



Who to vote for on October 19th?

Several Muslim and Arab organizations correspond with party leaders

Several Canadian National and local Muslim and Arab organizations** sent a letter to all federal party leaders expressing their aspirations and concerns. Here* are links to what was sent to each party leader: the Conservatives, NDP, Liberals, Green and Bloc Quebecois and the responses we received.

Based on the **responses***, on the **track record** of each party over the past years, on **statements made** by party leaders and prominent candidates during this election campaign, and taking into account the realistic probability of each party coming into power, we conclude the following:

=> Canadian Arabs and Muslims have a great **responsibility to VOTE** in this election. So much is at stake not only for minorities but for the whole of Canada.

=> The **NDP** appears to be the party that will best serve Canada and the Canadian people and reverse the negative effects the Harper Conservatives have had over their nine years in power. They responded positively to all the points we raised and have been advocating on the same positions throughout their time as official opposition.

=> The **Green** Party has advocated many important causes and abides by high moral standards. It is a strong defender of human rights and minority rights and its influence on the political arena is important although it is not poised to form the government or be a major partner in a ruling coalition.

=> The **Bloc** is a regional marginal party that has espoused xenophobic and anti-Muslim positions in the past. Their chance to form the government or be a part of a ruling coalition is practically non-existent.

=> The **Liberal** Party did not respond to our letter, to date. They have taken positive positions supporting religious freedoms and Canadian citizens abroad yet they supported Bill C-51. Their positions are close to the Conservatives in many cases especially in foreign policies.

=> The **Conservative** Party has not responded to our letter nor acknowledged it. Their policies over the years they spent in power had devastating effects on freedoms, liberties and tolerance in Canada. Their foreign policies negatively affected Canada's position as a respected peace and human rights defending country.

**

Canadian Arab Federation (CAF)

Canadian Muslim Forum (FMC-CMF)

Egyptian Canadian Coalition for Democracy

Muslim Political Engagement Group (MPEG)

*** Letter sent & Responses received:**

The Liberals and the Conservatives did not respond to our letter. The text of our letters to the 5 party leaders and the responses of the NDP, Green and Bloc can be found here: www.eccd.ca/elections2015