

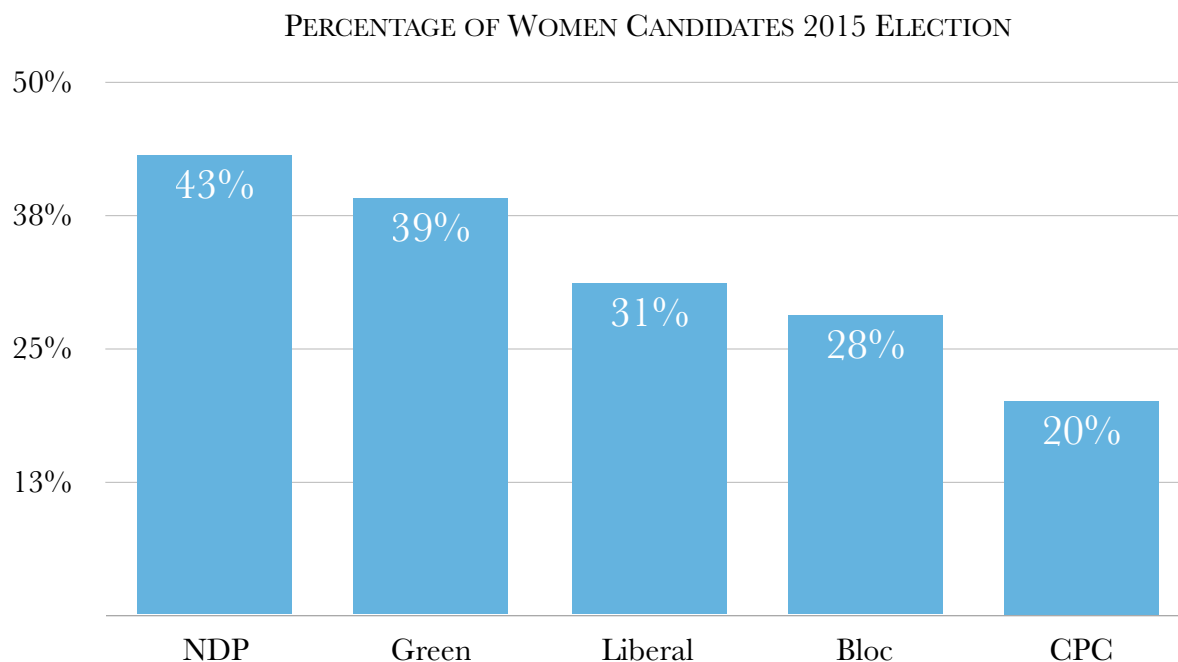
Visible Minority Candidates in the 2015: Making Progress

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Is the increased number of visible minorities being reflected in party candidates? Which ridings are these candidates running in? And do these candidates reflect the largest groups in their ridings?

Now that we know the names of all candidates, we can answer these and related questions.

But first, as a basis for comparison, how has women's representation increased in 2015 candidates? The analysis by [Equal Voice](#) shows that overall representation from the 2011 election has slightly increased from 31 to 33 percent (still far below equality), with the relative ranking of parties below.

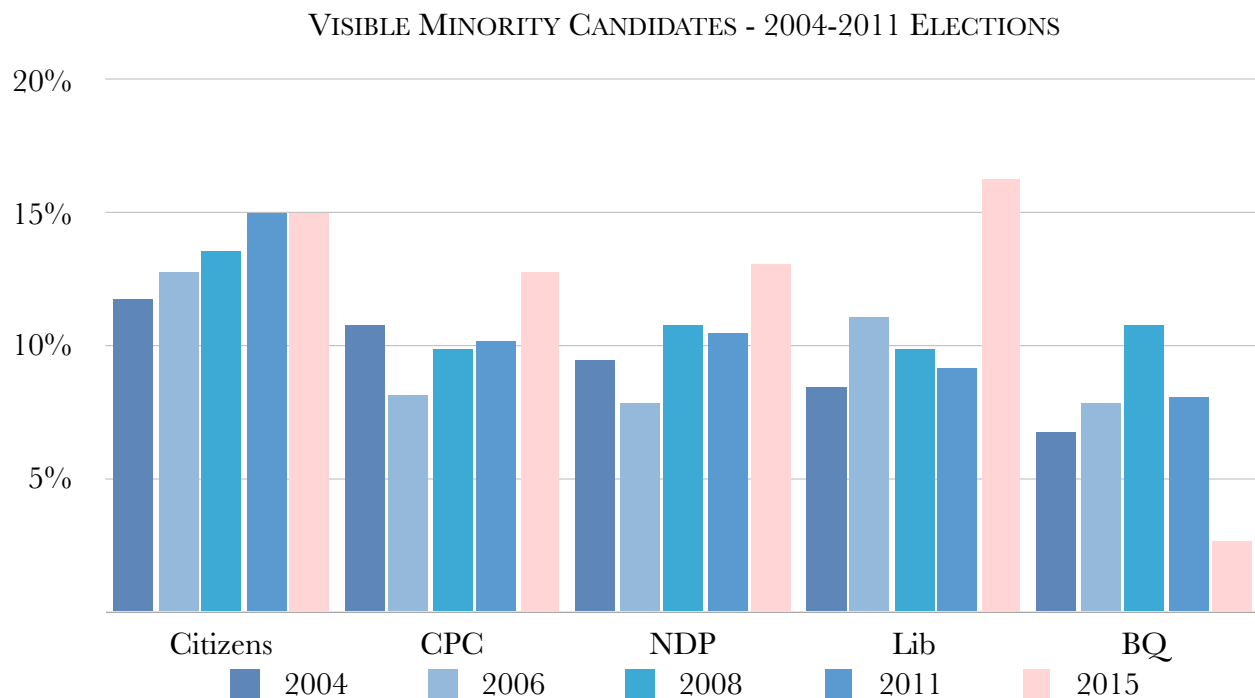


To assess visible minority representation I have used candidate names, photos and biographies to identify visible minority candidates. Although not as exact as identifying women candidates (e.g., subjectivity in analyzing photos), it nevertheless provides a reasonably accurate indication of how well Canadian political party candidates represent the population of visible minorities who are also Canadian citizens (15 percent).

Building on an earlier study by Jerome Black¹ showing the diversity in earlier elections, I went through the candidate lists using the criteria above, concentrating on the more diverse ridings. Out of a total of 1014 candidates for the three major parties, 142 or 13.9 percent were visible

¹ Black, Jerome. "Racial Diversity in the 2011 Federal Election: Visible Minority Candidates and MPs." *Canadian Parliamentary Review*, Vol. 36 No. 3, 2013

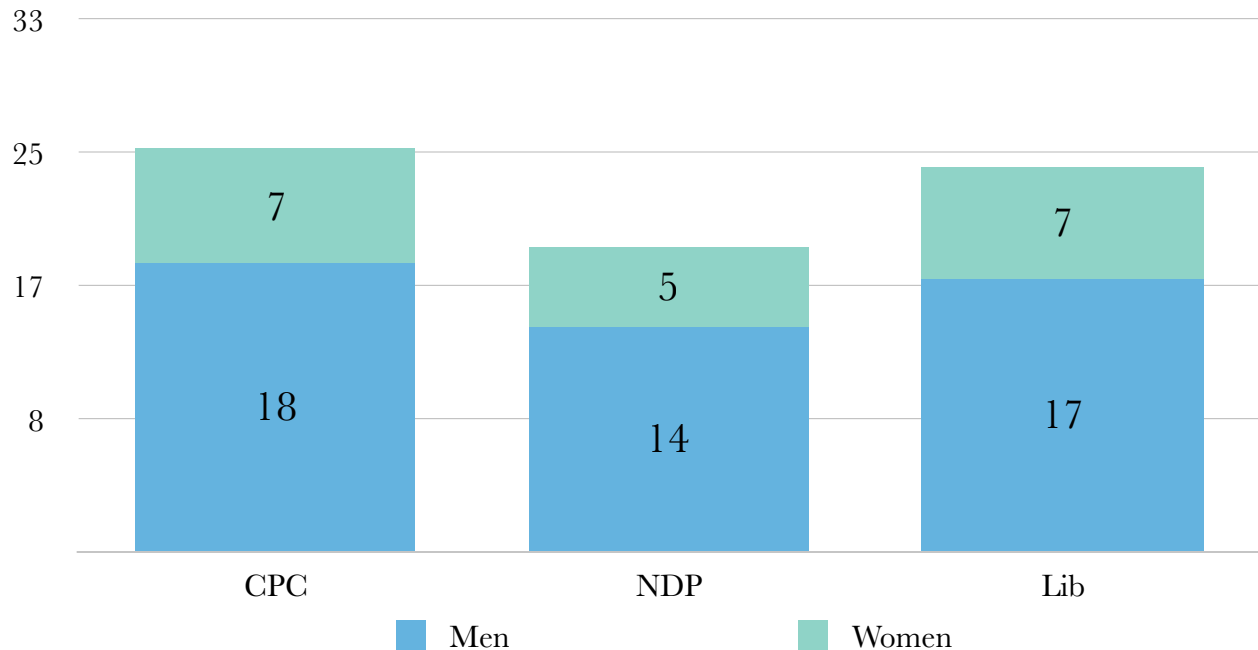
minorities. The chart below shows a growth in visible minority candidates for the three major parties plus the Bloc.



For the 2015 election, the Liberal party has the most visible minority candidates, slightly greater at 16 percent than the number of visible minority voters (those who are citizens). The Conservative party and the NDP have slight underrepresentation (13 percent) while the Green party has greater under-representation (11 percent). The Bloc québécois only appears to have a two visible minority candidates (under three percent of Quebec's 78 seats).

The chart below provides the comparative numbers for each party in the 33 ridings that are more than 50 percent visible minority, broken down by gender.

VISIBLE MINORITY CANDIDATES BY GENDER IN 33 RIDINGS WITH OVER 50 % VISIBLE MINORITIES



Additional characteristics of these 33 ridings, in terms of the candidates, include:

- Out of the 99 candidates from the three major parties, 68 are visible minorities (over two-thirds). These account for just under half of the 142 visible minority candidates in all ridings.
- 19 candidates are women (19.2 percent)
- In 15 of these ridings, all major party candidates are visible minorities;
- Only one riding, Scarborough Guildwood, has no visible minority candidates;
- The Conservative Party has the most visible minority candidates (25), followed by the Liberal Party (24) and the NDP (19); and,
- In general but by no means universally, many candidates come from the larger communities in these ridings, particularly South Asian ridings as the attached table shows.

2015 RIDINGS WITH MORE THAN 50 PERCENT VISIBLE MINORITIES AND THEIR
CANDIDATES

Riding		Top 2 Visible Minorities	Religious Minorities > 5%	Candidates
Greater than 70% Visible Minority		Highlight indicates dominant community twice as large as next Visible Minority (no threshold) or Religious Minority (20 percent threshold)		
ON	Scarborough North	Chinese (44%) South Asian (25%)	Hindu (15%) Muslim (7%) Buddhist (7%)	Ravinder Malhi (CPC) Rathika Sitsabaiesan (NDP) Shaun Chen (Lib)
ON	Brampton East	South Asian (60%) Black (13%)	Sikh (34%) Hindu (20%) Muslim (8%)	Naval Bajaj (CPC) Harbaljit Kahlon (NDP) Raj Grewal (Lib)
ON	Markham-Thornhill	Chinese (35%) South Asian (31%)	Hindu (17%) Muslim (10%) Buddhist (6%)	Jobson Easow (CPC) Senthil Chelliah (NDP) John McCallum (Lib)
BC	Vancouver South	Chinese (40%) South Asian (18%)	Sikh (12%) Buddhist (7%)	Wai Young (CPC) Amandeep Nijjar (NDP) Harjit Sajjan (Lib)
ON	Scarborough-Agincourt	Chinese (46%) South Asian (15%)	Hindu (8%) Muslim (7%) Buddhist (6%)	Bin Chang (CPC) Laura Patrick (NDP) Arnold Chan (Lib)
ON	Markham-Unionville	Chinese (57%) South Asian (11%)	Buddhist (5%) Hindu (5%) Muslim (5%)	Bob Saroya (CPC) Colleen Zimmerman (NDP) Bang Gu Jiang (Lib)
ON	Mississauga-Malton	South Asian (38%) Black (10%)	Muslim (13%) Hindu (13%) Sikh (12%)	Jagadish Grewal (CPC) Dianne Douglas (NDP) Navdeep Bains (Lib)
ON	Etobicoke North	South Asian (30%) Black (21%)	Hindu (15%) Muslim (14%) Sikh (9%)	Toyin Dada (CPC) Faisal Hassan (NDP) Kirsty Duncan (Lib)
BC	Surrey-Newton	South Asian (59%) Filipino (3.9%)	Sikh (44%) Muslim (7%) Hindu (6%)	Harpreet Singh (CPC) Jinny Sims (NDP) Sukh Dhaliwal (Lib)
ON	Humber River-Black Creek	Black (22%) South Asian (16%)	Muslim (11%) Hindu (8%) Buddhist (6%)	Kerry Vandenberg (CPC) Darnel Harris (NDP) Judy Sgro (Lib)
ON	Brampton West	South Asian (34%) Black (21%)	Sikh (13%) Hindu (12%) Muslim (7%)	Ninder Thind (CPC) Adaoma Patterson (NDP) Kamalpreet Khera (Lib)

Riding		Top 2 Visible Minorities	Religious Minorities > 5%	Candidates
BC	Vancouver Kingsway	Chinese (38%) Filipino (13%)	Buddhist (10%)	Jojo Quimpo (CPC) Don Davies (NDP) Steven Kou (Lib)
BC	Steveston-Richmond East	Chinese (43%) South Asian (11%)	Buddhist (6%) Sikh (6%)	Kenny Chiu (CPC) Scott Stewart (NDP) Joe Peschisolido (Lib)
BC	Richmond Centre	Chinese (51%) Filipino (6%)	Buddhist (7%)	Alice Wong (CPC) Jack Trovato (NDP) Lawrence Woo (Lib)
ON	Scarborough-Rouge Park	South Asian (31%) Black (14%)	Hindu (19%) Muslim (9%)	Leslyn Lewis (CPC) Rev. KM Shanthiskumar (NDP) Gary Anandasangaree (Lib)
50-70% Visible Minority				
ON	Scarborough-Guildwood	South Asian (32%) Black (14%)	Hindu (16%) Muslim (15%)	Chuck Konkel (CPC) Laura Casselman (NDP) John McKay (Lib)
ON	Don Valley North	Chinese (32%) South Asian (10%)	Muslim (11%)	Joe Daniel (CPC) Akin Sadikali (NDP) Gang Tan (Lib)
ON	Mississauga Centre	South Asian (26%) Chinese (12%)	Muslim (17%) Hindu (9%)	Julius Tiangson (CPC) Farheen Khan (NDP) Omar Algebra (Lib)
ON	Scarborough Centre	South Asian (25%) Filipino (11%)	Hindu (13%) Muslim (12%)	Roxanne James (CPC) Alex Wilson (NDP) Salma Zahid (Lib)
BC	Burnaby South	Chinese (34%) South Asian (8%)	Buddhist (5%)	Grace Seear (CPC) Kennedy Stewart (NDP) Adam Pankratz (Lib)
BC	Fleetwood-Port Kells	South Asian (27%) Chinese (11%)	Sikh (20%)	Nina Grewal (CPC) Gary Begg (NDP) Ken Hardie (Lib)
ON	Brampton North	South Asian (37%) Black (11%)	Sikh (20%) Hindu (11%) Muslim (6%)	Parm Gill (CPC) Martin Singh (NDP) Ruby Sahota (Lib)
ON	Willowdale	Chinese (23%) Korean (10%)	Muslim (12%) Jewish (7%)	Chungsen Leung (CPC) Pouya Tabasinejad (NDP) Ali Ehsassi (Lib)
BC	Surrey Centre	South Asian (33%) Filipino (8%)	Sikh (24%)	Sucha Thind (CPC) Jasper Sandhu (NDP) Randeep Singh Sarai (Lib)

Riding		Top 2 Visible Minorities	Religious Minorities > 5%	Candidates
AB	Calgary Skyview	South Asian (31%) Filipino (8%)	Sikh (16%) Muslim (14%)	Devinder Shory (CPC) Sahajvir Singh Randhawa (NDP) Darshan Kang (Lib)
ON	Brampton South	South Asian (36%) Black (12%)	Sikh (19%) Hindu (10%) Muslim (6%)	Kyle Seebach (CPC) Amarjit Sangha (NDP) Sonia Sidhu (Lib)
ON	Mississauga-Erin Mills	South Asian (24%) Chinese (10 %)	Muslim (16%) Hindu (6%)	Bob Dechert (CPC) Michelle Bilek (NDP) Ira Khalid (Lib)
ON	Don Valley East	South Asian (16%) Black (9%)	Muslim (19%)	Maureen Harquail (CPC) Khalid Ahmed (NDP) Yasmin Rattans (Lib)
ON	Richmond Hill	Chinese (28%) South Asian (7%)	Muslim (11%) Jewish (5%)	Michael Parsa (CPC) Adam DeVita (NDP) Majid Jowhari (Lib)
ON	York South-Weston	Black (21%) Latin American (9%)	Muslim (8%)	Bishop James Robinson (CPC) Mike Sullivan (NDP) Ahmed Hussen (Lib)
ON	Brampton Centre	South Asian (26%) Black (12 %)	Hindu (10%) Muslim (9%) Sikh (8%)	Bal Gosal (CPC) Rosemary Keenan (NDP) Rameshwer Sangha (Lib)
ON	Scarborough Southwest	South Asian (18%) Black (10%)	Muslim (12%) Hindu (7%)	Roshan Nallaratnam (CPC) Dan Harris (NDP) Bill Blair (Lib)
QC	Saint-Laurent	Arab (15%) Chinese (8%)	Muslim (17%) Jewish (7%)	Jimmy Yu (CPC) Alain Akkad (NDP) Stéphane Dion (Lib)