



Is Trudeau
Merely a
Facebook
Feminist?
Evaluating the
Gender
Sensitivity of
Canada's
Parliament

ECPG 2017

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Gender Sensitive Parliament

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) defines a GSP as:

Responding “to the needs and interests of both men and women in its structures, operations, methods and its work.

GSPs remove the barriers to women’s full participation and offer a positive example or model of society at large.”



Research Question & Method

- Is Canada's Parliament more GS under Trudeau than Harper? If so, why?
- Hypothesis: 'Yes'
- 42 GS measures classified into 4 categories: (need to reduce these!)
- (1) Descriptive representation
- (2) Gender sensitive legislation
- (3) Gender sensitive parliamentary policies
- (4) Gender sensitive procedural framework
- Compare Trudeau's Parliament with Harper's along these 42 GS measure to assess if the GS of Parliament has improved (1), stayed the same (0), or gotten worse (-1) under Trudeau

Table 1: Descriptive Representation on Parliamentary Bodies

Parliamentary Body GS Indicators	2011-2013 % (no.)	2015-2017 % (no.)	Change
IPU Ranking: Women in National Parliaments	45/187	63/193	-1
PM	0	0	0
Cabinet	26	50 (15)	1
MPs	25 (88)	26 (92)	1
Senators	36 (38)	40 (42)	1
Party Leaders	1	1	0
Senate Speakers	0	0	0
House Speakers	0	0	0
Senate Standing Committee Chairs	(3) of 15	(5) of 15	1
House Standing Committee Chairs	(2) of 24	(5) of 24	1
Senate Standing Committee >50 woman members	(3) of 15	(4) of 15	1
House Standing Committees >50 woman members	(1) of 24	(1) of 24	0
House Standing Committee on the Status of Women	1	1	0
Changes to the Status of Women's mandate	0	0	0
Changes to the Status of Women powers	0	0	0
Senate Standing Committee on Gender Equality	0	0	0
All-party Women's Caucus	1	1	0
Regular Meetings of All-party Women's Caucus	1	1	0
Totals	-	-	5/18

Table 2: Gender Sensitive Legislation

	2011-2013	2015-2017	Change
Specific legislation promoting the principles of gender equality	0	0	0
Increase in federal departments with legislative requirement to report on GBA	0	0	0
Increase in committees reviewing legislation using GBA	0	0	0
Systematic committee process to apply GBA to legislation	0	0	0
Legislated implementation of gender-sensitive budget initiative	0	0	0
Legislated GBA of the budget	0	0	0
Legislated gender-based responsive budgeting	0	0	0
Totals	0	0	0/7

Table 3: Parliamentary Policies

	2011-2013	2015-2017	Change
Conflict of Interest Act & Codes mention gender equality legislation	0	0	0
Senate 'policy on prevention and resolution of harassment in the workplace'	1	1	0
House of Commons 'policy on prevention & resolution of harassment'	1	1	0
Parental leave	0	0	0
Absent for more than 21 days per session pay cut in House	1	1	0
Absent for more than 21 days per session pay cut in Senate	1	1	0
Child care policy	0	0	0
Totals	4	4	0/7

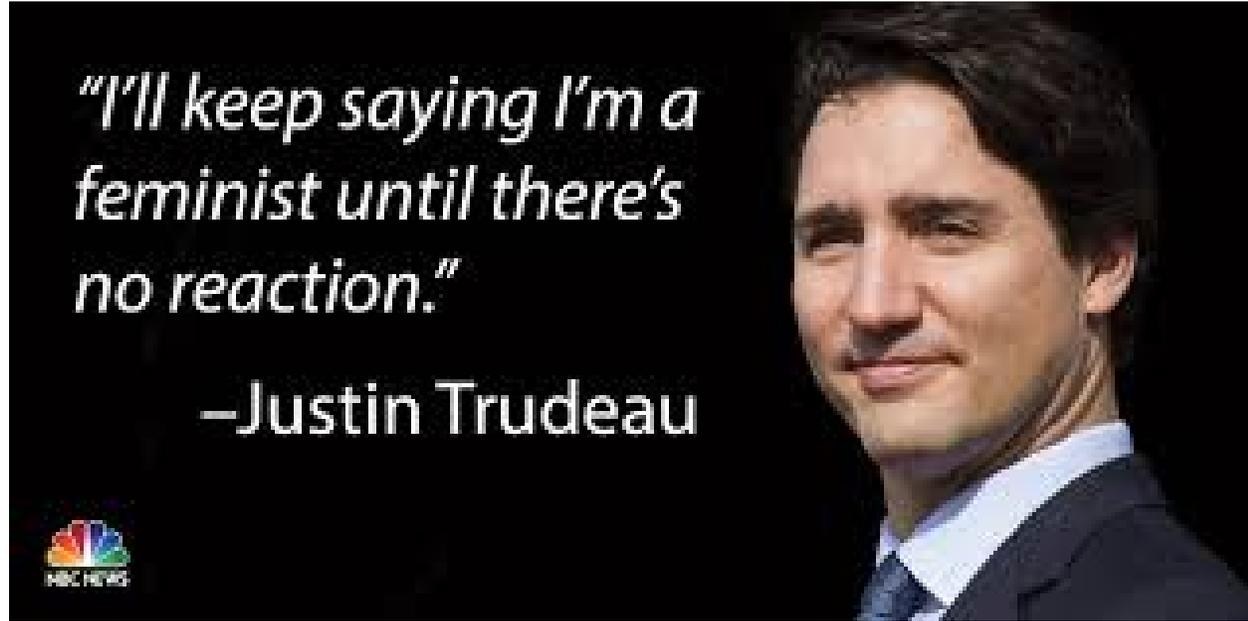
Table 4: Procedural Framework

	2011-2015	2015-2017	Change
Policy allowing non-members on the floor (infants)	0	0	0
Practice of allowing non-members on the floor	1	1	0
Parliamentary sittings aligned with school calendar	1	1	0
Parliamentary night sittings	1	1	0
Proxy voting by parliamentarians	0	0	0
Vote pairing	1	1	0
On-site childcare	1	1	0
Increase in the number of on-site daycare spaces	0	0	0
Increase in the number of women's washrooms in the Centre Block	0	0	0
Increase in transgender friendly washrooms (gender neutral)	0	0	0
Totals	4	4	0/10



Table 5: Summary Table

Category	Change
Descriptive Representation	5/18
Gender Sensitive Legislation	0/7
Parliamentary Policies	0/7
Procedural Framework	0/10
Total	5/42



Trudeau's government is a bit more GS than Harper's but not as much as we'd expect given his symbolic gestures & persistent rhetoric;

Trudeau is more of a 'Facebook' Feminist than a Substantive Feminist.

Thank you!