

**NOVEMBER 27, 2007**

## **NDP LAUNCHES “FAIRNESS FOR WOMEN” CAMPAIGN**

**OTTAWA** – Today, the NDP’s Women’s Caucus launched its Fairness for Women Campaign, aimed at getting women back on the political agenda and increasing women’s participation in Parliament.

Margaret Mitchell, former NDP MP for Vancouver East and an activist in the fight to end violence against women, joined the Women’s Caucus.

“Only 20 per cent of MPs are women,” said NDP Status of Women Critic, Irene Mathysen (London-Fanshawe). “That puts Canada 49<sup>th</sup> in the world in terms of female representation – trailing countries like Rwanda, Sweden and Costa Rica. That’s not right. Women deserve an equal voice in Canadian politics.”

The NDP Women’s Caucus will be traveling to cities across the country to meet with groups and to encourage women to get involved in politics. The *Fairness for Women* campaign tackles six areas: fairness for women at work, a better work-family balance, an end to violence against women, making sure women are heard in public and in politics, fairness for marginalized women, and equality for women around the globe.

“It’s time that women’s voices resonated as loudly as men’s in the corridors of power. It’s not right that in the 21<sup>st</sup> century only one in five lawmakers is a woman,” said NDP Leader Jack Layton. “I’m so proud of the fact that our caucus is made up of 40% women, and we are committed at making sure that women’s voices are heard.”

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