



A public service to vote for: **ELECTION 2015**

Bulletin #2

Public Service Employees **Can Participate** In the 2015 Federal Election

Over the past few weeks, the government has made many clumsy attempts to impose unreasonable restrictions on the rights of public service employees to express their opinions during the current federal election campaign. Here's the truth about what you can and cannot do during an election. And don't just take our word for it – the Supreme Court of Canada ruled in 1991 that all federal employees, except for the very top ranks, have the same rights to participate in elections as any other Canadian citizen.

As an individual, you can:

- Display an election sign at your home
- Speak out on election issues
- Publicly support a political party or candidate
- Canvass door-to-door on behalf of a candidate
- Work in a campaign office
- Solicit or contribute funds for a candidate or political party

As a federal employee, you can:

- Take a leave of absence and run for Parliament, provided you first seek and receive permission through the federal Public Service Commission.

But as a federal employee, you can't:

- Engage in political activity at your workplace
- Use the Employer's electronic devices to communicate your political activity
- Publicly criticize the department or agency where you work
- Engage in activity that could put you in real or perceived conflict with the duties of your job

If you're not sure about getting involved in a political activity, or for more information about your political rights, speak to your PIPSC steward or call the Institute's Help Desk at 1-800-267-0446.