

## Record voter turnout



by **Brian Rushfeldt**  
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To those Canadians who did not vote: CONGRATULATIONS – you set a new all time record! The lowest ever voter turnout. Only 59% of eligible voters took 10 minutes to make their X count.

If you are one who asks, “Why do we have lousy government? – let me answer. We get what we deserve. 41% allowed the other 59% to make their decision for them. I’m in favor of delegation of duties. But really, when it comes to something as important as who spends your tax dollars on what, who makes your laws, who negotiates with other countries and who protects you and your family – do you really want to delegate that duty and responsibility?

If you didn’t vote, my intent is not to beat you. But I do want to ask, why didn’t you vote?

I ask that a lot. Many say, my vote doesn’t matter. You may be right. But your NON-vote matters a lot. For every vote not cast it doubles the power of the vote cast.

Others say, I don’t trust politicians. Well, I don’t either, especially the one I don’t have a say in electing. Good candidates are usually chosen by good people. Or put another way immoral people most likely do not vote for moral people.

Some people say, I never know who to vote for. I ask why don’t you know? Did the candidates not get literature to you? Did they refuse to attend public meetings or answer questions? Don’t they have a phone or an office where you could reach them?

And this is the classic response: I was too busy. OH, did you spend 10 minutes watching a hockey game or a dumb sit-com that evening? Or just relaxing in your easy chair? Are you really so busy you can’t take 10 minutes every four years, OK recently every two years. So even every two years, that works out to about one second a day of your time. A precious one second investment into your future and your children’s future.

Okay I may be sounding a bit cynical (OH yeh, that’s another reason people give for not voting).

What would it take to get you more excited and interested in voting? If you had say, three issues, referendum items in which you were deciding an issue, would you be more likely to vote? Perhaps a question on the ballot such as, Do you support government giving tax credits and refunds to movie makers and entertainment producers who produce sex and violence movies? Or, Would you like to see proportional representation instead of a first past the pole electoral system for choosing MPs? Or, Should marriage be defined as two males or two females, or three or more people? Or finally, should child sex criminal’s rights to privacy be given higher consideration than the privacy rights of the innocent child they abused?

If you had a direct and binding say on such issues would you take ten minutes to decide our future?

As Christians we should consider that our vote – even in the current system – does in fact have a say on some of those questions I just posed. If we elect moral and just men and women, they would likely carry positions similar to ours to the House. In about two years you will have another chance to vote for your lawmaker, tax spender and family protector.

If we truly desire righteousness and justice, God’s way, restored to culture, we need moral leaders to do what is right. Moral people must CHOOSE those moral leaders.

Leave it to beaver and the tree of morality will be cut down.



**Canada Family  
Action Coalition**

Leading citizen action  
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[www.familyaction.org](http://www.familyaction.org)

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## Canadian professionals help mission groups

Calgary, AB – They have a huge vision. They have a piece of land. Now what? That’s the dilemma that faces missions organizations around the world. Often, facilities are built in an ad hoc manner, as funds trickle in...but what if professional design services were available to ministries in developing countries? What if a master plan could be in place, allowing these missions groups to fundraise more effectively, and then use their funds wisely as they build their ministry step by step?

That’s where Engineering Ministries International (eMi) comes in. For the past 25 years (5 in Canada), eMi has been taking teams of volunteer engineers, architects, surveyors...design professionals...on short-term project trips to serve missions organizations and indigenous ministries overseas. These volunteers work together with local leadership to catch the vision of their ministry and to design culturally appropriate facilities and infrastructure to serve the poorest of the poor around the world.

In Uganda, the poorest of the poor were neglected seniors, often caring for orphaned grandchildren. A young organization reaching out to these seniors acquired a 2-acre parcel of land and had big dreams for a seniors centre to expand their ministry. Reach One Touch One Ministries (ROTOM) invited eMi to come and help them plan. Canada Director of eMi, Steve Ulrich, recruited a team of design professionals to head to Mukono, close to Kampala, Uganda’s capital city. The team surveyed the site and spent time learning about ROTOM’s vision and about local design and building practices. By the end of the week, eMi was able to present a conceptual master plan

to ROTOM’s directors, staff, and local supporters. Back home, the eMi team spent the next 3 months finalizing its designs and drawings and preparing a final report.

A year later, ROTOM was able to build the administration facility, currently used to direct activities offsite. Fundraising for the first phase of the Health Centre is now underway. The long-term master plan is moving ROTOM forward in their outreach. And eMi? Well, the Canadian office has since sent out 8 more teams to ministries around the world, continuing to design a world of hope. Visit [emicanada.org](http://emicanada.org).



Engineering Ministries International team members (l-r) Jonathon Lee (Electrical Engineer), Patrick Cochrane (Surveyor), and Sarah Primmer (Student Intern/ Civil Engineer) survey the site of a future seniors centre in Mukono, Uganda. — photo courtesy eMi

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