

Examiner: The 2015 Election Edition

Why Does this Election Matter to You?



Let's look at the issues

Some Deal! Trans-Pacific Partnership:

- ◆ Canada agrees to a 5 year timeline for phasing out tariffs on automobiles, while the US held out and got 25 years. Who on earth was at the negotiating table for Canada?
- ◆ Jobs are at stake.

The terrorists are coming! The terrorists are coming! Bill C-51:

- ◆ Standing up for aboriginal rights? *You could be a terrorist.*
- ◆ Protesting environmental degradation? *You could be a terrorist.*
- ◆ Doing anything the government might decide is “undermining the economy”? *You could be a terrorist.*
- ◆ We know who opposed this draconian legislation...and we know who didn't.

Watering down our environmental protection laws:

- ◆ Canada set inadequate targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and isn't meeting them.
- ◆ Protection for 98% of our lakes and rivers has been eliminated.
- ◆ Government workers, including climate scientists, have been muzzled.

Poverty? What poverty?

- ◆ One in four children in Hamilton lives in poverty. Nationally, the ratio is one out of six.
- ◆ We're 24th out of 34 OECD countries in terms of citizens living in poverty.
- ◆ Some aboriginal communities have faced boiled water advisories for over 20 years.

Human Rights:

- ◆ Wedge politics seems to be the standard for this government.
- ◆ “Barbaric cultural practices”—seriously?

There are plenty of good reasons to get involved in this election.

What can you do for your students?

Remember, many of your students are first time voters, so please talk to them about how important it is to vote. In addition, here are a few useful links that you may post for your students.

- ◆ The Council of Canadians “**How to Vote**” website is a helpful primer on the process of voting: <http://canadians.org/sites/default/files/publications/HowToVote-2015.pdf>
- ◆ **Be The Vote**, a website created by two young women from Hamilton, focuses on getting students to vote: <http://www.bethevote.ca/>
- ◆ The Canadian Federation of students (CFS) is a nationwide student organization that informs students about important issues such as education quality and the role of government funding to support that quality. Also, it addresses student “pocket-book issues” such as tuition, as well as the rising levels of poverty among students: <http://itsnosecret.cfswnetwork.ca/>

What can you do, yourself?

- ◆ We’re entering the home stretch of the campaign, so please decide which party best represents the interests of you, your family, your profession, the future of education and the future of your country. Next, put up a sign and volunteer to help your candidate.
- ◆ Volunteering is particularly important on Election Day (a.k.a. E-Day) when Job 1 is “pulling the vote”. No matter what the polls say, candidates who successfully pull the vote improves their chances of winning immensely. This is where you can really make a difference.
- ◆ Talk up the election with family, friends, co-workers and anyone else who will listen, especially as we enter the final week of the campaign. Apathy is a *democracy killer*. In fact, democracy only exists if we practise it.

Be a part of the solution. Get involved and encourage your students to get involved!