



A CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE PREPARING FOR A PROVINCIAL ELECTION

“When religious people take part in the democratic conversation they bring to the table an invaluable tradition of ancient wisdom, a passionate concern to defend the vulnerable, and the credibility that comes from the fact that they daily contribute to the well-being of the community by caring for those most in need.”

- Archbishop Thomas Collins
Speech to Empire Club of Canada, May 31, 2007

A provincial election will be held in Ontario on Wednesday, October 10, 2007. All those who are eligible to vote are encouraged to exercise their democratic right to do so. In the coming days, Catholics are asked to take an active role in learning more about the candidates seeking election in their riding, the views of political parties and how they will impact our community.

A number of resources have been prepared to help Catholics reflect on the important role we play in choosing those who will lead our province:

Taking Stock – An Examination of Conscience – originally issued by the Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2002, the revised pastoral letter emphasizes the important responsibility each one of us has in choosing a government, highlighting both guiding and practical principles for consideration, along with possible workshop resources.

Choosing A Government – Pastoral letter by the Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops issued in 1998, serves as a useful reflection tool for Catholic voters.

Catholic Charities – Counting on your Vote! – Raising Issues with Candidates that Affect the Most Vulnerable. This publication provides background on key issues along with potential questions for group reflection or to pose at all candidate debates.

You can find a link to all the resources listed above on the Archdiocese of Toronto website at:
www.archtoronto.org.

Let us pray for our political leaders, that God will guide their minds and hearts, ever conscious of the most vulnerable among us.