

PLEASE SHARE CHALK TALK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES!!!

Letter from the Editor

Dear Educators,

"Maturity is when your world opens up and you realize that you are not the centre of it."
- M.J. Croan

No doubt you've heard the popular saying – '40 is the new 30.' By extension, 50 is the new 40, 30 the new 20 and 20 the new...? The reality is that young adults are just that – adults. They can legally marry, buy a car, move from one city to another and travel the world without a guardian or parental approval. They are responsible for their decisions and their actions.



As exciting as it may be, gaining maturity can be accompanied by apprehension, uncertainty and more than a few changes in direction. And that's okay. Everyone goes through it. These young adults are at the beginning of a process that will see them taking the reins from their parents' generation. Gradually, young people find their way and gain importance within society, becoming contributors to the strength of their country's economic growth and stability.

An essential rite of passage to adulthood is participation in choosing our country's governance. The voting process can be confusing for young people. The sooner they learn about this process, the earlier they'll gain the confidence they'll need to know themselves and to assess their values.

It's essential that parents, educators and government work together to encourage an early interest in voting. This week's *Chalk Talk* features resources designed for teaching civic education in Canadian classrooms. To find more resources and programs, go to www.4edu.ca.

Mary Kovack

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Elections Canada

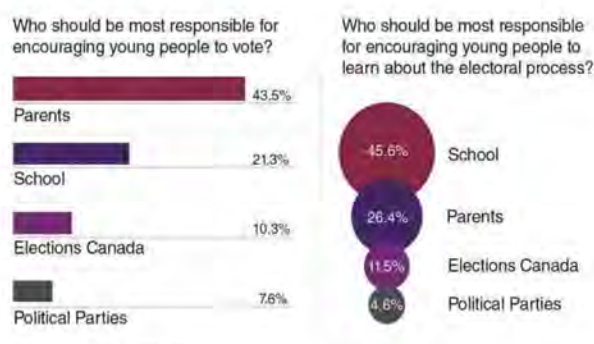


How can Elections Canada help you educate the voters of tomorrow?

As the last [Canadian Election Study](#) revealed, Canadians' expectations of teachers go beyond teaching reading, math and science: Canadians now expect teachers to help shape the citizens of tomorrow.

Naturally, teachers cannot do this alone. In fact, we must all work together to provide youth with knowledge and tools to foster their interest in the electoral process and teach them how to be civically engaged.

WHAT CANADIANS THINK



Elections Canada wants to make concepts such as democracy, voting and active citizenship easy for you to introduce into your classroom in a participatory, interesting and fun way. Elections Canada's educational resources can help you meet your curriculum objectives while you spark your students' interest in voting. We offer a wide array of teaching resources designed for elementary, secondary and ESL students. Our resources are available free of charge – even the shipping is free.

[Order them now!](#)



Did you know?

- 1. Canadians are voting less and less.**
 - ✓ In 1958, the voter turnout was 79%. In 2011, the voter turnout was only 61%.
 - ✓ There are 2.9 million Canadian youth (ages 18–24). Only 4 in 10 voted in 2011.
- 2. Canadians who are “knowers” are also voters!***
 - ✓ A whopping 90% of youth who correctly answered 3/3 political questions said they voted.
 - ✓ Only 24% of youth who correctly answered 0/3 political questions said they voted.

YOUTH TURNOUT IN 2011 FEDERAL ELECTION



TWO TRENDS ARE HAPPENING

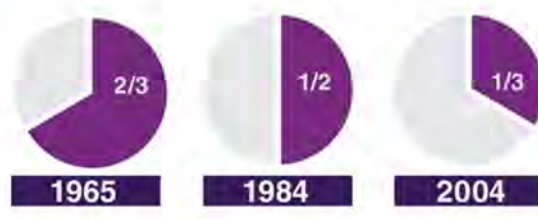
- 1 YOUNG CANADIANS ARE LESS LIKELY TO VOTE THAN THEIR PARENTS OR GRANDPARENTS.**
- 2 YOUNG ELECTORS ARE LESS LIKELY TO TAKE UP THE HABIT OF VOTING AS THEY GROW OLDER.**

Help make your students “knowers” and future voters: teaching civics and politics matter!

Help reverse these trends and make your students knowers with Elections Canada's experiential civic education resources:

- ✓ Organize an election in class using one of our [simulated election kits](#).
- ✓ Use the [Voting Rules!](#) civic education program to introduce democracy, the electoral and legislative processes, key players in Canadian government and the rights and responsibility of Canadian citizenship.
- ✓ Encourage students to take part in the **National Democracy Challenge** (September 15 to November 30, 2014) by [signing up](#) in one of the three categories: video, image or writing (see below).
- ✓ Order our [textbook](#) on the evolution of the franchise in Canadian history.
- ✓ Use our low-literacy, [ESL booklet](#) to help your students build vocabulary and confidence on how the democratic system works in Canada.
- ✓ Prep your Grade 12 students for their first-time voting experience with our [“It Starts With You”](#) first-time voters guide.

FIRST-TIME VOTERS VOTED IN THEIR FIRST ELECTION



A great class activity with great prizes for your students!



Canadians aged **14 to 17** are invited to answer the following challenge:

“Show us why Canada should vote.”

[Prizes](#) are available for the top three entries in the following categories: videos, images or writing. There is also a School Challenge prize for the school with the most entries.

This year our [judges](#) include Canadian television personality Rick Mercer, Commonwealth and Pan Am Games silver medalist Rosanna Tomiuk and Canadian Idol winner Eva Avila.

The deadline for your students to enter is **November 30, 2014**.

Have your students [enter now](#).



Find out about Elections Canada's civic education resources in person: We're coming to a [teachers' association conference](#) near you this fall!

Have questions about how to run an exciting election simulation in your classroom?

Looking for resources to teach students about democracy, elections, voting, government and active citizenship?

Come meet Elections Canada staff at our booth at your province's or territory's teachers' association conference this fall. We're looking forward to meeting you.

For more information about conferences and initiatives or to order resources, visit:

www.elections.ca
(click on "teacher" under "I am a:")
or
Bit.ly/election-education

Or call us at **1-800-463-6868** (TTY 1-800-361-8935)

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