

# Women's Caucus Report

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## Background and Statistics

According to [Bylaw 9](#) of the Green Party of Canada, “The purpose of the Women’s Caucus is to encourage gender equality within the Party, to represent and promote the interests of women within the Party and to encourage the active participation of women at all levels of the Party.”

Since the Virtual General Meeting (VGM) of 2022, there have been 6 by-elections to the 44th Parliament of Canada. Of those by-elections, the Green Party of Canada ran 3 candidates who identify as women: Mary Kidnew in Mississauga-Lakeshore, Ravenmoon Crocker in Calgary Heritage, Cheryle Baker in Oxford. Moreover, approximately 48% of Shadow Cabinet members and 27% of Federal Councillors are individuals who identify as women.

## Drafting of the Terms of Reference

In 2023, Alison Lam, as Critic for Intergovernmental Affairs, Women and Gender on the Green Party of Canada Shadow Cabinet, and Naomi Hunter, leader of the Green Party of Saskatchewan, took on the responsibility of reinvigorating the Women’s Caucus in order to uphold and promote its priorities as outlined in the bylaw.

One of their first tasks was to create a draft Terms of Reference, outlining the Caucus’ mandate and scope. The intent of the Caucus as outlined in the draft Terms of Reference is to build capacity and empowerment by offering events, speakers, panel discussions, workshops, and mentorship. The Caucus also seeks to campaign about major topics relevant to women such as climate, ecofeminism, gender justice, 2SLGBTQIA+ advocacy, equity and inclusion through a womens’ lens by establishing a presence at key events, such as various International Women’s Day events and UN Women, Peace and Security.

A number of GPC members have volunteered to assist in steering the Caucus in these early stages. The Terms of Reference are currently still in draft form, with a work plan for the year to follow.

# Mentorship Program

One of the early aims of the Women's Caucus is to establish a Mentorship Program, which would be three-fold. First, there would be one-night events, such as speaker series or fireside chats, featuring such important, gender-related topics as ecofeminism and women in parliament. These one-night events could be stand-alone or lead to multi-day workshops.

A second aspect of the Mentorship Program would be 2-3 day workshops, possibly introduced by a related one-night speaking engagement, where a workshop facilitator would lead a group of 15-20 participants to work on a specific theme. The themes of these workshops would be related to women in politics and can cover such topics as campaign strategies, campaign safety (physical, emotional, cyber), debate preparation, and media relations.

The third and final aspect of the program would feature one-on-one mentorship, where a more experienced member of the Party would mentor a newer member. This would be a 10-12 month working relationship, where mentor/mentee pairs would meet no less than once a month and the mentor will help in guiding the mentee's goals. Specific goals would be set from the beginning for the duration of the mentorship and deliverables would be expected. The one-on-one mentorship program would be self-defined, according to the needs of the mentee and the expertise of the mentor, within basic set parameters.