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Events in the Evolution of Canadian Elections

1848	Responsible government is installed in the Province of Canada; citizens earn the right to elect their representatives.	
	Alexandre-Édouard Kierzkowski loses his seat in the Lower Canada assembly because he does not possess the proper property qualification, highlighting the degree of privilege required	1858
1867	First general election after Confederation; Sir John A. Macdonald's Conservatives win a majority.	
	A new law introduces federal voting by secret ballot, simultaneous elections and the abolition of property qualifications for Members of Parliament.	1874
1916	Manitoba becomes the first province to grant women the right to vote and hold political office.	
	The Union Government, Canada's first and only federal coalition government, is formed.	1917
1917	The Wartime Elections Act is passed, giving the federal vote to wives and daughters of servicemen fighting in the First World War.	
	Advance polls are introduced.	1920
1920	The position of chief electoral officer is created to administer federal elections in Canada.	
	The first federal minority government is elected, with William Lyon Mackenzie King as prime minister.	1921
1925	The Conservatives win a plurality of seats in the federal election with 116, but Liberal prime minister Mackenzie King does not concede power. (It's a long story — see King-Byng Affair.)	
	Québec becomes the last province to enfranchise women for provincial elections.	1940
1948	The last statutory disenfranchisement of Asian Canadians is removed.	
	The amount of time that employers are required to give their employees to vote increases to the current amount: three hours.	1948
1951	Northwest Territories becomes the last territory to grant women the vote.	
	Highest voter turnout in Canadian history: 79.4 per cent of eligible voters cast a ballot, giving John Diefenbaker the largest majority in Canadian history, with 208 seats.	1958
1960	Canadian Status Indians obtain the right to vote in federal elections.	
	Voting age reduced from 21 years to 18.	1970
1972	Party names appear on federal election ballots beside a candidate's name.	
	The Elections Expenses Act places limits on the amount that candidates and political parties can spend on campaigns.	1974
1982	Section 3 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms states that, "every citizen of Canada has the right to vote in an election of members of the House of Commons or of a legislative assembly and to be qualified for membership therein."	
	A majority federal government is elected with a majority of the popular vote for only the second time since Confederation.	1984
1989	The NDP's Audrey McLaughlin is elected as the first female federal party leader in Canada.	
	Canadians living outside Canada are permitted to vote.	1993
1997	Voting hours are staggered across the country so that polls close at about the same time everywhere during federal elections. (There is only a three-hour gap between the closing of the polls in Newfoundland and Labrador and in British Columbia.)	
	People serving time in prison receive the right to vote.	2002
2007	A law passes fixing the federal election date. Elections are to be held on the third Monday in October in the fourth year following the last election.	
	Lowest voter turnout in Canadian history: 58.8 per cent of eligible voters cast a ballot.	2008
2015	Quarterly allowances paid by Elections Canada to registered political parties that met a voting threshold in the previous general election are ended after a three-year phase-out period (see Political Party Financing).	
	Canadians who've lived outside Canada for more than five years are no longer permitted to vote.	2015



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