

## **You Can Make a Difference on Child and Youth Issues during the Provincial Election!**

Elections are the perfect time to speak up because it is when politicians are really listening. Here are some ways you can **make a positive change for the youth, children and families in your community during an election campaign:**

- **Do your own research, gather credible data and prepare your arguments.**
- Investigate the candidates and parties represented in your electoral district. You can visit party web sites to explore their platforms. Register to vote and find out where to vote at [www.elections.bc.ca](http://www.elections.bc.ca). When the big day comes, **don't forget to vote and remind your friends and family to vote!**
- **Speak to your current elected officials and candidates in your electoral district** about the types of programs and facilities for children, youth and families that you would like to see funded, as well as which ones they plan to fund. Candidates should be accessible through their web sites.
- **Attend meetings or candidate events prior to the election and raise issues you're concerned about.** Check candidate and party web sites for upcoming events.
- **Hold a public forum**, big or small. It could be as simple as gathering friends to talk about the issues over coffee. Or, hold a larger event and invite representatives from all parties, including youth and marginalized groups in the planning and organizing if you can. Their input can add perspective and energy to the entire process.
- **Join a local advocacy group** that focuses on a child and youth issue of concern to you.
- **Encourage any group of which you're a member, such as church or cultural groups, to promote child and youth issues as a focus of the election campaign.**
- **Write to your local newspaper** about your concerns and what you hope the federal government will do about them. **Speak with the media** and ask them to run a story on the needs of children, youth and families in your community and across the country.

**Visit [www.firstcallbc.org](http://www.firstcallbc.org) to download our 2009 Provincial Election Kit, background materials and resources from First Call and other organizations!**