

MNCHP Network Bulletin



*best start
meilleur départ*

by/par health **nexus** santé

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The purpose of this week's bulletin is to provide an overview of some of the issues of the 2011 Canada Election that are relevant to preconception, prenatal, and child health. Based on a preliminary scan, we provide links to organizations that provide election information, strategies for bringing attention to important issues, and tools for advocating and engaging political candidates. We also include recent news articles about relevant issues and links to each of the major political parties. We invite you to actively discuss and exchange other relevant information about the 2011 Canada Election such as work your organization is doing or other links of interest.

Please note that Health Nexus is non-partisan organization and this Best Start Resource Centre bulletin is meant to share information about the issues, not endorse a particular political party.

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I. ISSUES: NEWS AND RESOURCES

A. NON PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

1. ELECTION KIT

Imagine Canada (2011) prepared a questionnaire for the major political parties about the issues affecting the non profit sector. The Bloc Quebecois, the Green Party, the Liberal Party, and the NDP each provided responses and they are summarized.

Election kit:

http://www.imaginecanada.ca/files/www/en/publicpolicy/election_kit_2011.pdf?utm_source=Imagine+Matters+%2F+Actualit%C3%A9s+d%E2%80%99Imagine+Canada&utm_campaign=bb2e21b0f8-Imagine+Matters+English+Month+DD+YY4+21+2011&utm_medium=email

Responses:

http://www.imaginecanada.ca/election2011?utm_source=Imagine+Matters+%2F+Actualit%C3%A9s+d%E2%80%99Imagine+Canada&utm_campaign=bb2e21b0f8-Imagine+Matters+English+Month+DD+YY4+21+2011&utm_medium=email

News:

- Canadian election 2011: Will there be an effect on Canadian registered charities?
http://www.globalphilanthropy.ca/index.php/blog/comments/canadian_election_2011_-_will_there_be_an_effect_on_canadian_charities/
- Tips for charities during the election campaign
<http://dailygleaner.canadaeast.com/opinion/article/1399708>
- Help make community economic development a priority this federal election with The Canadian CED Network's election guide <http://www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/en/node/10011>

B. CHILDREN AND EARLY LEARNING

2. CANADIAN PAEDIATRIC SOCIETY (CPS) FEDERAL ELECTION ADVOCACY KIT

(available in French)

The CPS is highlighting that child and youth advocates need to be vocal and involved to ensure they are part of the public debate for the 2011 federal election. This website provides a summary of the issues, information about “what you can do”, and 2011 election contact information.

English: <http://www.cps.ca/english/Advocacy/Toolkit.htm>

French: <http://www.cps.ca/francais/defensedinterets/Trousse.htm>

3. RESEARCH AND POLICY OVERVIEW DOCUMENT

The National Alliance for Children and Youth's (NACY) (2011) research and policy overview document captures what NACY thinks are the seven key issues affecting children and youth in Canada:

- Child poverty
- Youth justice
- Child care
- Mental health
- Aboriginal children
- Refugee children
- Violence against children and youth

4. CHILDREN AND THE 2011 FEDERAL ELECTION

The Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children (2011) is urging you to vote to support the rights of children in Canada. A fact sheet with information to inform voters is available.

<http://rightsofchildren.ca/wp-content/uploads/children-and-the-2011-election.pdf>

5. CANADIAN CHILD CARE FEDERATION (CCCF) AND THE FEDERAL ELECTION 2011

(available in French)

This website (CCCF, 2011) provides recent news and information about the 2011 federal election and child care. It includes tools, links, and resources to raise the national dialogue on achieving excellence in quality early learning and child care across Canada.

English: http://www.cccf-fcsge.ca/home_en.html

French: http://www.cccf-fcsge.ca/fr/home_fr.html

Tool kit: <http://www.cccf-fcsge.ca/pdf/Election2011Toolkit.pdf>

French: <http://www.cccf-fcsge.ca/pdf/Election2011Toolkit.pdf>

6. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

This article (Citizens for Public Justice, 2011) provides a summary of the “Dignity for All” campaign, which has a series of draft recommendations on early learning and childcare. It highlights how each of the party platforms compares to these recommendations.

<http://www.cpj.ca/en/election-2011-early-childhood-education-and-care>

7. GOOD CHILD CARE WORKS FOR CANADA

(available in French)

This website (Good Child Care Works for Canada, 2011) provides a range of information and resources about child care in Canada.

English: <http://buildchildcare.ca/>

French: <http://garderiespubliques.org/>

News:

- Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care: Federal election 2011: Where does child care fit in? <http://www.childcareontario.org/?p=4459>
- Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario: Be informed and vote! <http://www.aecce.ca/news/federal-election-2011-be-informed-and-vote.html>
- Canadian Child Care Federation applauds federal Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff’s commitment to a meaningful child care plan for real Canadian families http://www.cccf-fcsge.ca/pdf/Ignatieff_announce.pdf
- Education/Career: Federal election 2011: Education, children, and youth to be key issues for Canadian Teachers’ Federation <http://www.nationtalk.ca/modules/news/article.php?storyid=41467>

C. POVERTY AND HOUSING

8. ADDRESSING CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY IN CANADA: WHERE DO THE PARTIES STAND?

Campaign 2000 sent a letter with 10 key questions on poverty to the leaders of all political parties and put together a summary of the answers in a grid. The website also includes a summary of the party platforms on poverty-related issues.

<http://www.campaign2000.ca/>

Questions: <http://www.campaign2000.ca/whatsnew/election2011QuestionsFr.pdf>

French: <http://www.campaign2000.ca/whatsnew/election2011QuestionsFr.pdf>

9. VOTE TO MAKE POVERTY HISTORY

(available in French)

This website (Make Poverty History, 2011) provides voter resources. It includes eight ways that you can help to make poverty an election issue.

English: <http://www.makepovertyhistory.ca/vote>

French: <http://www.abolissonslepauvrete.ca/votons>

10. DIGNITY FOR ALL

(available in French)

The “Dignity for All” website (2011) provides a wide range of information about poverty in Canada and the 2011 election.

English: <http://www.dignityforall.ca/>

French: <http://www.dignityforall.ca/fr>

11. ELECTION 2011 HOUSING: EASIER TO FORGET FOR SOME THAN OTHERS

This webpage (Citizens for the Public Justice, 2011) provides an overview of the state housing in Canada and a summary of what needs to be done based on the “Dignity for All” campaign for a poverty-free Canada. Links to more information are also available.

<http://www.cpj.ca/en/election-2011-housing-easier-forget-some-others>

News:

- Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association: Federal election 2011
http://www.onpha.on.ca/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Federal_Election_2011#key_messages
- First Nations want poverty addressed during election <http://www.closingthegap2011.ca/?p=111>
- The Salvation Army: Poverty <http://www.salvationarmy.ca/2011/04/06/election-issue-no-2-%E2%80%93-poverty/>
- Liberals, NDP, Block, Greens set out housing commitments for federal election 2011: Conservatives refuse to reply <http://www.wellesleyinstitute.com/blog/affordable-housing-blog/libs-ndp-bloc-greens-set-out-housing-commitments-for-federal-election-2011-conservatives-refuse-to-reply/>
- 2011 election platform commitments for affordable housing
<http://chfcadablog.com/2011/04/19/2011-election-platform-commitments-for-affordable-housing/>

D. HEALTH

12. CANADIAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION (CPHA)

(also available in French)

The CPHA website (211) provides a summary of the top election issues, easy access to the political parties’ platforms, and tools to engage candidates in your riding. CPHA’s top election issues are:

- National leadership on public health;
- Public health system capacity;
- Health equities and the social determinants of health; and
- Public health in a future “health accord”

English: <http://www.cpha.ca/en/election2011.aspx>

French: <http://www.cpha.ca/fr/election2011.aspx>

13. CANADIAN ALLIANCE OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE ASSOCIATIONS

The CACHCA submitted five questions to the major political parties to get a sense of their commitment to key issues affecting the health and health care of Canadians. The website includes the responses to the survey and questions you can ask your local candidates.

Responses:

<http://www.cachca.ca/news/documents/Responses%20from%20Federal%20Political%20Parties%20to%20CACHCA%202011%20Election%20Questionnaire.pdf>

Questions for local candidates:

http://www.cachca.ca/news/documents/Canadian%20Federal%20Election%202011_Questions%20to%20Ask%20local%20candidates.pdf

14. CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON INNER CITY HEALTH (CRICH)

"Federal Election Issue" of the CRICH Research Flash newsletter includes research evidence to use when talking to your candidates and communities. Questions to ask candidates are provided. The newsletter covers the following topics:

- Good health depends on good housing;
- It's time to invest in the health of Aboriginal children;
- Of all the ways to pay for rising health care costs, progressive income taxation is the fairest; and
- Some countries are starting to put "health in all policies", to take the burden off health care.

http://www.stmichaelshospital.com/newsletter/crich_newsletter/march-april-2011.pdf

News:

- CTV news: Health focus <http://watch.ctv.ca/news/election-2011/health-focus/>
- Nurses urge Canadian to make healthy election choice <http://www.nursesunions.ca/news/nurses-urge-canadians-make-healthy-election-choice>
- Registered Nurses Association of Ontario: Your vote counts, make your voice heard <http://www.rnao.org/Page.asp?PageID=122&ContentID=3512&SiteNodeID=403>
- The disappearance of the debate on health care <http://www.cpj.ca/en/election-2011-disappearance-debate-health-care>
- Canadian Health Coalition: Put health care on the ballot <http://healthcoalition.ca/>

E. POPULATIONS

15. ABORIGINAL ISSUES – CANADIAN ISSUES

This article (Citizens for Public Justice, 2011) provides a summary of the Aboriginal issues that should be election issues. It includes a summary of:

- the Assembly of First Nations document "A government supportive to First Nations"; <http://www.afn.ca/uploads/files/election-questionnaire.pdf>
- the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami's list of 11 questions for political parties on Inuit-specific issues that they view as most important; and <http://www.itk.ca/election2011>
- the Métis National Council's questionnaire aimed at the various federal political parties, requesting equal treatment to that of other Aboriginal nations.

<http://www.metisnation.ca/2011election/index.html>
<http://www.cpj.ca/en/election-2011-aboriginal-issues-canadian-issues>

16. THE CONGRESS OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (2011) sent a list of policy questions about party positions on off-reserve Aboriginal peoples to the Conservative Party of Canada, the Liberal Party of Canada, and the New Democratic Party of Canada. So far they received responses from the Liberal Party of Canada and the New Democratic Party of Canada and they are posted on the website.

<http://www.abo-peoples.org/>

17. FÉDÉRATION DES COMMUNAUTÉS FRANCOPHONES ET ACADIENNE DU CANADA (FCFA): ÉLECTIONS 2011

The FCFA sent a questionnaire to the major political parties and analyzed their platforms.

http://www.fcfa.ca/index.cfm?Repertoire_No=-786718320&Voir=menu&M=3459

18. WOMEN AND THE FEDERAL ELECTION 2011: THINK CANADA IS A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE? THINK AGAIN. SIX CANADIAN FANTASIES

This website (Ad Hoc Coalition for Women's Equality and Human Rights, 2011) provides an overview of six myths for women in Canada:

- There are plenty of child care programs in Canada.
- Housing isn't an issue in Canada.
- Canada has plenty of social assistance programs to go around.
- Women and men in Canada make the same great wages.
- If you are a woman, Canada is the safest place to live because women have equality in Canada.
- Women are equal before the law.

Further information about the reality of these issues is provided. Fact sheets are also available about women and issues such as: poverty, disabilities, housing, child care, violence, reproductive rights, pay equity, pensions, etc.

<http://www.womensequality.ca/election2011.html>

News:

- Francophones group upset at Quebec-only debate
http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20110414/francophones-group-quebec-debate-110414/20110414?s_name=election2011
- La Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne réagit au débat des chefs
<http://elections.radio-canada.ca/elections/federales2011/2011/04/14/019-reaction-debat-chef-fcfa.shtml>
- Federal election 2011: First Nations, Inuit, and Métis issues and candidates
<http://blog.fedcan.ca/2011/04/26/federal-election-2011-first-nations-inuit-and-metis-issues-and-candidates/>
- Assembly of First Nations, Amnesty International, and Council of Canadians urge political leaders to recognize the human right to water
<http://www.canadians.org/media/water/2011/28-Apr-11.html>
- Colour of Poverty video asks ethnic voters to 'beat it'
<http://www.globalnews.ca/decisioncanada/Colour+Poverty+video+asks+ethnic+voters+beat/4615546/story.html>
- Groups put diversity on campaign agenda
<http://www.lawtimesnews.com/2011bencherelection/news/groups-put-diversity-on-campaign-agenda.html>
- Equity, diversity, and social justice in the English leaders' debate
<http://blog.fedcan.ca/2011/04/14/federal-election-2011-equity-diversity-and-social-justice-in-the-english-leaders-debate/>

- Issues around immigration, refugee, and family reunification <http://maytree.com/blog/?tag=federal-election-2011>
- Women's equality http://action.web.ca/home/crru/rsrscs_crru_full.shtml?x=131163
- YWCA Canada seeks to put issues that impact the lives of women and girls on the national agenda <http://ywcacanada.ca/en/pages/advocacy/issues/election>
- Together we can make disability an election issue <http://www.cacl.ca/action/campaigns/federal-election-2011-together-we-can-make-disability-election-issue>
- Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project candidate survey: Federal election 2011 <http://nsrap.ca/wordpress/projects/election-2011>
- Canadian immigration: A chilly reception <http://www.cpj.ca/en/election-2011-canadian-immigration-chilly-reception>

F. ENVIRONMENT

19. ENVIRONMENT DEFENCE

This website (Environmental Defence, 2011) provides information about where the political parties stand on environmental issues.

<http://environmentaldefence.ca/election-2011-where-do-parties-stand-environmental-issues>

News:

- Environment drops off campaign agenda <http://news.nationalpost.com/2011/04/02/environment-drops-off-campaign-agenda/>
- Missing: Environmental leadership in election 2011 <http://www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/election-2011/news-blogs/>

II. ELECTION RESOURCES

20. ELECTIONS CANADA

(available in French)

The Elections Canada website provides information for voters such as registering to vote and the identification that is required at the polls. It also includes frequently asked questions and information about the political parties and candidates.

English: <http://www.elections.ca/home.asp>

French: <http://www.elections.ca/accueil.asp?textonly=false>

21. CBC NEWS: CANADA VOTES 2011

CBC News website (2011) has information about recent news. A vote compass is also available.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canadavotes2011/>

22. CTV

CTV's election website (2011) includes a poll tracker, blog, party platforms, issues, and a section on following the leaders.

<http://www.ctv.ca/mini/election2011/index.html>

23. RADIO CANADA

Radio Canada (2011) provides recent news articles and videos about the 2011 election.
<http://elections.radio-canada.ca/elections/federales2011/>

III. LINKS TO POLITICAL PARTIES

24. BLOC QUÉBÉCOIS

French: <http://www.blocquebecois.org/Accueil.aspx>

25. CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF CANADA

English: <http://www.conservative.ca/index.php>

French:

http://www.conservateur.ca/parti_conservateur_du_canada_le_premier_ministre_stephen_harper

26. GREEN PARTY OF CANADA

English: <http://greenparty.ca/>

French: <http://greenparty.ca/fr/node/12384>

27. LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA

English: <http://www.liberal.ca/>

French: <http://www.liberal.ca/fr/>

28. NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP)

English: <http://www.ndp.ca/#>

French: <http://www.npd.ca/#>

29. LINKS TO ALL OTHER REGISTERED POLITICAL PARTIES

English: www.elections.ca/content.asp?section=pol&document=index&dir=par&lang=e&textonly=false

French: www.elections.ca/content.asp?section=pol&document=index&dir=par&lang=f&textonly=false

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Click here to access Health Nexus' other e-bulletins and listservs:

In English:

- [OHPE](http://www.ohpe.ca/) - The free weekly Ontario Health Promotion E-mail bulletin (OHPE) offers a digest of news, events, jobs, feature articles on health promotion issues, resources, and much more, to those working in health promotion. <http://www.ohpe.ca/>
- [Click4HP](https://listserv.yorku.ca/archives/click4hp.html) - An open, facilitated public listserv, is an international dialogue on health promotion. Participants exchange views on issues and ideas, provide leads to resources, and ask questions about health promotion. <https://listserv.yorku.ca/archives/click4hp.html>
- [Health Nexus Today](http://www.blogs.healthnexusante.ca/) - Health Nexus Today is our Blog on health promotion. According to Google, "Blog is short for weblog - a journal or newsletter that is frequently updated and intended for the general public." Find the latest on health promotion including breaking news, highlights, studies, and issues in health promotion and the determinants of health in Canada and internationally. <http://www.blogs.healthnexusante.ca/>

In French:

- [French distribution list](http://www.meilleurdepart.org/index_fr.html) – The free distribution list offers information in French on maternal, newborn, and child health promotion topics. http://www.meilleurdepart.org/index_fr.html
- [Le Bloc-Notes](http://leblocnotes.ca/) – The biweekly French language bulletin provides information on health promotion. <http://leblocnotes.ca/>