

MNCHP Network Bulletin



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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 provincial 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 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. ONTARIO NONPROFIT NETWORK: ELECTION KIT

The Ontario Nonprofit Network (ONN) shares information on the nonprofit sector and what it needs to get its work done. The election toolkit includes: background information, the issues, party positions, and guidelines for charities and nonprofits during an election.

<http://ontariononprofitnetwork.ca/what-were-doing/provincial-elections-2011/>

B. LITERACY

2. ONTARIO LITERACY COALITION: ELECTION KIT

The Ontario Literacy Coalition's (2011) election kit is designed to help learners, champions, service providers, and organizations speak to the needs of Ontarians requiring literacy and essential skills training.

http://www.on.literacy.ca/make_literacy_an_issue

3. FEDERATION OF ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARIES: CANDIDATE SURVEY

(available in French)

The Federation of Ontario Public Libraries developed a candidate survey, which aims to help voters elect candidates who support public libraries. The candidate survey was sent to all incumbent and challenger candidates for provincial office. Candidates' responses will be made available on the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries' website.

English: <http://fopl.ca/news/candidate-survey-2011-provincial-election/>

French: <http://fopl.ca/news/sondage-aupres-des-candidats-%E2%80%93-elections-provinciales-2011-en-ontario/>

News:

- Exploring the 2011 Ontario election and literacy
<http://siouxhudsonliteracy.wordpress.com/2011/09/02/exploring-the-2011-ontario-election/>
- Education goes missing from provincial election
<http://www.thestar.com/opinion/editorialopinion/article/1048891--education-goes-missing-from-provincial-election-agenda>

C. MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS**4. ONTARIO MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS ALLIANCE: ELECTION KIT**

The Ontario Mental Health and Addictions Alliance (2011) prepared an election kit that contains useful information on how voters can make a difference in their communities. Specifically, it focuses on how to put mental health and addictions on the agenda for the upcoming provincial election.

Election kit: <http://www.vote4mha.ca/get-involved/election-kit/>

5. TAKE THE PLEDGE TO TRANSFORM CHILD AND YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Parents for Children's Mental Health (2011) are asking individuals to endorse the Pledge for Child and Youth Mental Health Services. The details of the pledge are provided on their website.

<http://www.pcmh.ca/pcmh-resident-voter-pledge>

News:

- Real issue for election campaign: Children's mental health and addictions
http://www.kidsmentalhealth.ca/news_and_events/view_html_article.php?id=1752
- Mental health issues overlooked in election campaign, say advocates
http://www.kidsmentalhealth.ca/news_and_events/view_html_article.php?id=1743
- Parents call on election candidates to support improved child and youth mental health services
<http://www.marketwire.com/press-release/parents-call-on-election-candidates-support-improved-child-youth-mental-health-services-1519893.htm>

D. CHILDREN AND EARLY LEARNING**6. WAITING FOR CHILD CARE**

This website (OCBCC, 2011) provides information about child care in Ontario. A link to send a message to provincial representatives is available.

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

7. VOTECHILDCARE.CA

ivotechildcare.ca (2011) aims to make child care an issue in the provincial election. Resources are available.

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

8. 4 OUT OF 5.CA

This website advocates for child care for Ontario's children. Four out of five Ontario children are currently left out of licensed child care.

<http://www.4outof5.ca/>

9. ONTARIO COALITION FOR BETTER CHILD CARE

The Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care's (OCBCC) (2011) website provides information sheets about child care issues in Ontario. It also includes a sign to put up in your window or other public space, and provides tips for taking action.

<http://www.childcareontario.org/?p=4609>

10. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE IN THE FALL 2011 PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL ELECTIONS

This website provides information about party platforms related to early childhood education and care. Links to the party platforms and other resources are available.

<http://childcarecanada.org/resources/issue-files/early-childhood-education-and-care-fall-2011-provincial-elections/ontario>

News:

- Parents call on politicians for child-care cash
<http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/politics/provincialection/article/1054821--parents-call-on-politicians-for-child-care-cash>
- McGuinty warms against Tory early-learning promise
<http://toronto.ctv.ca/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20110601/ontario-politics-kindergarten-mcguinty-110601?hub=TorontoNewHome>
- NDP promise \$125M a year for licensed daycare fee freeze
http://toronto.ctv.ca/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20110902/ndp-daycare-freeze-110902/20110902/?site_codename=Toronto

E. POVERTY AND HOUSING

11. CONFRONTING POVERTY VIDEO

In a video, Laurel Rothman, National Coordinator for Campaign 2000, discusses the poverty reduction strategies put forward by Ontario's political parties.

<http://www.tv.o.org/TVO/WebObjects/TVO.woa?videoid?1158153794001>

12. POVERTY FREE ONTARIO: PULLING POVERTY OUT BY THE ROOTS

This website (Poverty Free Ontario, 2011) summarizes recent news and events about poverty in Ontario and the upcoming election. "Poverty Free Ontario" election signs and resources are also available.

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

Election resources: <http://www.povertyfreeontario.ca/resources/>

13. ONTARIO NON-PROFIT HOUSING ASSOCIATION (ONPHA)

A range of information is available on the ONPHA website including: details of their outreach campaign, a provincial election riding kit, key messages, a media engagement kit, and key information by electoral district.

http://www.onpha.on.ca/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Provincial_Election_2011

News:

- Make poverty an election issue <http://www.povertyfreeontario.ca/2011/09/13/make-poverty-an-election-issue-cdc/>

- Poverty, child care, education: What's at stake for Ontario?
<http://www.campaign2000.ca/Ontario/index.html>
- Social Development Council wants poverty on provincial election agenda
<http://www.ourhometown.ca/news/NL0453.php>
- Campaign puts poverty in the election spotlight <http://www.ourkingston.ca/2011/09/campaign-puts-poverty-in-the-election-spotlight/>
- Daily Bread Food Bank: An open challenge to all provincial candidates
<http://www.dailybread.ca/tag/ontario-election/>

F. HEALTH

14. SUPPORT MIDWIFERY: WHERE THE PARTIES STAND

The Association of Ontario Midwives website www.ontariomidwives.ca provides information about where the parties stand on midwifery in Ontario. Topics covered include: integration of midwives into hospitals; pay equity between midwives and comparable health care providers; funding birth centre pilot projects in Ontario; and principles of publicly funded health care being accessible, portable, universal, and comprehensive.

<http://www.ontariomidwives.ca/support/parties>

15. CANADIAN PAEDIATRIC SOCIETY (CPS) LETTER TO POLITICAL LEADERS

The CPS is canvassing the political leaders of three major political parties for their platforms on three key issues which have a significant impact on the health and well-being of children: childhood poverty, mental health, and obesity.

<http://www.cps.ca/English/Advocacy/AdvocacyUploadRead.asp?AdvocacyID=153>

16. FRONTLINEVOICES.CA

Health care is a prime concern of many Ontarians. This website allows patients and health care professionals to speak out anonymously and share their health care stories without reprisal. It is hoped that stories and views will be shared to help shape the provincial election outcome

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

17. ONTARIO HEALTH CARE CHALLENGE: PUT THE CARE BACK IN HEALTH CARE

The health care challenge is a democratic forum to identify and raise the issues that Ontarians care about leading into the provincial election. This website provides information about the issues collected.

<http://www.votehealthontario.ca/part1.html>

18. HEART AND STROKE FOUNDATION: HEALTHY CANDIDATES CAMPAIGN

The Heart and Stroke Foundation (2011) wants voters to make their voices heard in the conversation about the future health of Ontario. The "Healthy Candidates" campaign encourages voters to challenge their local candidates to sign on to becoming a Healthy Candidate, which means pledging to invest more in promoting and supporting better health in Ontario. Once candidates take this pledge our campaign will celebrate their leadership and vision (Heart and Stroke Foundation, 2011).

<http://www.healthycandidates.ca/#/>

News:

- Midwives push childbirth as campaign issue <http://www.thestar.com/news/article/1057034>

- Canadian Alliance of Community Health Centre Associations urges parties to step up action on health and health care <http://cachca-rcaccs.posterous.com/canadian-alliance-urges-parties-to-increase-a>
- Ontario midwives push for birthing centres <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/story/2011/05/05/ontario-midwives.html>
- Upcoming election promise to be healthy in more ways than one <http://www.weeklyvoice.com/community-news/upcoming-elections-promise-to-be-healthy-in-more-ways-than-one/>

G. POPULATIONS

News:

- Chiefs of Ontario: Following the provincial election campaign <http://chiefs-of-ontario.org/News/List.aspx>
- Francophones get election debate <http://www.cbc.ca/ottawamorning/2011/09/16/francophones-get-their-own-election-debate/>
- Ontario's immigration debate isn't getting the respect it deserves <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/ontario-election/ontarios-immigration-debate-isnt-getting-the-respect-it-deserves/article2171485/>
- Immigrant tax credit pledge brews election nasties <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ontariovotes2011/story/2011/09/09/onvotes-immigrant-tax-credit-analysis654.html>

H. ENVIRONMENT

News:

- Girl campaigns for the environment <http://environmentaldefence.ca/articles/girl-campaigns-environment>
- Wind turbine debate sparked in Ontario election <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ontariovotes2011/story/2011/09/22/ontario-wind-turbine-reaction.html>
- Provincial election is child's play for Penelope <http://www.thespec.com/news/elections/article/598155-provincial-election-is-child-s-play-for-penelope>
- Surveying the green policies of Ontario's political parties <http://www.ecojustice.ca/blog/election-time-surveying-the-green-policies-of-ontarios-political-parties>

II. ELECTION RESOURCES

19. ELECTIONS ONTARIO

(available in French)

The Elections Ontario 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. There is also a special section of the website for youth and the media as well as tools.

English: <http://www.wemakevotingeasy.ca/en/home.aspx>

French: <http://www.wemakevotingeasy.ca/fr/home.aspx>

20. CBC NEWS: ONTARIO VOTES 2011

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

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ontariovotes2011/>

21. CTV

The politics section of CTV's website (2011) includes coverage of Ontario election issues.

<http://www.ctv.ca/politics/>

22. RADIO CANADA

Radio Canada (2011) provides recent news articles and videos about the 2011 provincial election.

<http://www.radio-canada.ca/ontario>

III. LINKS TO POLITICAL PARTIES

23. CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF CANADA

<http://www.ontariopc.com/>

24. GREEN PARTY OF CANADA

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

25. LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA

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

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

26. NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP)

English: <http://ontariondp.com/en/>

French: <http://ontariondp.com/fr/>

27. LINKS TO ALL OTHER REGISTERED POLITICAL PARTIES

English: <http://www.elections.on.ca/en-CA/CandidatesAndParties/PoliticalParties/>

French: <http://www.elections.on.ca/fr-ca/candidatesandparties/politicalparties/registeredpoliticalpartiesinontario.htm?lang=fr>

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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/>