

# You can participate in the federal election



## EVERY TIME AN ELECTION IS CALLED THERE ARE MANY QUESTIONS:

- What role can federal employees play in the campaign?
- Can I actively participate, or must I stay on the sidelines because I work for the government?
- Am I allowed to get involved in a campaign or do I have to remain non-partisan?

All federal employees, except for the very top ranks, are entitled to participate in elections like any other Canadian citizen.

The Federal Public Service Employment Act no longer bans federal employees from election activity. In 1991, PIPSC won a Supreme Court of Canada ruling that found the act's restrictions violated the Charter of Rights and Freedoms' guarantee of freedom of association and expression.

## THIS MEANS YOU CAN:

- display an election sign at your home
- publicly speak out on election issues
- publicly support a political party or candidate, for example at a public meeting
- write your local newspaper to endorse a candidate or party
- canvass door-to-door on behalf of a candidate
- work in a campaign office
- help a party or candidate on election day
- solicit or contribute funds for a candidate or political party

## THERE ARE SOME RESTRICTIONS. AS A FEDERAL EMPLOYEE YOU MUST NOT:

- engage in political activity at your workplace
- use the Employer's electronic devices to communicate your political activity
- publicly criticize the department or agency where you work
- engage in activity that could put you in conflict with the responsibilities of your job

## Running as a Candidate

Federal employees may take leave and run for parliament. They must first seek and receive permission through the federal Public Service Commission.

If you would like further clarification on this issue of political rights, please talk to your steward or call the PIPSC National office at (613) 228-6310 or 1-800-267-0446.