

Who is telling me how to vote?

Nobody! Your vote is your business. **ArtsVote Niagara** is a cross-disciplinary, non-partisan network of volunteers that encourages artists, arts supporters and arts, culture and heritage workers to vote. By soliciting and evaluating candidate views, we give you information on how candidates compare to one another on arts, culture and heritage questions. You make your own choices!

How do I know I am eligible to vote?

The right to vote in Canada is universally guaranteed by the Constitution since the adoption of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms in 1982.

You are entitled to vote in federal elections if you are a Canadian citizen, and will be 18 or older on polling day. You will receive a Voter Notification Notice in the mail in early October advising where to vote. For valuable information about registering, further information about voting and links to the candidates involved in the current election please visit the Elections Canada website (www.elections.ca) or call Elections Canada at 1-800-463-6868.

NEW! ID required

New rules under the Canada Elections Act now require electors to prove their identity and address before being given a ballot at the polling station.

You must provide either: One original piece of identification issued by a government or government agency containing your photo, name and address. (eg. Driver's licence and Health Card.) Or, two original pieces of identification authorized by the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada. Both pieces must contain your name, and one must also contain your address. (eg. Health Card, Social Insurance Number Card, Birth Certificate, Credit Card Statement or Bank Statement)

You can be vouched for by an elector whose name appears on the list of electors in the same polling division and who has an acceptable piece or pieces of identification. Both will be required to make a sworn statement. An elector cannot vouch for more than one person, and the person who has been vouched for cannot vouch for another elector.

Where do I go to vote?

Depending upon where you live, you can contact the following offices to find out where the polling station nearest to you is located.

St. Catharines 1-866-275-1657

Niagara Falls - NOTL - Ft. Erie 1-866-249-5757

Niagara West - Glanbrook 1-866-249-5810

Welland - Thorold - Pt. Colborne 1-800-463-6868



ArtsVote Niagara Federal Election 2011

Why should I bother to vote?

Arts, heritage and culture represent who we are and what it means to be Canadian. Government has a direct impact on arts, culture and heritage. Your vote will affect which programs and services are maintained, developed, funded and managed.

***In art and in politics,
each and every voice can make
a difference.***

2011 Federal Election Report Card

Niagara Falls-NOTL-Ft. Erie

Bev Hodgson, Liberal Party, **B**
Harold Jonker, Christian Heritage Party, **R**
Heather Kelley, New Democratic Party, **C**
Robert Nicholson, Conservative Party, **R**
Shawn Willick, Green Party, **B**

St. Catharines

David Bylisma, Christian Heritage Party, **R**
Rick Dykstra, Conservative Party, **R**
Andrew Gill, Liberal Party, **A-**
Jennifer Mooradian, Green Party, **A-**
Saleh Waziruddin, Communist Party, **A**
Mike Williams, New Democratic Party, **A-**

Niagara West-Glanbrook

Dean Allison, Conservative Party, **R**
Stephen Bieda, Liberal Party, **A-**
Sid Frere, Green Party, **B**
David Heatley, New Democratic Party, **R**
Bryan Jongbloed, Christian Heritage Party, **F**

Welland

Malcolm Allen, New Democratic Party, **A-**
John Maloney, Liberal Party, **A**
David VanGoolen, Christian Heritage Party, **C**
Leanna Villella, Conservative Party, **R**
Robin Williamson, Green Party, **R**

How did you grade the candidates?

A multiple choice survey was designed and developed by the ArtsVote Niagara Executive Committee for distribution by email to candidates running for election in St. Catharines and the eastern Niagara Region. The survey is available on line at www.artsvoteniagara.ca.

Who did you survey?

We surveyed all 21 candidates running in the four Niagara ridings. The four candidates representing the Progressive Conservative Party declined to or did not return the survey.

What do the grades mean?

The ArtsVote Niagara 2011 grades are based on candidates' responses to 15 multiple choice questions. A cautionary note: it is one thing to excel in a survey and another to deliver on a platform that includes a collaborative, strategic and productive engagement of the cultural sector. This guide explains what the current grades mean.

A+ DAZZLING. A leader who talks the talk and walks the walk. Boldly champions arts, culture and heritage issues. Fully informed and engaged. This grade is reserved for incumbents or former incumbents who have proven integrity.

A OUTSTANDING. Advocates the value of the arts, culture and heritage to municipal life. Talks the talk and offers some evidence they will walk the walk.

B SOLID. Assumes some arts, culture or heritage friendly positions. Has provided support and offered some degree of awareness of the importance of the sector.

C UNFAMILIAR. Arts, culture and heritage issues are not high on the priority list. The candidate is unfamiliar with the sector, or is reluctant to make commitments.

D INADEQUATE. Uninformed, uninterested and/or antagonistic toward the concerns and perspectives of artists or arts, heritage and culture workers.

F FAILURE. Really doesn't get it. Poses a potential danger to the health of the cultural sector.

R REMEDIAL ACTION REQUIRED. Did not return the survey or declined to return the survey.

What are the arts and cultural policies of the parties running in this election?

Christian Heritage Party

<http://www.chp.ca/better-solutions/economy/arts/>

Green Party

<http://greenparty.ca/platform2011>

Liberal Party

<http://www.liberal.ca/issues/arts-culture/>

New Democratic Party

<http://www.ndp.ca/platform/leadership-in-canada#section-5-2>

Conservative Party

http://www.conservative.ca/policy/platform_2011/

Communist Party

<http://www.votecomunist.ca/2011-platform/>

The Canadian Conference of the Arts surveyed the major political parties. Please check the CCA (www.ccarts.ca) for news and information on the parties' positions on arts and culture.

Who is behind ArtsVote Niagara?

ArtsVote Niagara is governed by an Executive Committee of volunteers from the cultural sector: Janis Barlow, Colleen Blake, Stephen Remus and Debbie Slade.

Special thanks are due to the volunteer efforts of: Jane Gardner, Stephanie Jones, Sara Palmieri, Natasha Pedros, Elaine Smithies, Annie Wilson, Barbara Worthy, Odette Yazbeck, and everyone who has helped to disseminate information about *ArtsVote Niagara*.

Website Design: Joe Lapinski

Logo Design: Barbara Klunder

What can I do to support ArtsVote Niagara?

As an artist, arts supporter or arts, culture or heritage worker, you can:

- Vote on Monday 2 May 2011
- Encourage your friends and family to vote
- Pick up ArtsVote Report Cards and give them to your colleagues
- Tell your colleagues to check out www.artsvoteniagara.ca on line
- Volunteer to help *ArtsVote Niagara*
- Donate \$20 to support the printing and distribution of *ArtsVote Niagara*

To learn more about *ArtsVote Niagara*, visit www.artsvoteniagara.ca