



THE LAADLI BLOG

Women in Politics



By: Ranjit Saini
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Over the last weekend, I had the opportunity to work for Elections Canada. While working, I realized how far women have come from not being able to vote to stand as candidates in elections to becoming world leaders. Just alone in my riding, there were three women candidates amongst five candidates.

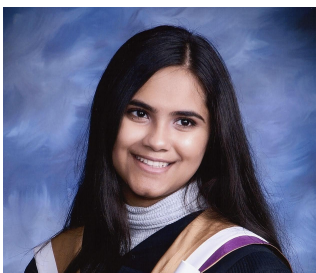
In Canada, women got the right to vote in 1912, and 100 years later, women are starting to dominate the political spectrum. As in the current elections, Liberals have 146 women candidates; Conservative have 111, and NDP have 162. Additionally, women are starting to hold a higher position within the government as 16 women were Cabinet Ministers in the previous government. Chrystia Freeland held one of the highest positions in the Cabinet as a Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. Women are also starting to become party leaders as Elizabeth May and Annamie Paul both have been the leader of the Green Party. There are also 50 women in the senate out of 105 spots.

South Asian women have also excelled in politics, as some have been in cabinet ministry. Anita Anand was elected to office in 2019 and became the Minister of Public Services and Procurement. She played a crucial role in securing covid-19 vaccines. Bardish Chagger is a South Asian woman who serves as the Ministry of Diversity, Inclusion, and Youth in the Cabinet. Anju Dhillon became the first South Asian woman to be elected from Quebec. Some other south Asian politicians include Ruby Sahota and Sonia Sidhu from Brampton.



Outside of Canada, women also exceed in politics. 26 women serve as Head of State or Government in 24 countries. Some honourable current politicians include Jacinda Ardern, Prime Ministry of New Zealand since 2017; Kamala Harris, Vice President of the United States; Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany since 2005; Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives.

These women are paving the way for young aspiring girls to join politics and break through the barriers. These women did not just become elected officials but have played a vital role in the future of their country. Jacinda Ardern effectively eliminates Covid-19 from New Zealand, and Anita Anand has secured millions of Covid-19 vaccines for Canadians. Chrystia Freeland helped renegotiate the United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement (USMCA), formerly known as North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). What these women have achieved will help millions of people around the world. It would not be surprising to see more women becoming political candidates and world leaders in the future. Women in politics will keep breaking barriers and helping thousands of people live better lives.



My name is Ranjit Saini. I recently graduated from Wilfrid Laurier University majoring in Political Science and specializing in Public Policy. Currently, I am working at Punjabi Community Health Services Foundation as their Research Support Officer Summer Student. One day, I also hope to have a career in Policy and Research.