



Chalk Talk

Greetings

Feature

Democracy!

PLEASE SHARE CHALK TALK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES!!!

Letter from the Editor

Dear Educators,

Earlier this year, citizens of Tunisia, Libya, Egypt and others organized themselves to challenge their governments in what came to be referred to as 'The Arab Spring'. Tens of thousands of people, determined to gain the freedom to participate in democracy, fought their respective government-backed militaries. Unfolding on our television screens and across the internet, we witnessed their struggle. Many lives were lost but they persevered and achieved their goals. One can only stand in amazement to realize that a mere 8 months later, the first of the countries to rise up, Tunisia, held its first democratic elections. Something that seemed improbable, if not impossible at this time last year, has had a major impact on our world.

During this same time period, Canadians have gone to the polls several times -- federally, provincially and municipally -- to choose their leaders. Yet it often happens that barely half of our eligible voters exercise this vital democratic right. They cynically say that voting doesn't matter; more specifically that their one single vote will not matter. The results of our elections show that that is not true. Federally, there has been a sea change and recently, Ontario elected a minority government which is deficient of a majority by a single seat.

On November 11, Canadians across our country marked Remembrance Day, reminding us of the lives that have been lost and that continue to be lost to protect our rights and freedoms. There is no greater right than voting. Voting does matter. It can and will shape Canada's future. There are still too many Canadians who do not take the opportunity to exercise this most democratic of rights. The 'election mobs' phenomena earlier this year were encouraging among young people but there's still a long way to go before their voices are fully heard. This week's **Chalk Talk** features free classroom resources and programs from **Elections Canada**.

CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting the important work of teachers. Visit our website at www.4edu.ca to view the many free teachers' resources on offer.

[Your feedback is welcome.](#)

Mary Kovack

Still time to get your students to enter the "Art of Democracy" National Youth Challenge!

New! The Art of Democracy National Youth Challenge

"The Art of Democracy" National Youth Challenge was launched during Canada's Democracy Week (September 12-16, 2011). See the feature *below* for more details on how your students can participate in this competition and win great prizes. **Deadline is November 30, 2011.**



New! Canada's Democracy Week Education Guides

Education guides were created to support the inaugural Canada's Democracy Week (September 12-16, 2011) and can be used as an introduction to any lesson on democracy, elections, voting or citizenship! Elementary- and secondary-level educators are invited to check out new project- and activity-based lesson plans on the Canada's Democracy Week website at www.democracy-democratie.ca





"The Art of Democracy" National Youth Challenge

["The Art of Democracy" National Youth Challenge](#) invites young Canadians aged 14-30 to submit images, videos, blog posts and tweets in response to the question "What does your democracy mean to you?"

A five-member panel of notable Canadians will judge the entries. Contestants will win prizes for the best submissions in each category and their work will be displayed at www.democracy-democratie.ca. Winners and runners-up will receive the following:

Best Image

- Winner: Nikon camera - D3000 with 18-55VR and 55-200VR lenses
- Runner-up: PlayStation 3 - 320 GB Entertainment System

Best Video

- Winner: iPad 2 - 16 GB with Wi-Fi and 3G and iPad Smart Cover
- Runner-up: PlayStation 3 - 320 GB Entertainment System

Best Blog Post

- Winner: iPad 2 - 16 GB with Wi-Fi and 3G and iPad Smart Cover
- Runner-Up: iPod Touch - 32 GB

Best Tweet

- 5 winners: Chapters Indigo gift card (\$100 each)

The submission deadline is **November 30, 2011**. Winners will be announced in March 2012.

"The Art of Democracy" National Youth Challenge is run by Elections Canada in collaboration with Apathy is Boring, a national youth-led charitable organization that uses art and technology to educate youth about democracy. A Classroom Poster, *shown right*, can be [ordered](#) in print or [downloaded](#) in PDF format.

Information about Canada's Democracy Week and the National Youth Challenge, as well as the submission form, are available at www.democracy-democratie.ca.

For more information:

Elections Canada

1-800-463-6868

(TTY 1-800-361-8935)

democracy-democratie@elections.ca

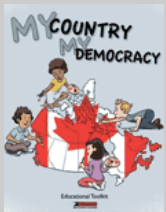
What you will find at elections.ca

Welcome, educators!

Spark interest in voting: Elections Canada provides the tools.

As educators, your role is more crucial than ever in making our parliamentary and democratic institutions relevant to students – the voters of tomorrow. Elections Canada offers elementary, junior, high school and ESL/FLS teachers free educational resources, tools, activities, information and links, all designed to make their work a little easier. [Order your resources today!](#)

Educational Products



My Country, My Democracy (NEW! Coming late Fall 2011)

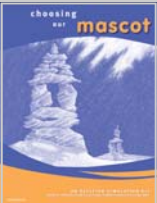
Audience: Kindergarten to Grade 4

Description: Interactive learning activities guide

Divided into three levels of difficulty, this tool kit provides a variety of activities and interactive learning ideas to allow students to increase their sense of the wider Canadian community and their understanding of Canadian citizenship.

Formats: Print, online

Available to be ordered in late Fall 2011



Choosing Our Mascot

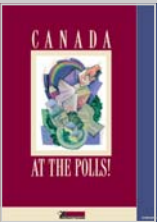
Audience: Kindergarten to Grade 4

Description: Election simulation kit

Have your students choose a classroom mascot. The kit includes instructions on how to conduct a mock election, activity booklets and election materials.

Formats: Print (full kit), online (teacher's guide and resource sheets only)

To [order](#) this resource, or to view online, click [here](#).



Canada at the Polls!

Audience: Grades 5 to 12

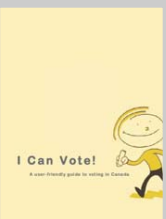
Description: Election simulation kit and student council election guide

Running a student council election? This kit contains a step-by-step guide and materials for electing a student council or conducting an election simulation, including tally sheets, ballot boxes and more.

Formats: Print (full kit), online (teacher's guide and resource sheets only)

To [order](#) this resource, or to view online, click [here](#).

Educational Resources



I Can Vote!

Audience: All levels, ESL, low literacy

Description: Teaching resource

I Can Vote! takes the mystery out of voting and shows that voting is all about choice. It is intended for literacy classes and the Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) program.

Formats: Print, online

[Download this resource](#)



A History of the Vote in Canada

Audience: Teachers and secondary school students

Description: Background resource

This beautiful 150-page, full-colour book is a great background resource for any teacher. It recounts how Canadians acquired the right to vote and how they overcame obstacles in exercising this right.

Formats: Print, online

[Download this resource](#)



The Electoral System of Canada

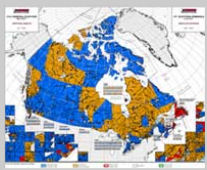
Audience: Teachers and secondary school students

Description: Background resource

Ever wonder what happens behind the scenes at Elections Canada? *The Electoral System of Canada* explains how Canadian elections are run and describes key aspects of the federal electoral process.

Format: Online

[Download this resource](#)



Maps Corner

Description: Maps of Canada's provincial and territorial electoral districts and regions
Searching for a visual way to explain how federal elections take place? Check out the *Maps Corner* to find provincial and territorial maps with the federal electoral boundaries and voting results from past elections.

Formats: Print, online

[Download this resource](#)

Elections Canada Partner

Forum for Young Canadians

Audience: Secondary school and CEGEP students

Description: One-week national program in Ottawa

Each one-week session gives 125 students (aged 15–19 years) from across Canada a bilingual, behind-the-scenes introduction to Parliament Hill. Forum for Young Canadians enables young people to delve deeply into Canadian politics and public affairs to discover what running the country looks like up close.

To apply, go to www.forum.ca or call 613-233-4086.

For more information and to order

Online

www.elections.ca

By phone

1-800-463-6868 (TTY 1-800-361-8935)

By mail

Elections Canada, Policy, Planning and Public Affairs – Outreach Directorate, 257 Slater Street, 9th floor,
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0M6

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We are the Company for Education Communications. We specialize in developing, producing and evaluating school resources and award programs. Working in conjunction with Departments/Ministries of Education, school district/boards, associations, teachers and subject specialists across the country; we provide free, curriculum-based educational resources to Canadian classrooms.

The opinions, conclusions and other information expressed in the preceding content do not necessarily reflect the views of and are not endorsed by CoEd Communications.

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