

# Welcome

Thank you for leading the Student Vote program for the 2021 provincial election.

We know that this is a challenging school year, and we are grateful to be working with you and your students.

In times of crisis, we believe that government matters more than ever. The decisions made by governments are critically important for the health, safety and well-being of our communities now and in the future.

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the value of social responsibility. We live in a shared community, and our actions and choices matter to those around us.

It is our hope that Student Vote presents an opportunity to help students understand the importance of being an informed, caring and contributing member of society. The program is an exercise in deeper learning, exploration and connectedness, and in allowing students to practice the habits of engaged citizenship.

Student Vote teaches students that the role of a citizen is a critical one if our democracy is to thrive and succeed. The publication of the Student Vote results allows students to feel that their voice matters and helps them understand that they are part of something larger than their school.

The Student Vote program evaluation conducted by Abacus Data in 2019 found that participating in the program had a positive impact on students' knowledge and understanding of government and elections, on their sense of civic responsibility and likelihood to vote in the future.

The program also provides families with opportunities to learn about elections and politics, with students taking their newfound knowledge home and engaging in conversations about the parties and candidates with their family. Where possible, we encourage you to amplify these teachable moments and turn the program into a family affair.

To adapt to the new safety guidelines and protocols related to the pandemic, our team has put together some considerations to help you implement the program. Please see page 5.

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact our team at [hello@civix.ca](mailto:hello@civix.ca).

Please be sure to visit the project website for videos, slide decks, digital activity sheets and more:  
[www.studentvote.ca/nl2021](http://www.studentvote.ca/nl2021)

Wishing you and your students a great election,

The CIVIX team