



More than voting booths ...

Research has shown that people with disabilities are 20% less likely to vote than those without a disability. Voting booths are not the only impediments -- meeting venues, campaign facilities and constituency offices are also central to the effective functioning of Canadian democracy. A study was conducted by members of the Alliance that examined the extent to which the Ontario election of 2011 “opened doors” to electoral participation by people with disabilities. Party leaders were polled, and 30 individual candidates were surveyed from the 3 official parties in 10 ridings across Ontario. The **Campaign Accessibility Checklist** was offered to candidates to self-assess their campaign office, information and meetings. The findings from this survey suggest that while candidates were receptive to the needs of disabled constituents, there was a general lack of understanding of the imperative to meet accessibility standards, despite funding and time constraints on campaigns. For more information, [click here](#).

