



www.fjcf.ca

450, RUE RIDEAU, BUREAU 403
OTTAWA (ONTARIO) K1N 5Z4

☎ 613 562-4624 · 1 800 267-5173
📠 613 562-3995 ✉ fjcf@fjcf.ca

OPEN LETTER

2019 Federal Elections: Young People, The Outcome of the Vote Belongs to Us!

I often hear that young people are not interested in politics. For some people, this disengagement can be demonstrated by looking at the participation rate of young voters, a rate lower than the national average.

To all detractors of citizen engagement among younger generations, I ask: When did you last initiate a discussion with a person under 25 years old?

I engage on a regular basis with young people and I know that they have great aspirations for their country. I'm not the only one to think so!

A recent study published by the Samara Center for Democracy shows that young people are more likely than their older counterparts to hold political events or gatherings, to volunteer, to sign a petition and to demonstrate.

Be open-minded and initiate a conversation with them about what turns them on. You will see, afterwards you might have a whole new perspective on things!

This is what the Fédération de la jeunesse canadienne française (FJCF) did while developing the Platform "BY Youth, FOR Youth ". Here are the highlights. Do not hesitate to refer to it to launch the dialogue with young people in your community (www.fjcf.ca)!

French speaking youth from across the country want the Government of Canada to take concrete actions to ensure the sustainability of natural resources in Canada and around the world for future generations. To make it possible, options include banning single-use plastic, imposing sanctions on companies not meeting their sustainable development obligations and not only to comply, but to go beyond what is expected of Canada with regards to the Paris Agreement.

Young people encourage decision-makers to take measures to ensure that the country's economic plan anticipates the effects of aging population in the workforce, provides incentives for hiring and retaining youth, and ensures that all internships offered in Canada are paid.



www.fjcf.ca

450, RUE RIDEAU, BUREAU 403
OTTAWA (ONTARIO) K1N 5Z4

☎ 613 562-4624 · 1 800 267-5173
📠 613 562-3995 ✉ fjcf@fjcf.ca

Young people deplore the lack of a National Mental Health Strategy. Recognizing that suicide remains the second cause of death among young people between the ages of 15 and 34, the fight against stigma related to mental health should be of primary importance to foster the development and the access to resources and services in French for young people who thrive in a minority language situation.

On the same note, the Official Languages Act should be updated and its implementation reviewed to ensure its relevance for all official language minority communities. This is the wish not only of the members of the FJCF, but also of all members of the Fédération des communautés francophones et acadiennes du Canada (FCFA). Concrete measures should be put in place to promote linguistic security across the country. Under what they called "connectivity", the youth brought together diversity-related issues as a core Canadian value, emphasizing the importance of pluralism in the advancement of society.

In terms of education, young people believe that it is imperative that measures be put in place to ensure an increased number of French teachers in French-language schools, in immersion classes and French as a second language classes across the country.

In order to ensure that the courses of action identified in the Platform "BY Youth, FOR Youth" not only remain on paper, it is crucial that young Canadians vote! Dear young people, I'm now addressing you! Proof being that our vote is important: 400 groups and activists from across the country are taking action to encourage us to vote.

If we lose interest in politics, it is a safe bet that our priorities will not be reflected in the speeches of the candidates, which would be a pity given our desire to find innovative and inclusive solutions allowing everyone to contribute to society to its full potential.

You're still not convinced that the vote is worth it? I have only one question remaining for you: Why let others decide?

The more we take interest in politics, the more politicians are likely to be interested in us! You do not understand anything and you do not know where to start? Well know that the candidates are on social media! Show curiosity! Go familiarize yourself with each party's platform. This will allow you to understand the vision of each of them on different issues. Do not limit yourself only to the party that installed a sign next to your bus stop!



www.fjcf.ca

450, RUE RIDEAU, BUREAU 403
OTTAWA (ONTARIO) K1N 5Z4

☎ 613 562-4624 · 1 800 267-5173
📠 613 562-3995 ✉ fjcf@fjcf.ca

You can organize a party to watch the debate! A little too nerdy for you? Well, try it and you will see. It is almost as entertaining as a good hockey game! You'll find yourself craving for election night as if it was the final episode of your favorite television show.

With regard to the technicalities surrounding the vote, Elections Canada has developed tools to help you unravel all of this! Just visit the website. All the details are there!

Let's not be cynical about politics nor the future of our country! For this election, not only should we keep up the participation rate increase of 2015, but we should make sure to raise the national average! Let's make something of it and act as agents of change so that Canadian society of tomorrow is as dynamic, open and inclusive as we want it to be!

On October 21st, go out and vote! Encourage your friends to do it and let us deconstruct the common assumption that young people are uninterested and misinformed.

Sue Duguay, President of the Fédération de la jeunesse canadienne française (FJCF).