



Thirty Women MPPs Elected in Ontario

October 7, 2011 Toronto: After last night's provincial election, 30 women MPPs will serve in the Ontario legislature, up from 27 women at its dissolution. Women now comprise 28 percent of the provincial legislature - an increase of three percentage points.

Equal Voice tracked female nominations throughout the campaign and encouraged all parties to give voters the opportunity to vote for female candidates.

In February of 2011, the Liberal, NDP and Progressive Conservative parties committed to Equal Voice's Ontario Challenge and agreed to increase the number of women candidates. There were 130 women running for the four major parties: 42 for the Liberals, 39 for the NDP, 25 for the Greens and 24 Progressive Conservatives.

Of those 130 women, 30 were elected to represent their constituents at Queen's Park. This represents 28 percent of the 107 seats in the Provincial Legislature. This represents a modest increase over the 27 seats that women held before the election was called, or 25 percent of the legislature.

Tonight 15 Liberal women won, 7 New Democrats and 8 Progressive Conservatives. No Green Party candidates won. There are 10 new women who will report for work at Queen's Park next week.

"We are very pleased that the Ontario legislature is more representative," said Lesley Byrne, Chair of the Toronto Chapter of Equal Voice. "Unfortunately, not all of the women running succeeded, but their contribution to the political process is very valuable."

"Women candidates send a message that women should be at home in the House."

Equal Voice also congratulates all of the women who ran in the Ontario Provincial election. It was one of the closest races in history and women were integral to the success of each of the parties.

Equal Voice encourages women to get involved now. Equal Voice offers online campaign schools and other tools to assist women in planning and preparing for elections.

"There are so many talented, passionate women across the province," added Byrne. "We need them to recognize the contribution that they can make by putting their name on a ballot. With the next election four years away, they now have the opportunity to plan their lives around running and Equal Voice is available to help."

Equal Voice plans to hold a celebration to recognize all female candidates in early 2012.

Lesley Byrne, Chair, Toronto Chapter (Equal Voice)

www.equalvoice.ca