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## Why Your Vote Matters

Voting is the way you choose someone to represent your opinions and views in government policies and laws that govern how the Northwest Territories operates. By voting you are participating in democracy. The democratic right to vote is key to our system of government, a system that generations of Canadians have fought to build.

The last territorial election had 67.02% of the voter base at the polls actively participating by voting. The riding with the lowest turnout was Frame Lake and the one with the highest was Inuvik Twin Lakes. That means that 32.98% or 8 out of every 25 eligible voters in the NWT did not have their opinion heard on who they wanted to represent their views.

Given the small number of people in the NWT, a few votes can really change the outcome of an election. In the Hay River South riding only 39 votes claimed the winner in the 2007 territorial election.

This is your chance to make your opinions matter in shaping the next government. Ask questions that are important to you and your community and listen to what your candidates have to say. Be the voice for the youth that cannot vote and encourage those who can to get out and have a say - in our next government.



### Last Election Stats

- Out of 19 ridings 8 had female candidates. That is 42%
- Out of 40 candidates there was only 8 females. That is 20%
- Out of 19 seats only three women were elected. That is 16%
- Of the three that were elected only one is in Cabinet. That is 33%
- Out of Cabinet seats that is 14%

### Important Dates for Candidates

SEPTEMBER 2011						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17

Start of Nomination

2pm Deadline for Package

**Women have the vote! Now it's time to VOTE FOR WOMEN!**

## The Tipping Point

In recent years, political parties and national legislatures in more than one hundred countries have adopted quotas for the selection of female candidates to political office. There is an increasing awareness that the inclusion of women in leadership roles improves the quality of governance. The United Nations says that a critical mass of at least 30% women is needed before legislatures produce public policy representing women's concerns and before political institutions begin to change the way they do business. The current NWT Legislative Assembly falls far short of this measure at roughly 11%.

Women bring a collaborative leadership style that benefits decision-making dynamics by increasing the amount of listening, social support, and win-win problem-solving. Although women are often collaborative leaders, they do not shy away from controversial issues. According to the 2006 study conducted by V. Kramer & Associates entitled, 'Why Three or More Women Enhance Governance', having a critical mass of women in top-level decision-making roles is good for governance in at least three ways:

1. The content of discussion is more likely to include the perspectives of the multiple stakeholders who affect and are affected by legislation and policy.
2. Difficult issues and problems are considerably less likely to be ignored or brushed aside, which results in better decision-making.
3. Discussion dynamic is more open and collaborative, which helps decision-makers hear each other's concerns and take them to heart without defensiveness.

With a territorial election happening now, we as northerners have the chance to elect a better legislature. One way we can do that is to achieve the critical mass of 30% women representatives. In the NWT, that means we must elect six women in this election. If we all choose to roll up our sleeves and work to get a woman elected in our riding, we can achieve this!

## Why More Women?

Women get things done and don't take no for an answer. That's not to diminish the impact of our male colleagues, but women have had to work harder to get where they are and to be taken seriously. We keep trying new methods and reaching further until we get the results we are looking for.

Women often view issues with a 360° degrees lens. We examine parts of a debate the way it relates to the whole and not just the issue on the table for that day.

Women are good for our government and good for our territory. both genders represented leads to better policies, better laws, and better governance as a whole.

In our own day-to-day lives we bring out passion for people and the world around us, but it is time to step out of the sidelines. Don't just take the world as you find it. Use your voice to stand up to injustice. Empower the powerless.

Women can write the laws rather than react to them. By having more women elected we can ensure the next generation of women legislators have an easier road and more role models for today's girls.

**IT'S A MAN'S  
WORLD...  
UNLESS  
WOMEN VOTE!**

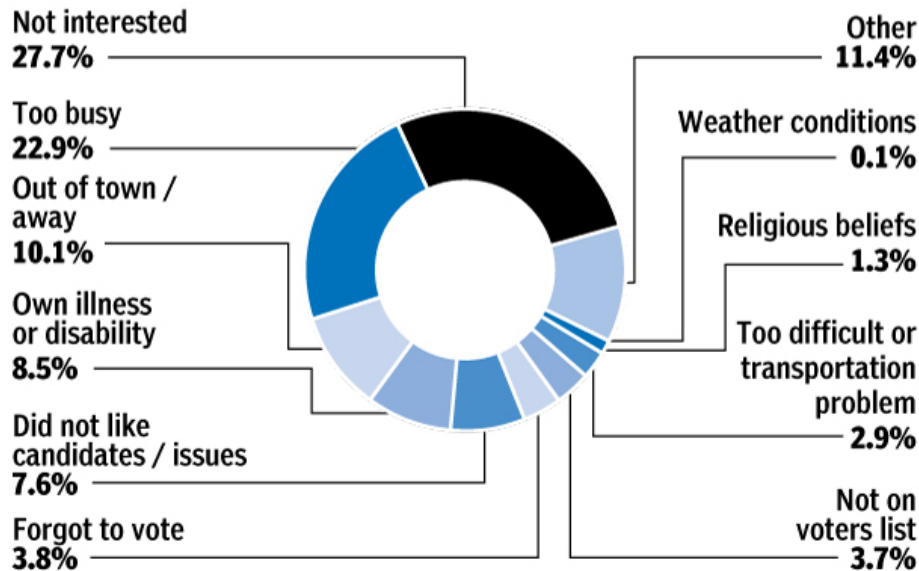
**Women Matter in the North!**

**Vote on October 3, 2011**

## REASONS FOR NOT VOTING

More than one-quarter of the 7.5 million eligible voters who reported they did not cast a ballot in the May 2, 2011 federal election indicated they did not do so because they were not interested in voting. Another 23% said they were too busy to vote

### MAIN REASON FOR NOT VOTING IN MAY 2011 FEDERAL ELECTION



SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

ANDREW BARR / NATIONAL POST

## Not Voting?

The main reason why people don't vote is because they are not interested or too busy.

If you're not interested in your own rights what are you interested in?

## Websites

This information was taken from the Elections NWT website. For more information please go to their website at [www.electionsnwt.ca](http://www.electionsnwt.ca).

If you would like a little more information around how to run a campaign or what you need to put a good team together, please visit our website at [www.statusofwomen.nt.ca/elections.htm](http://www.statusofwomen.nt.ca/elections.htm)

## Who Can Vote?

You are eligible to vote if you meet all of the following qualifications:

- Are a Canadian citizen
- Are 18 years of age or older on or before polling day
- Have been ordinarily resident in the Northwest Territories since October 3, 2010

## How Do You Register to Vote?

Voter registration is best completed well in advance of an election or plebiscite. If you are eligible to vote, then you may register with Elections NWT.

To register, you may:

Call Elections NWT at 1-800-661-0796 or 867-920-6999

Complete the online Voter Registration form and submit to Elections NWT

## Voting Opportunities

Most people will vote at a polling station on October 3rd. However, some people, due to travel schedules, mobility problems, or an eagerness to cast their ballot, will take advantage of earlier opportunities to vote. Please consult the new Guide for Voters on the Elections NWT Website for further explanation.

Office of the Returning Officer September 21- October 1, 2011

Advance Poll September 22, 2011

Special Mobile Poll: Application Period September 19 - 23, 2011; Voting Period September 26 - 29, 2011

Special (Mail-In) Ballot: Application Period September 5 - October 1, 2011; Voting Period September 5 - October 3, 2011

Multi-District Poll September 26 - 29, 2011

**Polling Day October 3, 2011**

The Status of Women Council of the NWT wants to know what candidates have to say on issues important to women. September 26<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting an all Yellowknife Candidates Forum at Northern United Place starting at 7:00 pm. This will be broadcast live. Please check out our website at [www.statusofwomen.nt.ca](http://www.statusofwomen.nt.ca) for details.

For candidates outside of Yellowknife we will be sending a written questionnaire and posting responses on our facebook and website. Please check back frequently for updates on candidates' answers and other important election news.

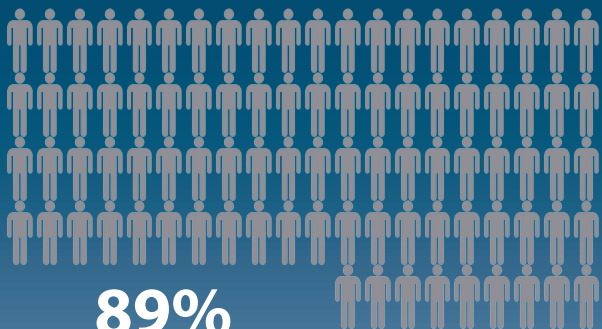


**51.5%**  
21,951 Men



**48.5%**  
20,686 Women

**Total NWT Population**  
**42,637 People**



**89%**



**11%**

**Representation of**  
**Territorial Leadership**  
**Out of 18 MLAs**

**It's Time to be Represented.**  
**Vote for Women**

