

Joint Statement in Support of Extending Federal Voting Rights to 16-Year-Olds

Today, 50 groups across the country stand together in support of extending voting rights to 16- and 17-year-olds. We, the undersigned organisations, call on all Senators to vote in favour of the Vote16 Act.

In the face of domestic and global challenges that are rapidly changing our world, we need to do more to represent the interests of young Canadians. Voting is not merely a privilege—it is a fundamental human right.

The call to extend the voting age is gaining momentum across the country. Taylor Bachrach's Right to Vote at 16 Act received the most parliamentary and civil society support out of all bills of its kind in Canadian history. Politicians from the Liberal, Bloc Québécois, New Democratic, and Green parties have all endorsed extending the voting age. The evidence for 16-year-olds' cognitive maturity, political knowledge, and quality of vote choice conclusively demonstrates their electoral competence. New polling shows strong support from Canadian 16- and 17-year-olds, signifying a collective recognition of their own capacity. International experiences in 16 countries dispel all doubts about their ability to make well-informed choices at the ballot box. In light of this evidence, Canada can no longer justify their exclusion from the franchise.

As Canada's population ages and voter turnout rates continue to decline, the push to extend voting rights becomes increasingly important. What was once a distant dream has now become an actionable policy for a more vibrant democracy. A wave of progress is rising, and parliamentarians can either ride its crest or risk being left in its wake. The Senate committee stage is the best opportunity for Parliament to start this process: listen to the arguments, hear from experts, and consider the evidence.

Sincerely,

350 Canada

Fair Vote Canada

Surrey Board of Trade

Apathy is Boring

Fair Voting BC

TakingITGlobal

Association francophone

For Our Kids Canada

Toronto Foundation for

des parents du

For Our Kids Toronto

Youth Involvement in

Nouveau-Brunswick

Politics

BC Teachers' Federation

UNICEF Canada

<i>Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children</i>	<i>Franco-Jeunes de Terre-Neuve et du Labrador</i>	<i>Unlock Democracy Canada</i>
<i>Canadian Federation of Students</i>	<i>Fridays for Future Ottawa</i>	<i>Vote16 BC</i>
<i>Canadian Labour Congress</i>	<i>Generation Squeeze</i>	<i>Vote16 Canada</i>
<i>Canadian Women's Foundation</i>	<i>Grandmothers Act to Save the Planet (GASP)</i>	<i>Vote16 Penticton</i>
<i>Centre for Global Education</i>	<i>Leadnow</i>	<i>Vote16 Russell</i>
<i>Childcare Resource and Research Unit</i>	<i>Manitoba Association for Rights and Liberties</i>	<i>Vote16 Yukon</i>
<i>Children First Canada</i>	<i>New Majority</i>	<i>West Coast Environmental Law</i>
<i>Climate Emergency Unit</i>	<i>Operation Black Vote Canada</i>	<i>Young Canadians Roundtable on Health</i>
<i>Conseil jeunesse provincial de la Nouvelle-Écosse</i>	<i>PEI Coalition for Women in Government</i>	<i>Young Politicians of Canada</i>
<i>Ecology Action Centre</i>	<i>Reverse the Trend</i>	<i>Youth Leaders in Law British Columbia</i>
<i>Engage Barrie Organization</i>	<i>Samara Centre for Democracy</i>	<i>Youth Ottawa</i>
<i>Engage Peel</i>	<i>Sierra Club Canada</i>	<i>Youthful Cities</i>
<i>Equal Power</i>	<i>South End Environmental Injustice Society</i>	