

# Election 2015

A Gender Analysis of PEI's 2015 Provincial Election Results

PEI COALITION FOR WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT

May 7, 2015

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In the 2015 provincial election, women represented 29.5% of all candidates among the four main parties, a slight decrease from the 2011 election, where women represented 31.1% of all candidates. In turn, the 2015 election saw a decrease in the number of women elected to the provincial legislature. A total of 5 women were elected, comprising 18.5% of the new legislature.

The percentage of elected women has varied over the last five elections. In 1996 just 14.8% of seats were held by women. Steady increases brought the percentage of women elected provincially in PEI up to a record 25.9% in 2007 only to decrease to 22% in 2011. Results from the 2015 election reveal that PEI has fallen to 10<sup>th</sup> place among provincial, territorial and national legislatures for the number of women in government.

In terms of nominations, the Green Party led the nomination of women candidates in the 2015 election with 37.5%, followed by the NDP with 33.3% and Liberals with 25.9% (an all-time high for the party) and PCs with 22.2%. Only the Liberal Party increased the percentage of women candidates from the 2011 election, the PCs, NDP and Green Party all decreased the percentage of women candidates from the 2011 election.

Both the NDP and Green Party nominated 9 women candidates. However, the Green Party had a higher proportion because they did not have candidates in all ridings (9/24). In contrast, the NDP had 9 women candidates out of 27 (33.3%). Although the NDP and Green Party had the most women candidates, they did not elect any women. The Liberal party elected 4 women (3 returning and 1 new), out of the 7 nominated for the party. The PC Party elected 1 woman, out of the 6 nominated.

Despite the disappointing results from the 2015 election, women candidates received 24% of the popular vote, which is consistent with the percentage of women nominated (29.5%), indicating that voters are not discriminating against women at the polls. Rather, continued efforts are needed to increase the number of women nominated by parties.

### **Results**

The 2015 provincial election resulted in a drop of women elected to the PEI Legislature including:

- *29.5% of candidates were women*
- *18.5% of MLAs are women*
- *Women candidates received 24% of the popular vote.*

When we only consider districts where voters had an option to vote for a woman candidate, women made up 39.2% of candidates and garnered 31.7% of all the votes, despite women being over-represented in the parties with the fewest votes.

In addition, women were more strongly represented in the two parties that each received more than 10% of the popular vote, but only resulted in one seat between them. Proportional representation would allow a greater diversity of parties and genders.

Table 1. Total Percentage of women elected provincially in 2015 in each Province.

Rank	Province/Territory	Elected Women/Total Seats	% of Elected Women
1	British Columbia	31/85	36.4%
2	Ontario	38/107	35.5%
3	Yukon	6/19	31.5%
4	Alberta	27/87	31.0%
5	Manitoba	16/57	28.0%
6	Nova Scotia	14/51	27.4%
7	Quebec	34/127	27.0%
8	Canada	80/305	26%
9	Saskatchewan	12/58	20.6%
10	Prince Edward Island	5/27	18.5%
11	New Brunswick	8/49	16.3%
12	Nunavut	3/22	13.6%
13	Newfoundland and Labrador	6/48	12.5%
14	Northwest Territories	2/19	10.5%