

THE ICELANDIC EXPERIENCE – Handout

The Women’s Alliance, Kvinnalístinn, was an all-women’s political party in Iceland founded in 1983 to advance women’s equality, and to increase the number of women in the Icelandic Parliament.

<u>Kvinnalístinn Timeline:</u>	
Pre 1983 election	Women hold 5% of national Parliament seats.
1983 1983 election	Kvinnalístinn forms to focus on issues important to women They run their first slate of all-female candidates in 1983, winning 3 seats out of 60 total. The proportion of women in parliament jumps to 15%.
1987 election	Kvinnalístinn wins 6 seats out of 63. Their support peaks at 10% of the popular vote.
1991 election	Kvinnalístinn wins 5 seats out of 63.
1995 election	Kvinnalístinn wins 3 seats out of 63. 30% of Icelandic Parliamentarians are women.
1996 1997	The Progressive Party adopts 40% quota for women on party lists. A split occurs in The Women’s Alliance over whether to join a new political coalition, The Alliance.
1999	The Woman’s Alliance disbands. Members disperse evenly amongst The Alliance party coalition, the left-Green Party, and the right-centre Independence Party.
2002	All remaining parties have adopted a 40% quota for women on party lists , which remains in place today.
2003 election	30.2% women elected to Parliament – the same as in 1995.

An All-Women’s Party in Canada: What Does It Take To Start a New Party?

Federally:

- An “**eligible political party**” must register with Elections Canada providing “the names, addresses and **declarations of at least 250 electors** who are members of the party.”
- A “**registered party**” must register under the *Canada Elections Act* and succeed in “endorsing one or more confirmed candidates in a general election or a by-election after it has become eligible for registration.” See: <http://www.elections.ca>
- To maintain “official party status” in the House of Commons, a party must hold 12 seats.

Provincially:

- To register a new party you must provide the Chief Electoral Officer of Alberta with signatures from **0.3% of the number of electors eligible to vote** at the last general election (roughly 6,004 electors). See: <http://www.electionsalberta.ab.ca/>
- To maintain “recognized party” status in the Alberta Legislature, a party must hold 4 seats of 83 total.