Afghan Youth Voter Engagement Training

#AYEDIvotes2019 #cdnvote2019

Supported By

#RISINGYOUTH
community service grants

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LAIDLAW FOUNDATION

democratic engagement exchange

CESAR
Continuing Education Students' Association of Ryerson
Local 105 of the Canadian Federation of Students

Welcome to our Advisory Board!

Agenda

1. Introductions, land acknowledgement
2. All about Canada’s voting system and federal elections
3. Making an informed vote
4. How to talk to people about voting
5. How to get involved with a political party
6. Afghan Voting Pledge Campaign
7. Certificates
8. Mingling and networking

Introductions and Land Acknowledgement

Who are we?

- Launched in May 2018
- Identified a need for an initiative that gets young Afghans more involved and engaged in their communities, whether through community service, politics, and so on
- Identified a need for an initiative that develops relevant life skills in Afghans from a young age so they are equipped to navigate educational and professional endeavours

Afghan “Youth”

18-29 years old

- ➔ Education
- ➔ Exposure
- ➔ Advocacy

13-18 years old

- ➔ Leadership and personal development skill building
- ➔ Basic knowledge of civic processes
- ➔ Mentorship

Civic Literacy

> Four Dimensions of Civic Literacy

KNOWLEDGE	APPLICATION
Institutional Knowledge • Democratic institutions and processes • How political power dynamics work in society • The historical evolution of Canada	**Political Ability** • Navigate political participation • Know where to go in government if problems arise
Examples: the three branches of the state; the function of political parties; the methods by which public leaders are elected.	**Examples:** voting; political actions like protesting; writing to elected leaders; engaging with appropriate government agencies; using media to advance a cause.
Topical Knowledge • Issues and current events • Policy discussions • Awareness of parties' positions	**Media Literacy** • Analyze and process information from the Internet and media • Seek out and evaluate original sources
Examples: knowing who the premier or prime minister is; awareness of the public policy issues in play; following current affairs.	**Examples:** recognizing fake news; processing new information and evaluating existing beliefs; identifying bias.

A person with high civic literacy in all these dimensions would be able to critically process topical knowledge, merge that with what they understand about institutions in Canada, and turn that knowledge into an effective action plan for political engagement.

AYEDI has joined The Canadian Vote Coalition

- The **largest** non-partisan voter engagement campaign in Canadian history
- AYEDI has joined The **Canadian Vote Coalition,** a coalition consisting of over 600 organizations across Canada and local leaders who pledge to engage their communities in the upcoming federal elections on October 21, 2019
- The goal of the Coalition is to reach 1 million voters total across Canada!
- **#cdnVOTE2019**

Getting the youth vote out

Campus groups team up to roll out the largest non-partisan voter engagement campaign at Ryerson and across the nation

By: Suelan Toye

September 26, 2019

CANADIAN VOTE COALITION ORGANIZATIONS

5th on 5th Youth Services	Carrefour Jeunesse Emploi - Notre-Dame-de-Grâce	Diversity Votes
Acadia Student's Union	Catholic Centre for Immigrants - CCI Ottawa	Don Valley Community Legal Services
Action Dignity Society	Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood House	Downtown Muslim Professional Network
Afghan Youth Engagement and Development Initiative (AYEDI)	Central Alberta Residence Society	Dominion City Brewing Co.
African Diaspora Youth Network in North America (ADYNA)	Central Neighbourhood House	Edmonton's Next Gen
All Nations Church	Centre for Connected Communities	Environment Hamilton
Boys and Girls Clubs	Centre for Inclusion and Citizenship	Ethnocultural Council of Manitoba
Bradford Womens' Group	Centre for Independent Living Toronto	Evidence 4 Democracy
Brain Injury Canada	Centre for Race and Culture (CFRAC)	Extend-A-Family Waterloo Region
British Columbia Youth Parliament	Check Your Head	Faith in the City
BYTE - Empowering Youth	Citizens for Public Justice	Family Service Toronto And Campaign 2000

AFGHAN YOUTH
ENGAGEMENT
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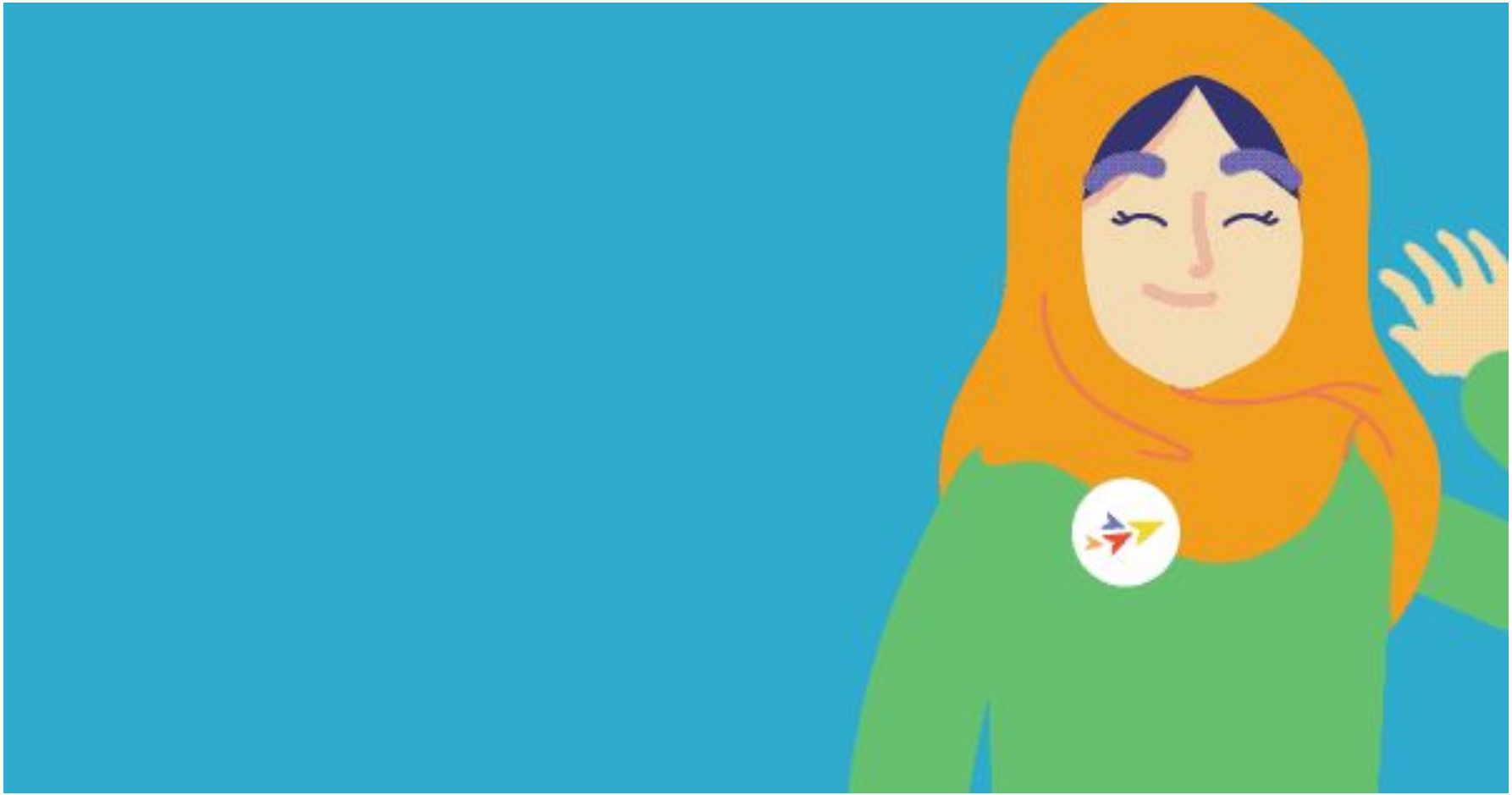
INITIATIVE

All about Canada's voting system and the federal elections

Afghan Youth Voter Engagement Training

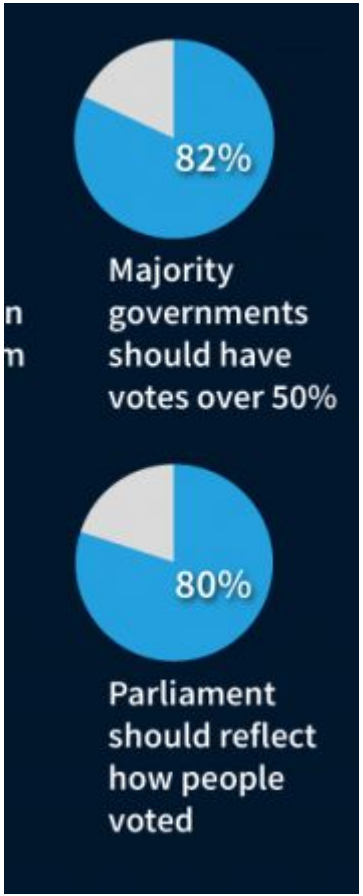


Canada's electoral system: quick facts

- Based on the U.K.'s system - a constitutional monarchy
- Meaning... the Queen of UK is also the Queen of Canada!
- 338 Members of Parliament - local representatives that **we vote for!**
  - **This is what we are voting for in the upcoming elections**
- 105 Senators - **appointed**
- **Video**

First Past the Post System

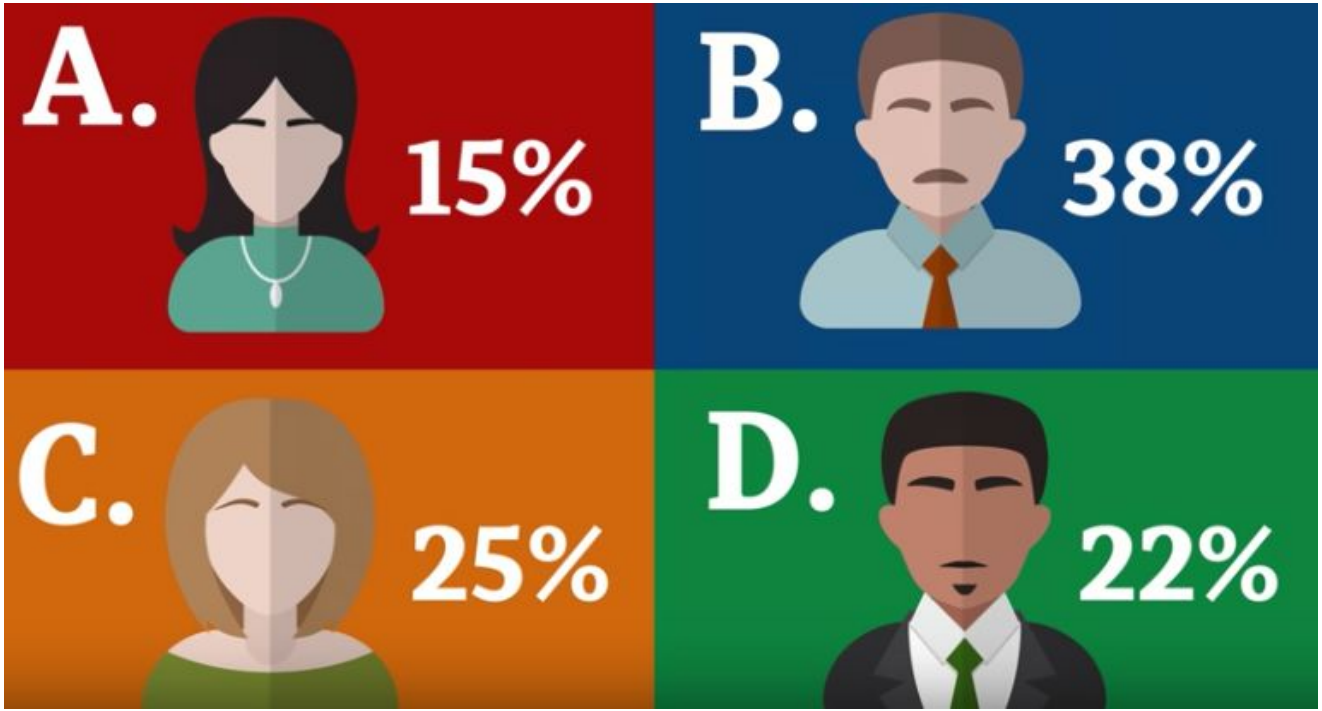
- The leader of the party with the most elected representatives (MPs) becomes Prime Minister and forms Government
- Second highest = Official Opposition
- In every riding, the candidate with the highest number of votes wins
  - Don’t need an absolute majority (i.e., 50% or higher)
- Ridings decided by independent commissions, changes every 10 years based on population changes identified in the census

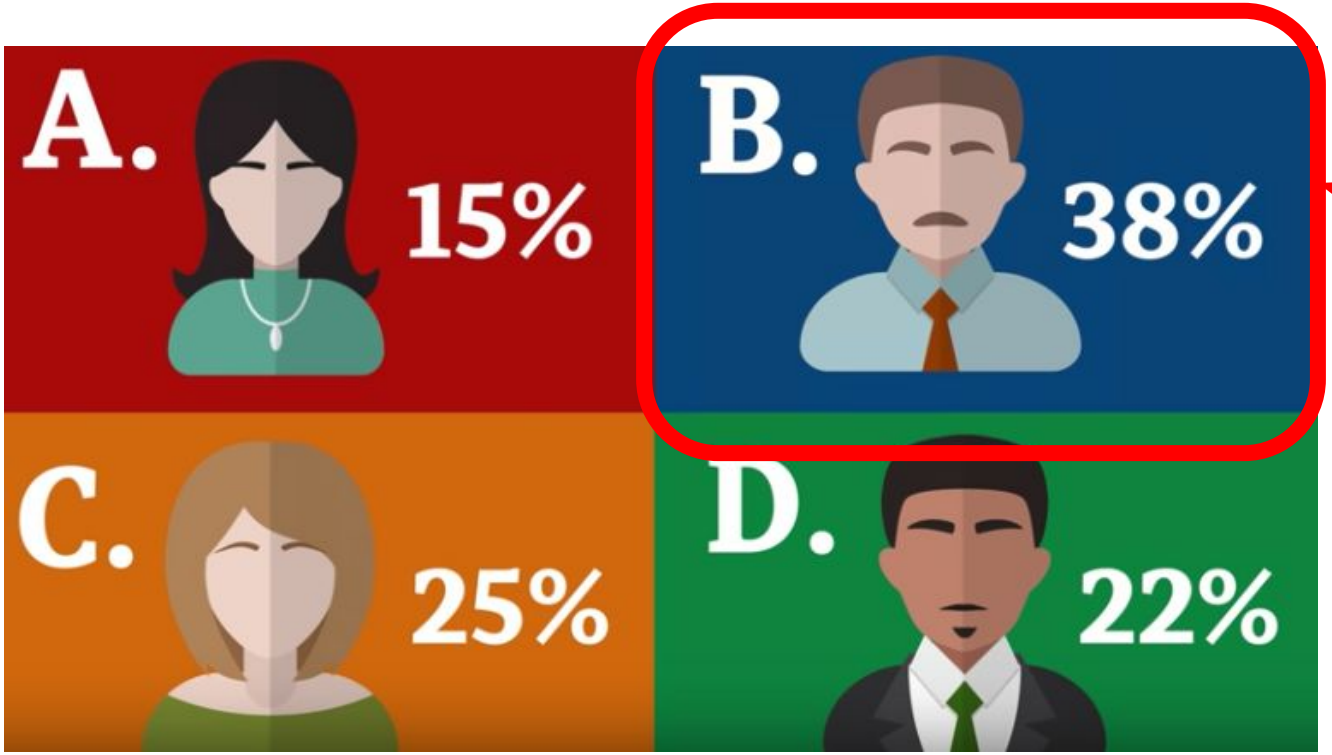


SEPT 2019 ANGUS REID POLL

Other Notes about our system

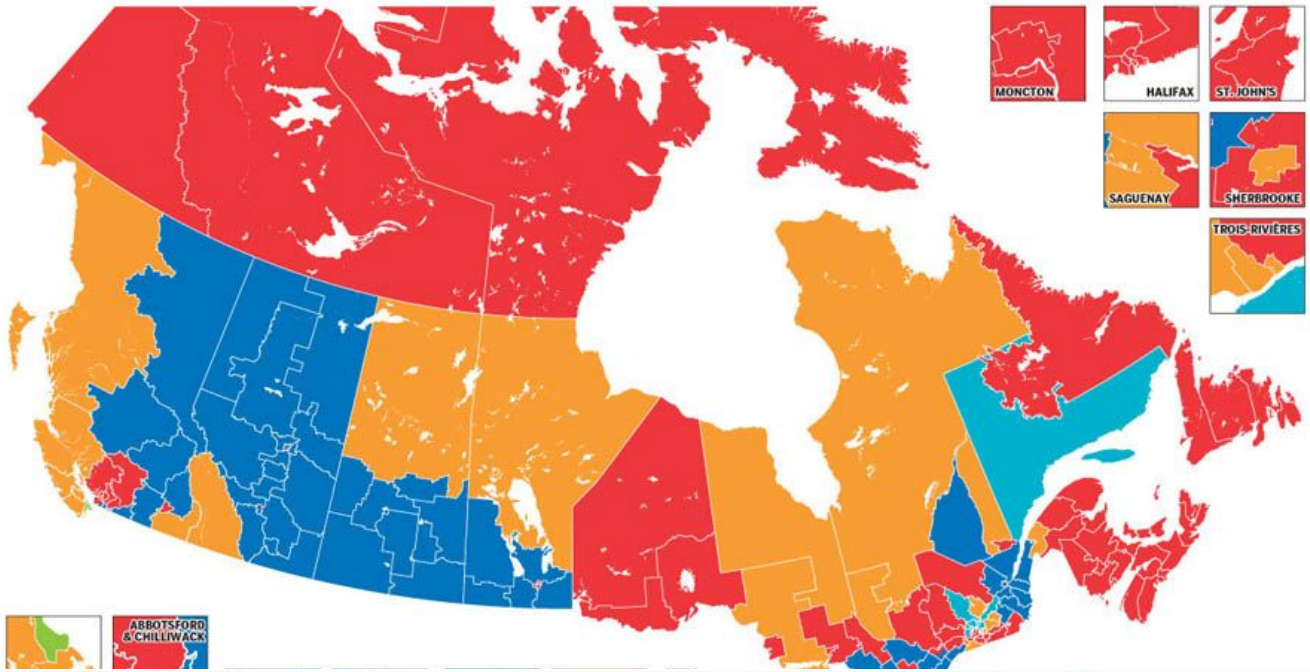
- We have donation limits: $1600 maximum
- You know Elections Canada? Its sole responsibility is administering Canadian federal elections—enforcing legislation, monitoring spending, producing maps of electoral districts, training election officers, and much more


A.
15%
B.
38%
C.
25%
D.
22%



Wins with just 38% of the vote

ELECTION 2015: HOW WE VOTED



LIB	CON	NDP	BQ	GRN
184 seats	99 seats	44 seats	10 seats	1 seat
39.5% of vote	31.9% of vote	19.7% of vote	4.7% of vote	3.5% of vote

Example: Amarjeet Sohi

Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±%	Expenditures
Liberal	Amarjeet Sohi	20,423	41.24	+29.52	$136,379.94
Conservative	Tim Uppal	20,331	41.06	-17.88	$126,472.41
New Democratic	Jasvir Deol	6,330	12.78	-12.61	$55,302.53
Green	Ralph McLean	1,096	2.21	-0.78	$1,671.63
Independent	Colin Stubbs	560	1.13	–	$5,091.44
Libertarian	Allen K.W. Paley	396	0.80	–	–
Christian Heritage	Peter Downing	285	0.58	–	$3,798.53
Communist	Naomi Rankin	96	0.19	–	–

Won by **92 votes!!**

Who is the current Leader of the Opposition?

POP QUIZ 1

Who is the current Leader of the Opposition?

POP QUIZ 1

Andrew Scheer

Which political party currently forms government?

POP QUIZ 2

Which political party currently forms government?

POP QUIZ 2

The Liberal Party of Canada

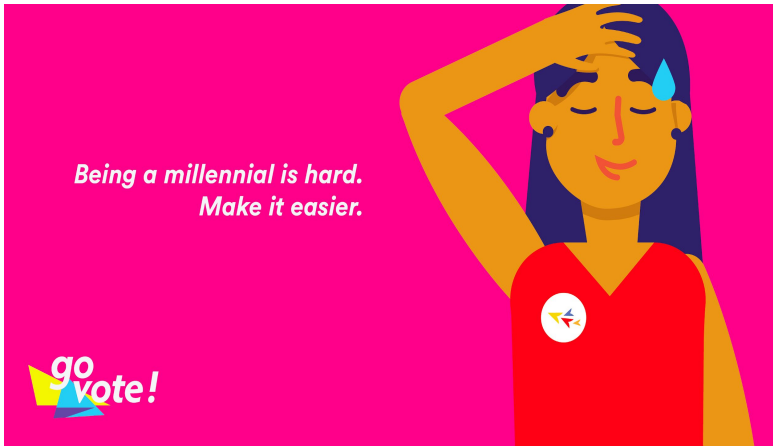
Name the 5 major political parties in Canada

POP QUIZ 3

Name the 5 major political parties in Canada

POP QUIZ 3

All About Voting



You may vote in a federal election if you:

- are a Canadian citizen; will be 18 or older on election day
- are registered to vote

People who are not available to vote at the polling station on election day can vote

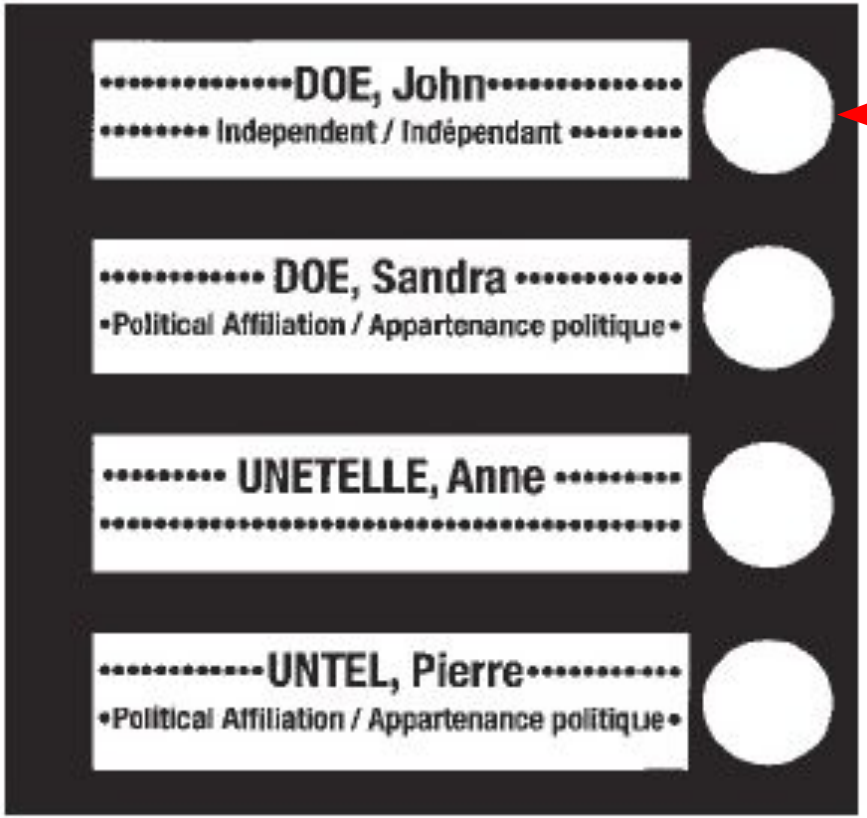
- on advance polling days from October 11-14;
- Campus polls from October 5-9;
- at any Elections Canada office before Tuesday October 15th at 6pm;
- by mail

You should receive your voter information card in the mail this week or next

The Voting Process - Vote PopUp!

- To vote, people must show proof of their identity and address
- Each voter gets a ballot from the Elections Canada officials.
- The voter takes the ballot behind a voting screen and marks an X beside the name of their chosen candidate.
- The voter places their ballot in a ballot box.

Vote PopUp Demo



Mark an "X" beside the person you vote for

You can only vote for **1** person! Otherwise your ballot will be disqualified!

Exercise 1 - Are you registered to vote?

Most people are automatically registered

1. Go to https://elections.ca/home.aspx
2. Type in your postal code
3. What is your riding?
4. Click “Am I registered to vote?”
5. Follow the instructions for the Online Voter Registration Service
6. Are you registered to vote?

You technically don’t need to be registered before you vote - you can register at the polling station when you go to vote. You just need to prove your address and it might take you a few minutes longer. Elections Canada is trying to make it easy for us.

My Voting Plan Activity

How to make an informed vote

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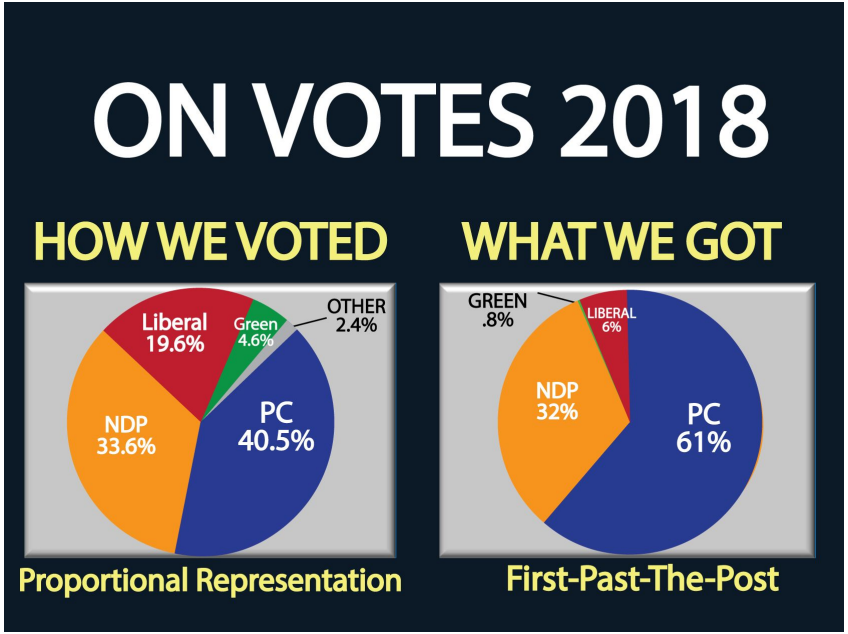
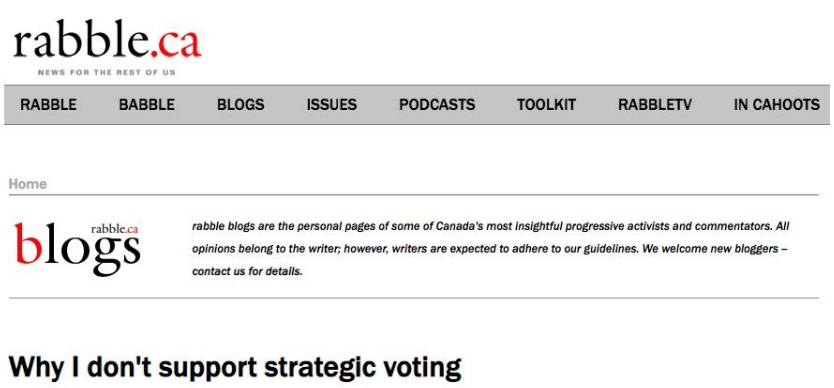
How Should I Choose Who to Vote For?

- Each candidate has different ideas about what is important and how to solve problems. You need to decide what is important to you, and what you think is best for Canada. Then you need to find out which candidate and which political party you agree with most.
- In an election period, the candidates will try to let people know what they think is important by **distributing flyers, visiting door to door, speaking at community meetings, and getting stories in the newspaper or on the radio. Groups in your community may also organize an All Candidates Meeting where candidates from all the parties will come to speak and answer your questions.**
- You can also find out more about what candidates and their party think about issues by phoning their election offices or visiting their websites.

Strategic Voting

- Whut is dat?
  - Progressive split
- www.govotecanada.com: tells you the polling in your riding
- Can help inform your decision about who to vote for





2019 Leader Debates Dates

Monday, October 7, 2019 - English debate

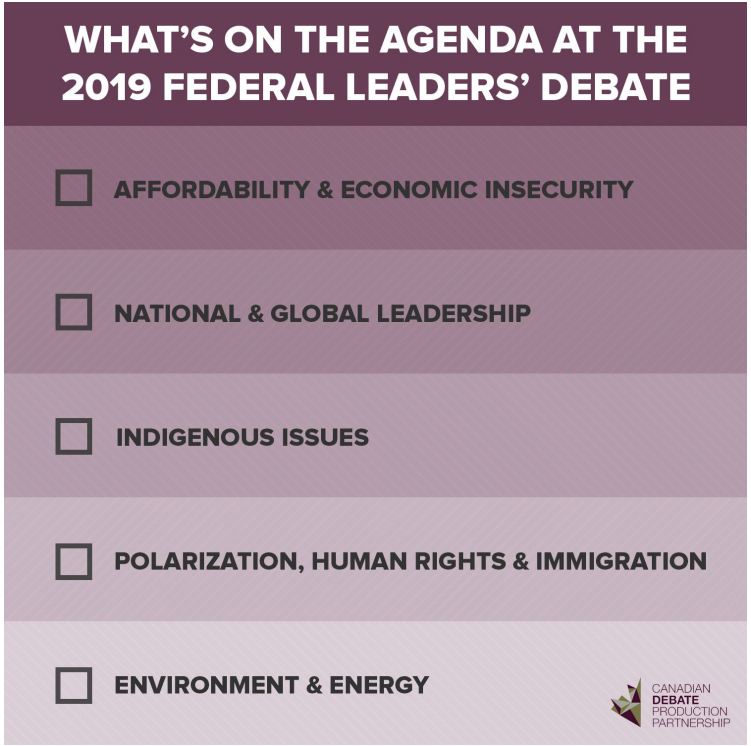
7pm-9pm

Stream it on CTVnews.ca or their Facebook,

Twitter, and YouTube

Thursday, October 10, 2019 - French debate

7pm-9pm



Things to Consider

As you listen to the parties talk about their plans and consider the party platforms, ask yourself questions like:

a) How does their plan impact you? The Afghan community? How does their plan impact other Canadians?

b) If they promise a new government program, how will it be paid for? 💸💸

c) If they promise tax cuts, where is the funding going to come from? 🤔🤔

d) How realistic do their plans seem? ⚠️⚠️

e) How specific are the plans? ⚠️⚠️

Exercise 2 - Find your candidates

1. **Find your riding. Go to** https://elections.ca/home.aspx
2. **Type in your postal code**
3. **What is your riding?**
4. **Who are the candidates running in your riding?**

True or False: In Canada, there is a political party called “The Marijuana Party”

POP QUIZ 4

True or False: In Canada, there is a political party called “The Marijuana Party”

POP QUIZ 4

TRUE

marijuanaparty.ca

Other interesting parties:

The Canadian Nationalist Party:
https://www.nationalist.ca/

Stop Climate Change Party:
https://stopclimatechangeparty.info/

Party platforms

www.ayedi.ca/partyplatforms

Find Yourself Activity

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How to talk to people about voting

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How to talk to people about voting

- Patience
- Education
- Ask for reasons for why they think in certain ways

Talking to people about voting

- Talking about voting makes people more likely to vote
- Ask your friends, parents, friends' parents, and parents' friends if they plan to vote
  - Why or why not?
  - If barriers, try to help them out
  - If they don't know who to vote for, direct them to resources
- Encourage them to double-check their registration. Gently remind them when Election Day is
- Focus on issues
- Don't worry about winning arguments
- Find a way to meet in the middle

Fake News

90% of Canadian have been misled by “fake news” online.

Only 46% of Canadians have fact-checked a social media post about the news on another site, but 75% found fact-checking to be effective

Don’t get fooled

Stop

Think

Check

What % of Canadians have been misled by fake news?

POP QUIZ 5

a. 40%
b. 60%
c. 75%
d. 90%

What % of Canadians have been misled by fake news?

POP QUIZ 5

a. 40%
b. 60%
c. 75%
d. 90%

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How to get involved with a political party

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Getting involved with a political party

- Political parties love volunteers!
- You can get involved at different levels:
  - Partisan volunteering, like helping out during an election campaign
  - Non-partisan volunteering: constituency office, can build up to bigger opportunities
  - Donating and/or registering to become a member of a political party
  - Local associations (EDAs) and youth associations (Young Liberals, etc.)
  - Internship programs
  - Attending local riding association events, meet and greets, nomination meetings
  - Talking about it: on social media, writing to local news paper, sending letter to MP, meeting your local candidate
  - Run for office yourself!

How I got involved with a political party

Afghan Voter Pledge Contest

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Afghan Voter Pledge Contest

- Everyone has received a Pledge form
- GOAL: Get as many people as you can (family, friends, neighbours, anyone voting age) to pledge that they will vote (minimum of **10** people)
- **Whoever gets the most pledges signed, will win a $40 Tim Hortons gift card!**

HOW TO ENTER:

1. Get as many signatures as you can
2. Follow us on IG or FB and tag a friend in the comments on our post about the contest
3. Email us a photo/scan of your pledge form
4. Deadline: Mon Oct 21, 11:59pm
5. Winner announced by Oct 27

Resources to help you

- Elections Canada handouts in Farsi
- Election Handbook from Democratic Engagement Exchange
- Voting postcards by AYEDI in English and Dari
- Our website will be continuously updated with information on each of the 3 major political party's platforms: www.ayedi.ca
- www.govotecanada.ca
- www.samaracanada.com

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COMING UP

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Afghan Vote Coalition

WHAT: **To send a message to all Afghan-Canadians that we are unified in the call to be informed and engaged in our democratic system**

WHO: **Any Afghan-focused organizations that pledges and endorses voting in the federal elections**

WHEN: **Announced soon! Stay tuned on our**

social media and website

tiny.cc/ayedi2019

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Congratulations! You are now Afghan Community Voting Ambassadors

Afghan Youth Voter Engagement Training

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THANK YOU!

team@ayedi.ca

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