

Election Advocacy Tips

An election is an opportunity to discuss important issues & shape Canada's future. We invite you to engage - learn candidates' views and share what matters to you! Here's some info on how to advocate to curb sexual exploitation in Canada.

Ways to Engage

- ✓ Contact candidates directly
- ✓ Talk with candidates who call/visit/email you
- ✓ Give candidates the "Call to Candidates" handout
- ✓ Research candidates' & parties' positions
- ✓ Attend townhalls/all candidate meetings
- ✓ Post an issue on social media & invite candidates to act on it (be sure to tag them)
 - I.e. "@ [your candidates] please work to address [issue you care about]"
- ✓ Vote for who you would like to represent you & your community in parliament

Topic: Upholding Prostitution Laws

The *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act (PCEPA)* outlines Canada's prostitution laws which were inspired by Sweden's successful "Equality Model". In recognition of prostitution's inherent exploitation, violence, and gender inequality, *PCEPA* shifts criminal liability from those selling their own sexual services to sex buyers and pimps. Some groups want to repeal *PCEPA* and legalize prostitution, even though countries who do so perpetuate its harms. [Learn more about why keeping PCEPA in place is so important](#)

Sample questions to ask candidates

Our prostitution laws could be reviewed by parliament at any time. Will you work to uphold them and ensure they are enforced?

The demand for paid sex is the driving force behind prostitution and sex trafficking. Will you support our law that prohibits sex buying? What other ways will you work to deter people from buying sex?

Most women in prostitution are not there by way of freely given choice and would get out if they could. What will you do to provide those who would like to exit with supports and viable options?



Topic: Curbing Online Exploitation

Online sexual exploitation is an urgent issue that must be combatted with robust strategies. Here's a few things the government has been working on lately:

- [Child Sexual Abuse Material \(CSAM\), non-consensually shared images, & rape are being monetized by popular pornography sites](#). The Ethics committee recently studied this issue and [made recommendations for the federal government to act on](#).
- [A bill originating in the Senate to protect youth from pornography exposure](#) was approved and sent to the House of Commons for the next stage of the legislative process.
- The government launched a [public consultation](#) on their plan to combat online harms including CSAM and non-consensual images online.

Sample questions to ask candidates

The Ethics committee recently tabled their recommendations for platforms like Pornhub. What will you do to stop sites from hosting illegal content like Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM), sex trafficking, non-consensually shared images, etc.?

Youth are being harmed from exposure to violent pornography. Canada and other countries are considering measures to protect youth, such as age verification. Do you support this? What will you do to protect young people?

The government launched a public consultation on their proposal to reduce online harms. What are your views on this matter? How will you be involved in this work?

