



THE POWER IS YOURS

YOUR FEDERAL ELECTION HANDBOOK



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The Leaders' Debates Commission



Leaders' Debates
Commission

Commission des
débats des chefs

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Canada

What matters to you?

When you see a headline in the news or a story on social media that makes you angry, sad or brings you tears, what do you do? Do certain stories that touch your heart make you want to **spring into action?**

There are many ways to make the world a better place. Taking action can be as small as offering your neighbour a cup of sugar, or signing a petition, and as big as volunteering for a cause you care about, or going to a rally.

What's important is that everyone has a voice. When those voices are raised together, they become **impossible to ignore.**

Make our communities more resilient and our democracy stronger.

This October, we have the chance to make our voices heard in the Canadian federal election.

With our vote, we express the hopes and dreams for the future WE want and care about.

The following pages will equip you with everything you need to have the **confidence to vote.**

Remember – the people’s vote elects the government. Make an impact and make your vote count.

Save the dates



Campus Voting
October 5–9



Advanced Voting
October 11–14



ELECTION DAY
Monday October 21

Using this handbook

This guide is designed to be your one-stop-shop for the information you need to understand and participate in the 2019 Canadian federal election on **October 21st, 2019.**

This handbook is for you. It equips you with everything you need to make a well-informed decision to vote in the upcoming federal election.

Inside, you will find reliable information on Canada’s parties, learn how to engage on issues that are important to you, and what to do when it comes to “fake news.” We’ll also get down to the nitty gritty - the how, why, and where of voting on Election Day.

Don't just vote because it matters.

Vote because YOU matter.

What's this handbook for, anyway?

You! Because when armed with the right info and knowledge, you can make a confident decision on who to vote for. We're providing all of the important info, so YOU can make an informed decision.

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You might already know some of the information that's in this guide. Don't read the whole thing if it's not what you need - just skip to the stuff that's important to you!

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1. There's an election coming...

So, what's all the fuss about? Let's start by discussing the political parties that are campaigning to be at the top of the game.

There are five parties that currently have elected Members of Parliament each with their own leader. That leader is gunning for the top spot: **Prime Minister**.

Now what?



Campaigning

A fancy way of saying a group of people (i.e. political party) are coming together to influence a decision making process, like an election.

Down to the basics

A political party is an organized group of people who have the same ideology, that runs candidates in elections. In Canada, there are more than **16 registered political parties**, including one called the Rhinoceros Party. Yes, REALLY. But Canadian federal politics are currently pretty much dominated by five major parties:



The Liberal Party
Leader, Justin Trudeau



The Conservative Party
Leader, Andrew Scheer



The New Democratic Party
Leader, Jagmeet Singh



The Bloc Québécois
Leader, Yves-François
Blanchet



The Green Party
Leader, Elizabeth May

Other parties include: Alliance of the North, Animal Protection Party of Canada, Christian Heritage Party of Canada, Communist Party of Canada, Libertarian Party of Canada, Marijuana Party, Marxist-Leninist Party of Canada, National Citizens Alliance of Canada, Parti Rhinocéros Party, People's Party of Canada, Progressive Canadian Party.

What's important is to look at what the parties actually stand for, not just what they're saying about everyone else.

- Political parties are going to try and convince you to vote for them with ads that will make them and their leader look good, and other parties and leaders look bad. It's true that **character matters**. You wouldn't hire someone you don't trust, would you?
- To make themselves stand out, parties will provide "party platforms," basically a collection of policies and plans they're pitching to you, just like a resume and cover letter. Party platforms are promises that parties intend to keep if they are elected Canada's next government.
- Look at party platforms to see if their policies and history matches up to what their leaders and candidates are saying, and reflects what issues matter to you.

Pro-Tip

As you listen to the parties talk about their plans and consider the party platforms, ask yourself questions like:

- a) How does their plan impact you? How does their plan impact other Canadians?
- b) If they promise a new government program, how will it be paid for? 💰💰
- c) If they promise tax cuts, where is the funding going to come from? 🤔🤔
- d) How realistic do their plans seem? ⚠️⚠️
- e) How specific are the plans? ⚠️⚠️

DID YOU KNOW?

Agnes Macphail loved being a woman of firsts. She was the first woman to be elected as a Member of Parliament. Then, after losing re-election, she became the first woman - along with Rae Luckock - to be elected as a Member of Provincial Parliament.

"Most women think politics aren't lady-like. Well, I'm no lady."

- Agnes Macphail



You are not voting for a Prime Minister on election day



In Canada, you vote for an individual candidate running to be a Member of Parliament (MP) for your area. Each area represents around 100,000 people and is known as a “riding” or “constituency.” Each candidate running in your area represents a different political party, or runs as an independent (no party). The candidate that gets the most votes wins. The political party that elects the most MPs normally becomes the government, and their leader becomes the Prime Minister. MPs of each party will vote together on the biggest issues, so it’s important to consider their party AND their leaders, along with who will become your local representative.

Political parties choose candidates for MP in a riding through local nomination meetings. Each member of the party in that riding gets to vote. Each party has their own rules (the fancy political word for this is “constitutions”) that outline how this is done.

FUN FACT:

In Canada, MPs from the same political party vote together most of the time, more than any other parliamentary democracy in the world.

Pro-Tip

Anyone can join a political party but only 4% of Canadians do. If you do, you can vote in local nomination contests. More voice, more power.

However, many candidates run without any competition, so they just become the candidate automatically. This opens up the opportunity for party leaders to basically hand pick their favourite candidate.

Learn more in The Samara Centre for Democracy report **“Party Favours”**.

DID YOU KNOW?

Registered members of First Nations were not allowed to vote until 1960. Inuit were given the right to vote in 1950, but weren’t provided a method of voting until 1962.

Youth turnout went up

18%
in 2015.

DID YOU KNOW?

The longest campaign period in Canada’s history was 78 days in 1872. Compare that to the United States of America – their 2016 election period was 597 days.

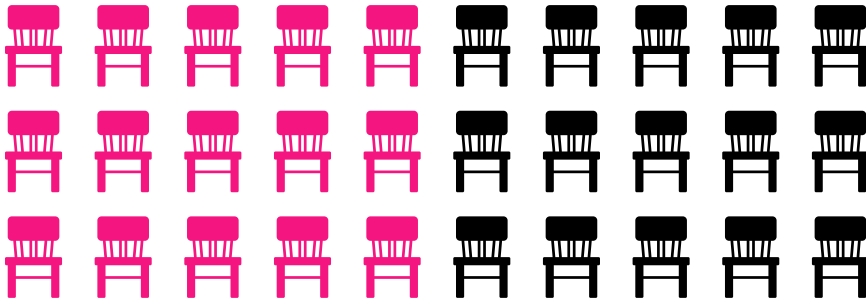
Access links to tools at engagedemocracy.ca/election-handbook

Thing to know:

There are 338 MP seats in the House of Commons, broken out by districts (AKA ridings) within Canada. If a party wins more than 50% of the seats, then it is a **majority government**. Every party wants this because it makes it much easier to get laws passed.

If the winning party wins 169 seats or fewer (less than 50%), it forms a **minority government**.

In order to get laws passed, a minority government has to collaborate with MPs of other parties and adjust policies as necessary.



Majority Government (50% or more)

First Past The Post:

First past the post: a voting system that means the person who gets the most votes in a riding gets a seat in Parliament, even if the number of votes doesn't equal over 50% of the total votes. For example, let's say there are 10 people running in your riding and 100 people voting. The winner doesn't necessarily need 50 or more votes, they just need the most votes.

DID YOU KNOW?

Canada's longest serving Prime Minister is William Lyon Mackenzie King who served 21 years through 1921 to 1948 (not consecutively). While in office, he conducted seances and claimed to have communicated with Leonardo da Vinci, Wilfrid Laurier, his dead mother, his grandfather, and several of his dead dogs, as well as the spirit of the late President Roosevelt.



Will there be debates?

Yes! Watch them on TV or online, on news sites or even streamed on social media. Not only can it be fun to watch politicians test each other, but it can be helpful to get a feel for what the leaders are like. After all, one of them will end up being the next Prime Minister of Canada, and they will be accountable for what they said at the podium.

The all-party leaders' debates organized by the Leaders' Debates Commission will take place Oct. 7 (English) and Oct. 10 (French).

Top 10 Reasons to watch a debate

- 10 It's efficient! You're busy. It's hard to keep up. If you do one thing, let this be it. Take two hours learn about the issues and the candidates so you can make an informed decision
- 9 It's a chance to hear directly from the leaders: unedited and unfiltered
- 8 It's a trusted source of information (and these days it's hard to know what to trust)
- 7 It's a window into the world of others: to learn about people across the country, and what matters to them
- 6 It's what everyone will be talking about. Think: coffee break cramming session
- 5 It's a chance to come together: to experience the same thing at the same time
- 4 You'll have your ideas challenged
- 3 You'll have your ideas validated
- 2 You'll learn something new
- 1 Making an informed, confident decision is part of a thriving democracy



Tips on How to Watch a Debate

- Before the debate, think about what you want to get out of it. Are you watching to learn about the candidates as people, or about their policies? Or...for entertainment!?
- Debaters will get your attention by referencing news headlines. Check out the news before the debates to see what's up.
- Make a list of the issues that matter to you. Who knows, a candidate might say something that changes your mind!
- You'll have more fun and learn more if you watch with a group. Invite a diverse group of thinkers - friends, family, neighbours - to a debate watching party or public viewing!
- We're betting it won't be long before clips from a debate become a meme! You can use social media to see how other people across the country are reacting. Track hashtags like #elxn43 (it's our 43rd federal election!) and #cdnpoli to see what people are thinking.
- Coverage of the candidates may be shaped by their identities like age, race, and gender. Ask yourself if leaders are being presented fairly or with bias.
- Keep in mind that the debates on TV only include the party leaders. Check your community news to see if there's a debate or townhall for your local candidates.



DID YOU KNOW?
The last Federal Leaders' Debate on women's issues in Canada was on August 14th, 1984 and there hasn't been one since. Feminism, where you at?

How are candidates reaching you?

So, there you are, scrolling through the TV or listening to the radio on your commute, and all of a sudden, you hear a political ad. That's totally normal in the run-up to the election. But, online it's a completely different ballgame.

Political parties can use online ads to reach specific kinds of people. You might be chosen as the audience for an ad because you live in a community that usually votes a certain way. Or your age or gender indicates a concern about an issue, and the party wants to tell you about their plan to fix it. You might also be targeted based on what you've previously clicked on or liked. You may see different political ads than your friends or family.

Sounds a little intrusive, right?

You might want to know why you're being shown an ad. Thanks to a new law passed in Canada, you can! Here's how:

Download the Who Targets Me extension

to keep track of all the political ads in your Facebook feed; see who paid for them and reasons why you were targeted.

For Chrome 

For Firefox 

Visit Facebook and PostMedia Ad Libraries

Social media platforms and news sites are publishing an "ad library," a web page where you'll be able to find every political ad that is being shown on that website, who paid for them, and in some cases, who has been targeted.

Access links to tools at engagedemocracy.ca/election-handbook

Bias isn't the same as spreading false information.

You'll notice that some media outlets, whether print or digital, tend to lean towards one political agenda, i.e. they're more progressive, conservative, or make a push for specific issues like climate change.

Media outlets are supposed to distinguish opinion from news. Both are legitimate. But sometimes media outlets don't tell you what's what. Watch out for opinion pieces that lack facts and be wary of news pieces that seem to argue an opinion.

Political preferences can sometimes bias the way journalists cover and write stories, especially stories about politicians and parties.

But, that's not always the case. There are many trustworthy news sources that go through a rigorous fact-checking process. They try to write stories that don't favour one party over another. They will write critical stories about *all* the leaders from all political parties instead of focussing on one.

Most of Canada's major news outlets will have their own special fact-checking articles about the ads and statements of political parties and leaders. You can use these to find out if the ads you are seeing are truthful.

DID YOU KNOW?

Lincoln Alexander was the first Black man to be elected as a Member of Parliament (1968) and Jean Augustine and Hedy Fry were the first Black women elected in 1993.

What is Confirmation Bias?

When we go looking for more information on something, we tend to pick and choose sources that confirm our existing beliefs or views on that topic or idea. You may not even notice you're doing it, but it's one of the reasons misinformation (fake news!) online can work so well. It's in our nature, which means it can affect everyone and anyone. Bottom line - it is important to check sources even when you think "that has got to be true."

Anecdote vs. Evidence

Anecdotes are individual stories that we tell to make a point. They can be great ways to build support for something we believe. They are not the same as "evidence" which is based on not just one story but many stories combined together to create a set of proven data.

For example, you would not judge your best friend based on the one time they forgot your birthday. However, if they did it ten years in a row – well that's a different story.

Politicians use anecdotes the same way to make points. Ask yourself if it's just one event or if the story reflects a bigger trend.

It's more difficult to recognise bias if you only get your news from one source.

It's often good practice to check multiple outlets covering the same story and see what the differences are.

Media bias is something you should be aware of. Recognizing it will help you to be better informed. Bias comes in many forms. Here are some things that you should look out for:

- 1 Headlines that don't match up to the content
- 2 Bias in extreme language and tone
- 3 Use of photographs that are unflattering, or don't match up to the text
- 4 Emphasis on certain stories

Not sure if a news source is biased? No worries. You can use the **FAIR checklist** as a guide. If you're worried about the media outlet as a whole, **Media Bias/Fact Check** is an independent website that allows you to search for any publication to understand its political bias, and whether it has a history of being balanced in its reporting.

To back it up, we asked around and found that

at least 42% of people felt they read online news every day or at least once a week that had deliberately false info in it.

another 45% felt that they had encountered misleading or biased info every day or at least once a week.

40% read inflammatory or intentionally provoking content at least once a week, if not every day.

Just because you're coming across weird news that doesn't make sense doesn't mean you can't do anything about it.

46% of people who have come across news that didn't look right checked and cross-referenced it on a different site.

3 in 4 who did find it to be effective.

while only **1 in 4** Canadians report trusting Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to act in the best interest of the public, about half trust CBC, CTV and Radio Canada.

And that's exactly how you take matters into your own hands and empower yourself with accurate news.

Data from Ryerson Leadership Lab's Rebuilding the Public Square Report (2019)
Get citations, hyperlinks and more at engagedemocracy.ca/election-handbook.

2. What Matters to You?



Understanding what's going on in politics helps you make better choices. Think about it like this: What are the big issues affecting your life? What about your community? And Canada, this big, great country we call home? Understanding what is important to you and then matching that up to politics is a useful way to decide who to vote for.

The three biggest issues that Canadians say will impact their vote in the 2019 federal election are:

(Abacus Data 2019)



Health Care



Cost of Living



Climate Change

Sometimes your outfit doesn't match, but it's still a good fit. Your views and politics don't always have to match, either. It's about finding the best fit. You probably won't have a political party that matches up perfectly with your values and beliefs. Most of the time, you will find that you agree with a political party on some things, but not on others. Find what works for you.

Find yourself

You don't need to be an expert on politics or political parties to vote. But, it does help to figure out your own political identity. Everyone has an issue that rubs them the wrong way, or that they're hopeful about. Either way, you have the right and the power to elect a government who understands your experiences and will bring Canadians' hopes and dreams to life.

What are the 3 most important issues to you?

Why?

When it comes to these issues, what do you wish you knew more about?

Some people define the political landscape or 'political spectrum' by using 'The Left' and 'The Right'. But at the end of the day, it's more complex than one side versus another.

In really simple terms when people say The Left and The Right, this is what they mean:

The Left:

The government has an important role to play in making life better for people. Sometimes 'the Left' is called progressive, or liberal.

People in the middle can be called '**Centrists**' or '**Moderates**'.

The Right:

Supporting a free market is the best way to make life better for people. Sometimes 'the Right' is called conservative.

This can be confusing because parties might have some of these words in their names. However, a party's name and policies don't always fit neatly into a 'Left' or 'Right' side.*

Using three issues from the previous page, think of some solutions politicians would offer and place them on the scale below.



<p>Left Solution: The government pays for nonprofit, cooperative or public affordable housing.</p>	<p>Moderate Solution: The government works with developers to set aside a certain number of affordable housing units.</p>	<p>Right Solution: Providing tax breaks to developers to build more housing will create more supply and bring down the cost.</p>
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How do your views compare?

Canada is a country that is made up of many nations. How do we all relate to each other? Who has a seat at the table, who has decision making power, and over what? These are some of the many questions to consider when finding your political identity.

Good thing there are fantastic tools to help you with this!

Vote Compass asks you a number of questions on a range of issues. Based on your answers, you'll learn how your opinions compare to the platforms of the parties in the election.



***Left and Right isn't the most helpful way to view issues. In Canada, community identity can be intertwined with political issues that are bigger than simply Left or Right. What communities do you belong to? How does that relate to your identity as a Canadian?**

Try it starting September 9
cbcnews.ca/votecompass

Access links to tools at engagedemocracy.ca/election-handbook





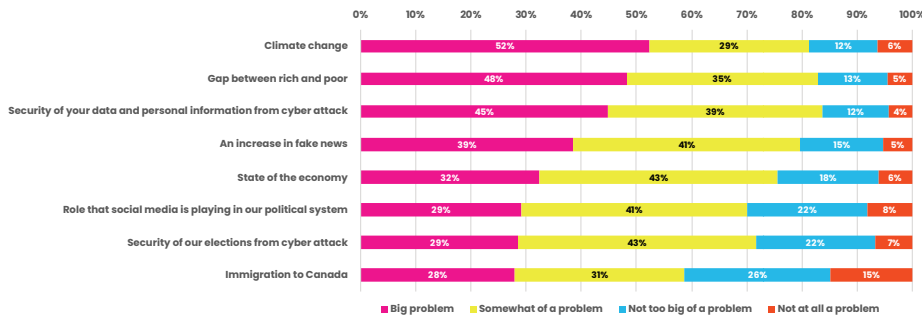
Advertisement

Remember:

Just because you've voted one way in the past, doesn't mean you have to vote that way again. We change our minds all the time, right? You probably changed your mind about your career a few times. Political views can be the same.

40% of Canadians say that they are very or somewhat likely to change the party they support before the election this year.

Think about how things are going in Canada today. Considering each of the following factors, would you say each are a big problem, somewhat of a problem, not too big of a problem, or not at all a problem affecting Canadians and society in general?



Data from Ryerson Leadership Lab's Rebuilding the Public Square Report (2019)
 Get citations, hyperlinks and more at engagedemocracy.ca/election-handbook.

3. Dude, where's my information?

Sometimes it can feel hard to get to the truth of what's really going on. Between podcasts, social media, online news, and traditional news, there are a lot of people with a lot of things to say. It doesn't matter how often you watch the news, or your level of education, it's a problem that affects everyone.

At the same time, the internet is a great place to express yourself. Your voice can reach millions of people, but with great power comes great responsibility.

Only 46% of Canadians have fact-checked a social media post about the news on another site, but 75% found fact-checking to be effective

Data from Ryerson Leadership Lab's Rebuilding the Public Square Report (2019)

90% of Canadian have been misled by "fake news" online.



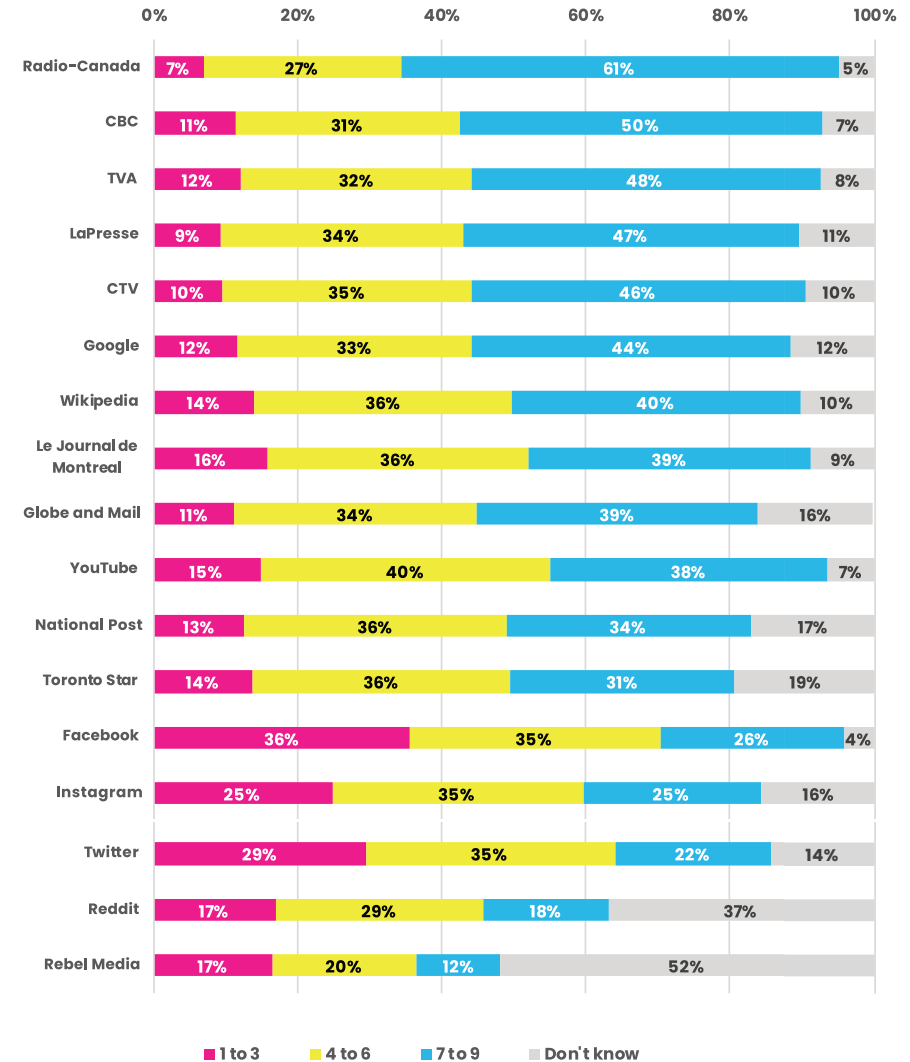
Spot the Red Flags

The first step is to check if the article or post has typos, errors in its reporting, a low number of readers or is brand new to the internet.

If you're still questioning your media sources, there are even more tools to help you find your way online, including **newswise**, **bemediasmart** and **newsliteracy**. If you spot an article being shared that you don't think is trustworthy, you can also report it. On Facebook, there is even a **false news button!**

Want more? Sign up to Evidence for Democracy's **Truth Pledge** and check their **Truth Toolkit** to understand more about why people share misinformation online, and what you can do about it. To learn more about misinformation in general, Apathy is Boring has a **useful guide**.

On a scale of 1-9, where 1 means you have no trust at all and 9 means you have a high degree of trust, how do you feel about each of the following when it comes to trusting them to act in the best interest of the public:



Get citations, hyperlinks and more at engagedemocracy.ca/election-handbook.

Tricks of the Internet



Bots and Fake Social Media Accounts

It's not just your friends sharing potential "fake news"

As much fun as social media can be, things can also get a little weird. People can create fake social media accounts designed to look like someone else - like a celebrity, company, or politician. They might have the right photo or display name, but when you dig a little deeper it's someone else posing as them. Not cool.

You might also come across "bots" - accounts created and run by computer programs that are designed to look like real people and can post content, re-share, or send messages.



Fact:

Bots and fake accounts spread misinformation by making it seem like news articles and certain viewpoints are being shared by lots of people.



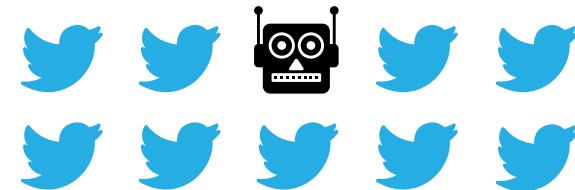
Pro-tip: How to spot bots & fake accounts

- The account has a username that's just a long list of numbers or letters
- The account posts all the time (maybe 50 times a day or more)
- The name and the picture don't match up
- The account is really new, maybe just a few days old.

For more help, visit [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) and find their guides about spotting bots and fake accounts.

That's a lot of Bots:

Twitter in particular has a lot of bots. In fact, some estimate there are 48 million bots on the platform, more than 1 in 10 of all the accounts.



Understanding the information bubble

Sorry to burst your bubble, but social media platforms have a business model that is dependent on you scrolling on their apps and websites for as long as possible. That's why you go on it for what seems like a minute but reemerge an hour later, dazed and confused. These platforms have designed software using a set of instructions called algorithms

that look at the posts, videos, and articles you read, like, and click. You end up seeing more news, videos, and posts based on what you've looked at before because it knows what you like and serves up more of that. It means that unless you look at different news sources, you're not getting a lot of variety in your news. That's why it's called a bubble.

DID YOU KNOW?

Leonard Marchand was the first First Nations Member of Parliament and Cabinet Minister, elected in 1968.

Don't get fooled



Stop



Think



Check

If something you're reading makes you stop and scratch your head, there are very quick and practical ways you can check up on a news source if you're not 100% sure about it.

The first thing to remember is that you should be looking at the source, not the story itself. Where did it come from? Do you know the person or the website?

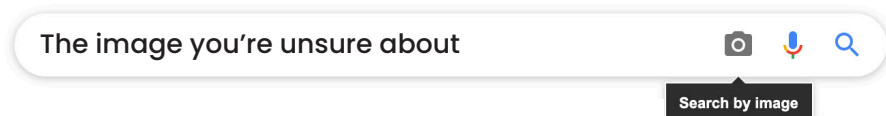
Look for the source of the article, and if it seems unfamiliar, simply copy and paste it into a search engine. Websites such as **Wikipedia** and **Snopes** are trustworthy sources that often come up when you search for an organization.



Spotting other kinds of fake content online

A picture can say a thousand words, but sometimes, you just want it to tell you one thing - real or fake? Note sure if it's #Authentic? It is easy to check.

- First do a Google “reverse image search.” Right click on an image (or if you’re on your smartphone, long-pressing or taking a screenshot) and select “reverse image search” or “google search image.”



- This opens a new search window that shows you places the image has appeared. If the image has been changed, or a new headline added, you should be able to tell.
- If that does not work, **Snopes has a “fauxtography” section** that collects images on the internet and checks their original source.

Videos can also be manipulated through voiceovers, subtitles, or edits that remove important context.

- It might seem obvious, but the first thing you should do is trust your instincts when it comes to videos you see online. Does it seem strange? Does this story seem real?
- Just like verifying a news source, a simple online search can often verify whether a video is legitimate. If you do find that other sites have posted the video, check the language they use to describe it. Phrases such as “seems like” or “appears to be” are often signs that journalists themselves don’t know if the source is legitimate.
- If you’re still unsure, try doing a reverse image search on the thumbnail of the video, or you can use a tool like

Amnesty International's YouTube Data Viewer.

For more resources on how to spot and check fake viral videos, **The Verge** has a great guide, as does **Canada's National Observer.**

BTW, you're not alone in fighting fakes. Others do it too, but not enough.



Data from Ryerson Leadership Lab's Rebuilding the Public Square Report (2019)

Parody



Parody sites look and sound like real news, but they're not actually real news. They get creative with news stories in order to make us LOL. Often times the news is a real bummer, and sometimes, you just need a little uplifting humour that pokes fun at the news. But, when these stories are shared,

sometimes they get mistaken for real news. It's an easy mistake!

Here are some funny and common satire sites you may have come across: *The Onion*, *Clickhole*, Canadian-based *The Beaverton*, and *Reductress*. There are many others on the internet and TV.

How to be a positive influencer online

When you're communicating online, it's easy to forget that you're talking to real people. After all, a Tweet or Facebook post doesn't have a facial expression, body language, or tone of voice, which makes it difficult to judge the meaning of people's words.

Think about the values that are important to you; how do you like to be treated? There's no reason why those values should change when you're speaking to someone face-to-face versus when you're posting a message for someone online. There's still a person behind that screen.

How do you go from a negative to a positive? Easy. Share stories about people, events, and experiences that you admire and support, instead of oppose or hate. Share the love. Spotlight solutions, don't just highlight the problems. Sharing (the good stuff) is caring.

If things go wrong, you're not alone

There are 3.9 billion people on the internet, and 33 million Canadians online.

One of the beautiful things about the internet is our exposure to all kinds of people and ideas. Peoples' varying cultural values, creativity, and life experiences are essential to problem solving. We need everyone to work together to make the world a better place. **It's important to respect everyone's differences, and where you can, try to see things from someone else's perspective.**

Unfortunately, sometimes people become a victim of abuse or online harassment. There are ways for you to stop online abuse and harassment. They aren't perfect, but there are ways to get help. If you are the victim of

personal attacks, hate speech, stalking, or any kind of behaviour that makes you feel unsafe, you can always report content to social media platforms. Check the how-to's from **Twitter** and **Facebook**. You can also block accounts or remove them from your friends' list.

That's not all you can do. Services like **iheartmob.org** can help you record offensive messages or content you've been sent. The organization's volunteers offer support and advice. Finally, if a situation escalates to a point where you feel your personal safety is being threatened, tell the police about it.

4. Getting Out and Making a Difference



It's almost election day and you're ready to go out and vote. But, first....

Did you know?

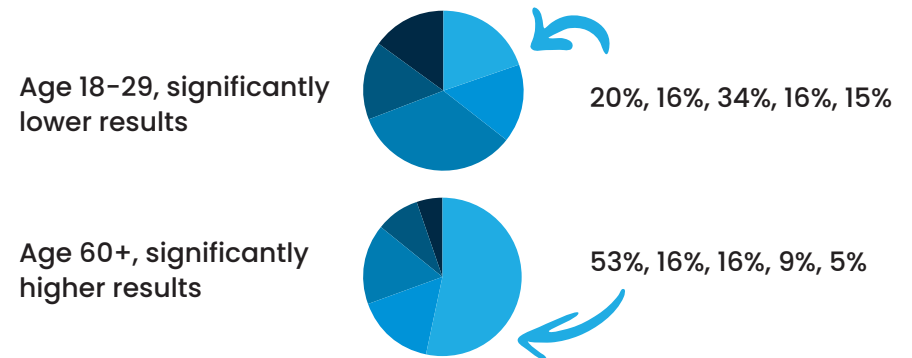
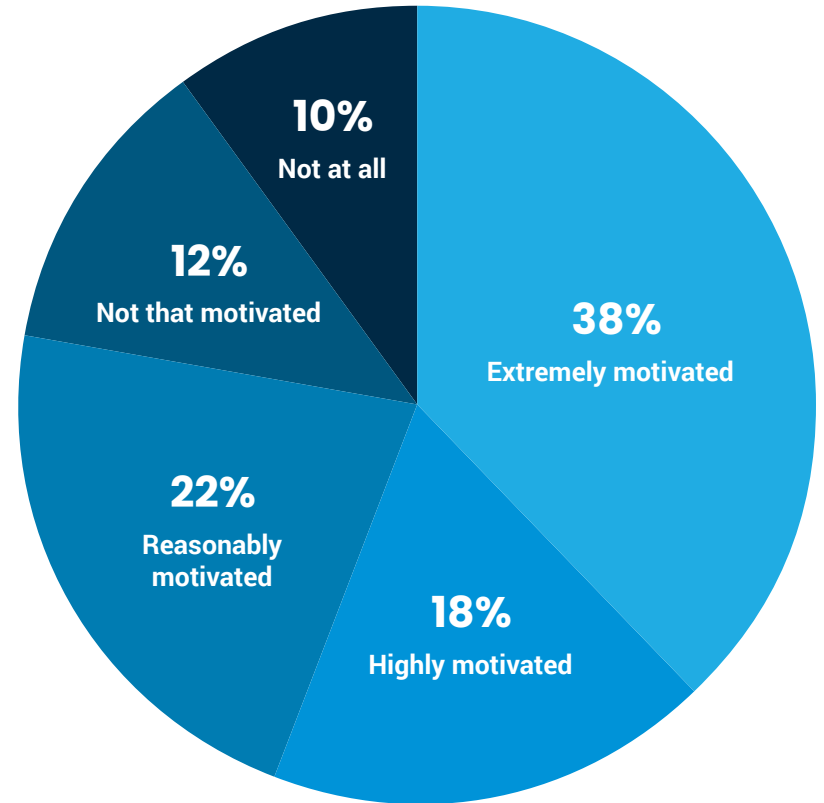
Youth are doing the hardest work when it comes to keeping the wheels of democracy spinning. Youth are more politically active than older Canadians, *except* when it comes to voting. Here are the numbers to prove it:

<p>Only 20% youth (18-29) said they were extremely motivated to vote</p>	<p>53% of those 60+ said they were extremely motivated to vote.</p>
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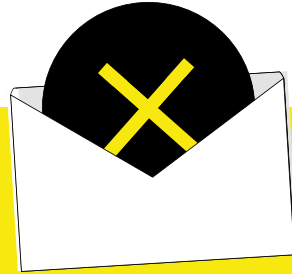
And everyone in the middle is **38%** motivated to vote.

Politicians listen to groups of people who vote. Their jobs depend on it.

How motivated do you feel to vote in the next federal election?



Busting a move and busting a few myths



MYTH #1 Voting is Hard

Elections Canada will send a voter information card to everyone who is registered showing where and when to vote. If you missed it or did not get one, visit elections.ca to easily look up when and where to vote.

If you're a student, Elections Canada is setting up polling stations on college and university campuses across the country from October 5 - 10.

Pro-Tip: On-campus voting locations are open to anyone. These are "vote anywhere" locations meaning that you can use them to vote if you live across town or across the country.

If you want to vote by mail, you can apply to get a voting kit at elections.ca or by calling Elections Canada at **1-800-463-6868**.

The truth is: voting is easy!

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Election updates delivered to your inbox

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MYTH #2 If you don't have a permanent address or proof of one, you can't vote

If you are 18 years old and a Canadian citizen you can vote. End of story.

Elections Canada wants to make sure every eligible voter has a chance to vote. That is why they provide many options for ID and even allow someone who lives in your riding to vouch for you if you don't have proof of your current address.

People without a fixed address can show an official letter called a "Letter of Confirmation of Residence" from a shelter or where they access other social services.



MYTH #3 Employers don't have to give you time off to vote

Employers can't make you work all day on election day without a break to vote. All employers in Canada are required by law to provide you with three consecutive hours off in order to vote. Way to go, Canada.

MYTH #4 You need to be registered before going to vote

Nope. While 80% of Canadians are automatically registered to vote, you can register at the polling station when you go to vote. You just need to prove your address and it might take you a few minutes longer. Again, Elections Canada is trying to make it easy for us.

It's voting time.

Ok, you're fully prepped and ready to go. Now it's voting time. Here's a checklist of everything you need to know to make it happen.

- ✓ If you're a Canadian citizen, you have the right to vote. You don't even have to be in Canada on Election Day. Visit [Elections.ca](https://elections.ca) for more options.
- ✓ Can't make it on October 21st? Don't sweat it. Your vote still counts. Consider visiting an advance polling station between October 11th to October 14th between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.
- ✓ Or you can vote any day at any Elections Canada office (there's one in every riding).
- ✓ Need help finding an Elections Canada office? Start at [Elections.ca](https://elections.ca).
- ✓ You can also vote by mail using a special ballot. You can apply to get a voting kit at [Elections.ca](https://elections.ca) or by calling Elections Canada at **1-800-463-6868**.

Make a plan to Vote!



Choose a date and location:

- October 5-9**
On Campus
- October 11-14**
Advanced
- October 21**
Election Day

Location:



Tell your friends:

You know where to find them.

Get their attention with a quick **DM'd vote emoji**, **text**, or **call**.

Bring someone or the whole family:

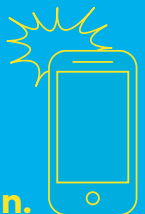
#TakeYourParentToVote

Fill in their name(s)

How will you get there:

- Walk**
- Cycle**
- Transit**
- Drive**

Tell the world you voted!




Vote selfies are so in.
Post about it after you vote. But just remember that you can't take photos while inside a polling location.

Have your ID ready to vote

Three options to prove your identity and address


Option 1



Show one of these pieces of ID

- your driver's licence
- any other card issued by a Canadian government (federal, provincial/territorial or local) with your photo, name and current address

Option 2



Show two pieces of ID

Both must have your name and at least one must have your current address

Examples:


- voter information card and bank statement
- utility bill and student ID card

Don't have these? No problem!
See the **list of accepted ID for option 2**

From a government or government agency	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • band membership card • birth certificate • Canadian citizenship card or certificate • Canadian Forces identity card • Canadian passport • card issued by an Inuit local authority • firearms licence • library card • licence or card issued for fishing, trapping or hunting • liquor identity card • Métis card • old age security card • parolee card 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • government cheque or cheque stub • government statement of benefits • health card • income tax assessment • Indian status card or temporary confirmation of registration • property tax assessment or evaluation • public transportation card • social insurance number card • vehicle ownership • Veterans Affairs health care identification card
From Elections Canada	From an educational institution
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • targeted revision form to residents of long-term care institutions • voter information card 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • correspondence issued by a school, college or university • student identity card

From a health care facility or organization		From a private organization	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • blood donor card • CNIB card • hospital card • label on a prescription container 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identity bracelet issued by a hospital or long-term care institution • medical clinic card 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • employee card • residential lease or sub-lease • utility bill (e.g.: electricity; water; telecommunications services including telephone, cable or satellite) 	
From a financial institution			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bank statement • credit card • credit card statement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mortgage contract or statement • pension plan statement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • debit card • insurance certificate, policy or statement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • personal cheque • credit union statement
Letters of confirmation			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • letter from a public curator, public guardian or public trustee • letter of confirmation of residence from a First Nations band or reserve or an Inuit local authority • letter of confirmation of residence, letter of stay, admission form, or statement of benefits from one of the 	following designated establishments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – student residence – seniors' residence – long-term care institution – shelter – soup kitchen – a community-based residential facility 		

Option 3




If you don't have ID

You can still vote if you declare your identity and address in writing and have someone who knows you and who is assigned to your polling station vouch for you.

The voucher must be able to prove their identity and address. A person can vouch for only one person (except in long-term care institutions).

The complete list of accepted ID is available in multiple languages at elections.ca.

For other formats, such as braille and audio, call **1-800-463-6868**.



See you at the polls!

Find the digital version of the **Federal Election Handbook** at
engagedemocracy.ca/election-handbook
for access to all hyperlinks and more resources.

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The Democratic Engagement Exchange