



Provincial Election 2007



Talking To Our Members About Politics

Often activists are reluctant to approach co-workers about politics. We don't want to seem like we're preaching, or telling people how they should vote. And let's face it, not all of our co-workers have politics at the top of their list of priorities.

But politics is not about some abstract thing "out there". Who gets elected to office affects us as trade unionists as well as individual citizens. Decisions made by our elected members of provincial parliament affect how much money goes into services that we count on, such as education, childcare, and health care. But these decisions also affect our livelihood, the economic climate in which our employers do business or coverage if we get injured on the job. We need to communicate to our co-workers the importance of voting for candidates and parties that stand up for workers and their families, instead of those who represent the privileged and the bosses.

All-candidates meetings are a great way for us and our co-workers to familiarize ourselves with what the parties and candidates stand for. They provide an opportunity to actually ask questions and assess answers, rather than simply reading pamphlets full of campaign slogans.

So talk to your co-workers about how the issues being discussed in the election campaign affects them and their families. Encourage them to attend all-candidates meetings and ask questions about issues that are important. Let the candidates know we want workers' issues at the top of the agenda!