



Think your vote doesn't count?

Thinking of skipping out on voting in the federal election on October 19? Many of us feel that voting is futile, that the system is broken, the parties don't listen to your concerns or that our vote doesn't count.

But your vote does count and can make a huge difference in who gets elected in your riding. In the 2011 federal election, some ridings were won with a very slim margin of a few votes. In the riding of Yukon, the Conservatives won by only 132 votes and in the riding of Labrador, by only 79 votes. They also won the seat in Etobicoke centre by 26 votes and in Nipissing-Timiskaming by 18 votes. And in Montmagny-L'Islet-Kamouraska-Riviere du Loop the NDP candidate won by a mere 9 votes!

In over 20 more ridings, less than 1000 voters decided which candidate was sent to Parliament Hill. Imagine if more people had voted in the above ridings – the face of Parliament could have been altered, the direction of Canada literally changed. If voters had taken their mother, brother, neighbour or colleague to the polls with them, Parliament could have had a different face. In 2011, only 61.1% of eligible voters cast a ballot. How different would our political landscape be if the other 38.9% had voted?

So if you think your vote doesn't make a difference, you are wrong.

And if you think not voting is sending a message, think about what message you are really sending. Not voting means that you are letting those who do go out to vote have even more of a say in the direction that Canada will take over the next 5 years. There is no such thing as not voting – by not voting you are just allowing someone else to vote for you.

Advance polls open this weekend. Take the time to vote, and drag someone else to the polls with you. It may sound like a cliché, but it's true - **every vote counts**.

If you want more information on what the election results in 2011 were in your riding check out table 12 on this link :

<http://www.elections.ca/scripts/ovr2011/default.html>

Due to the addition of new ridings, your riding name, voting location and candidate may have changed since 2011. Follow the link below and add in your postal code to get up to date and accurate information directly from Elections Canada. Also, there are new identification requirements for voting, make sure you have the correct IDs to avoid problems and delays at the polls.

<http://elections.ca/home.aspx>

WAKE UP AND VOTE

TO GET THE CHANGE
YOU WANT ON THE
ISSUES THAT MATTER



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