IS YOUR LOCAL MPP?




## MPP LAURA MAE LINDO



In 2018, MPP Lindo was elected as the Member of Provincial Parliament for the riding of Kitchener Centre. MPP Lindo is the Ontario NDP Critic for Anti-Racism and NDP Critic for Citizenship and Immigration Services.

MPP Lindo is a respected activist and educator who holds both a Masters and PhD in Education. Her commitment to building inclusive communities both within and outside of educational environments is grounded in her knowledge of how to put anti-oppression theories into practice. 

Laura Mae is a knowledgeable advocate for the rights of women and girls, a respected ally to marginalized community members, and, most importantly, a courageous public speaker on issues often left unaddressed in the mainstream 

MPP Lindo believes in investing in the potential of youth and is looking forward to mentoring Waterloo Region's future leaders!

TWITTER @LAURAMAEELINDO - [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/LAURAMAEELINDO](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/LAURAMAEELINDO)

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# OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM

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Up to 16 Grade 8 girls from one school in the riding of Kitchener Centre are selected to participate in the program.



8 one hour meetings take place over the course of 8 months; starting in November and finishing in June. Meetings give participants the chance to interact with each other, as well with MPP Lindo and her staff.



The participants will be given access to a private Facebook group, this allows them to communicate with each other and receive updates about future meetings. MPP Lindo's staff will manage the group. (Optional.)



The program cumulates with a visit to Queen's Park in May. Participants will be given an insider's tour of Queen's Park, be introduced in the House and watch Question Period, have the opportunity to speak with MPPs from all political parties and give a press conference in the media studio.



1. The selection of participants from each school will be left to the discretion of the Principal/teachers. Sample application forms will be provided by MPP Lindo's office; however the Principal and/or teachers will ultimately use their own judgement and will set their own criteria for selecting participating students. MPP Lindo will not participate in the selection of girls at each school.
2. Meetings will take place once a month for one hour before or after school. The meetings will take place at the school. Please note that the school will need to provide space for these meetings.
3. For the visit to Queen's Park, the school will need to obtain parents' permission, organize transportation and provide the necessary trip chaperones.

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# DRAFT TIMELINE

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## OCTOBER

- Meeting between MPP Lindo, her staff, Principal and teachers
- Deadline for the selection of participating students
- Information session with parents, participants and staff (optional but recommended)

## NOVEMBER: First Girls' Government Meeting

- Participants will be asked to come prepared to discuss issues that are important to them, and be ready to give a short presentation on a significant woman politician and her contributions
- The purpose of this first activity is to emphasize the importance of women in politics, as well as discuss inequity in representation

## DECEMBER: Second Girls' Government Meeting

- Participants will be asked to come prepared with an issue that they would like to be addressed by Girls' Government
- The purpose of this meeting is to discuss, debate and decide upon an issue that the girls would like to focus on
- Homework: Have participants prepare arguments both for and against their issue, and be prepared to argue either side

## JANUARY: Third Girls' Government Meeting

- Debate Day. Participants will be asked to prepare, in teams, positions for and against their chosen issue. They will engage in a Legislative style debate, to help flesh out their strategies for tackling their chosen issue
- Homework: Have girls write letters to appropriate Minister on their issue

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# DRAFT TIMELINE

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## FEBRUARY: Fourth Girls' Government Meeting

- A local community leader will join us for the meeting to discuss the topic that the participants have chosen to focus on
- The special guest will provide an overview of their community organization's approach to addressing the chosen issue and the participants will have an opportunity to ask the special guest questions

## MARCH: Fifth Girls' Government Meeting

- Send letters previously prepared to the appropriate Minister
- Discuss strategy for raising awareness of their issue, what they can do to foster change
- Homework: Have participants prepare a Letter to the Editor

## APRIL: Sixth Girls' Government Meeting

- A local community leader will join us to discuss the topic that the girls have chosen to focus on
- The special guest will provide an overview of their community organization's approach to addressing the chosen issue and the participants will have an opportunity to ask the special guest questions



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# DRAFT TIMELINE

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## MAY: Seventh Girls' Government Meeting

- Discuss strategy for their press conference; develop a script for what they're going to say at the press conference
- Discuss who they are meeting with on the Queen's Park trip, and what questions they would like to ask

## Visit to Queen's Park

- Insider tour of Queen's Park
- Introduction to the Legislature
- Question Period
- Meeting with relevant Ministers/Ministries/Critics regarding their issue
- Press Conference

## JUNE: Eighth Girls' Government Meeting

- De-brief from Queen's Park visit
- Discuss next steps the participants can take to keep their issue alive
- Program review
- Good-bye party!

**GIRLS'** GOVERNMENT



# N E X T   S T E P S

Are teachers at your school interested in participating in Girls' Government for the 2018/19 school year?

Reach out to MPP Lindp's team at [llindopp@ndp.on.ca](mailto:llindopp@ndp.on.ca) or call 519-579-5460 and ask to speak with Carly Pettinger.

We are looking forward to hearing from you and mentoring our student leaders together!

**GIRLS'** GOVERNMENT

