

Canada: Commit to election debate on issues that matter to women and girls

Background Information

Did you know that the first ever federal leader's debate on women's issues during an election campaign was held in 1984? Did you know that it was the ONLY such leader's debate? We want to change that!

Millions of Canadian women turned out to vote in the last federal election. In fact, over half a million MORE women voted than men. However, issues that have been identified as being important to women received little coverage in the election debates.

Up for Debate is a campaign organized by over 100 organizations across Canada calling for the leaders of all federal parties to participate in a nationally broadcast debate on the issues which matter to women and girls in Canada.

The New Democratic Party and the Green Party have agreed to participate in such a debate. But the Liberal Party, the Conservative Party, and the Bloc Quebecois have not. Act now and call on all party leaders to agree to debate the issues that matter to women and girls in Canada during the 2015 federal election campaign.

Why do we need a debate?

- Because Indigenous women and girls are 4.5 times more likely to go missing or be murdered than non-Indigenous women;
- Because 8,000 women and children seek protection at shelters each and every day;
- Because women continue to earn only 80% of the wages their male peers earn for the same work;
- Because women are more likely to be poor, and do twice as much unpaid work at home;
- Because these issues and many more just aren't being debated in federal election campaigns;
- And because until these issues are publicly debated and leaders make commitments for clear action, we can't build a Canada where people of all genders are truly equal.

Make sure that the issues that affect women and girls most are #UpForDebate in the 2015 federal election campaign. For more information visit www.upfordebate.ca or contact info@upfordebate.ca