

Candidate Recruitment in Canadian Political Parties

William Cross, Carleton University
Lisa Young, University of Calgary

Parties & Candidate Selection

- ▶ Recruitment: core function of parties
- ▶ Canada: local-national trade-off
- ▶ Evidence of centralization, perhaps declining role for parties in recruitment

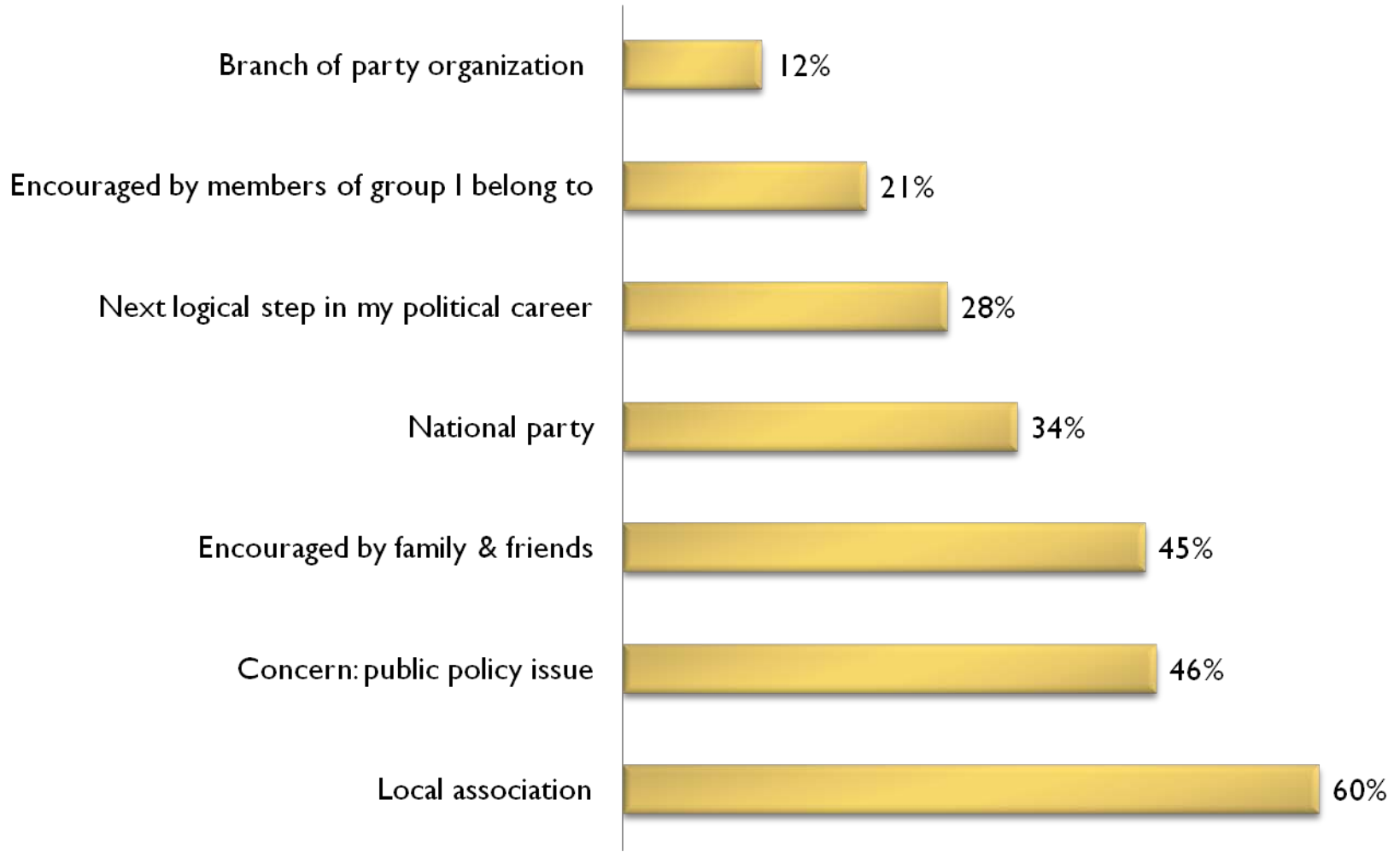


Survey of Liberal & NDP Candidates, 2008 Federal Election

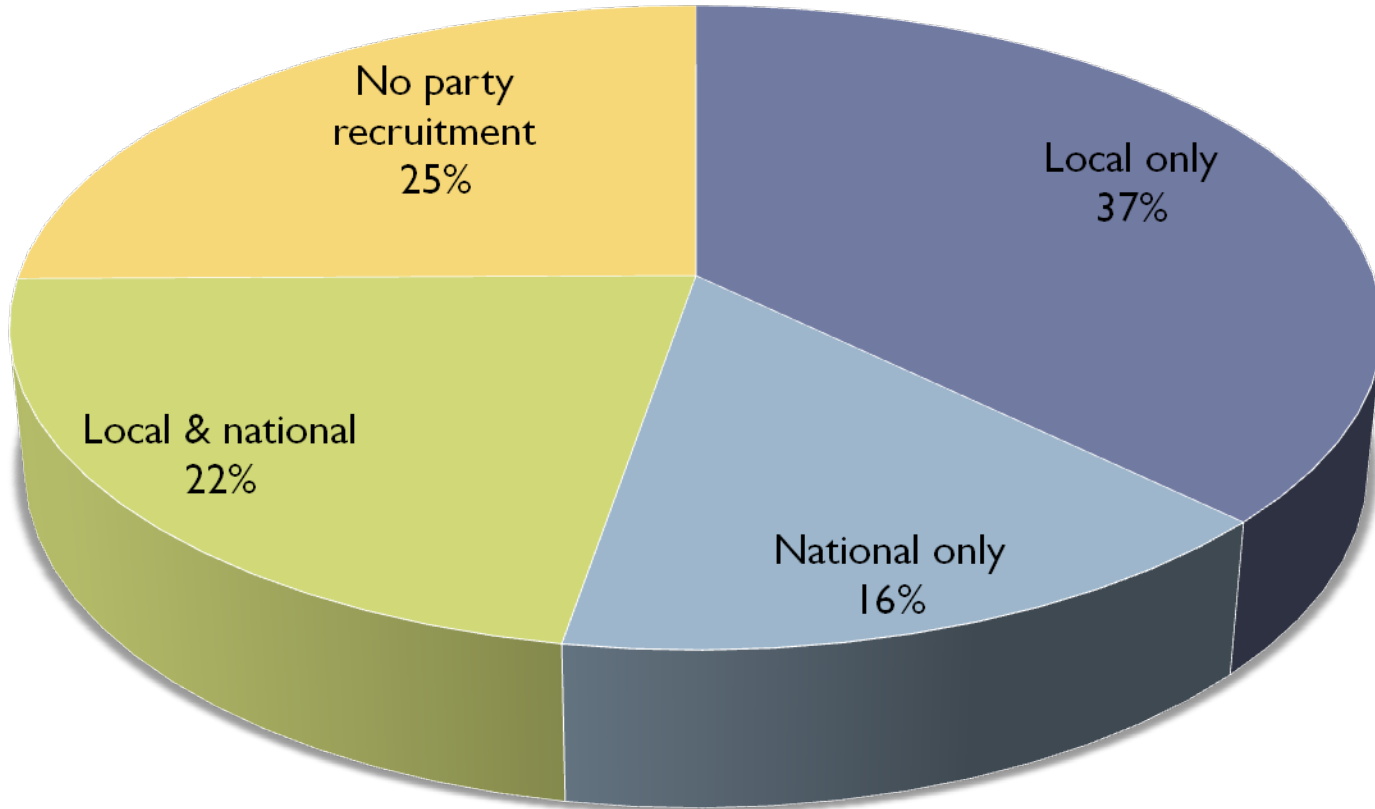
- ▶ Post-election survey
- ▶ N=170 NDP and 168 Liberal
- ▶ Response rate=55%
- ▶ MPs=19% of respondents



Factors affecting decision to run for nomination



Candidate Recruitment

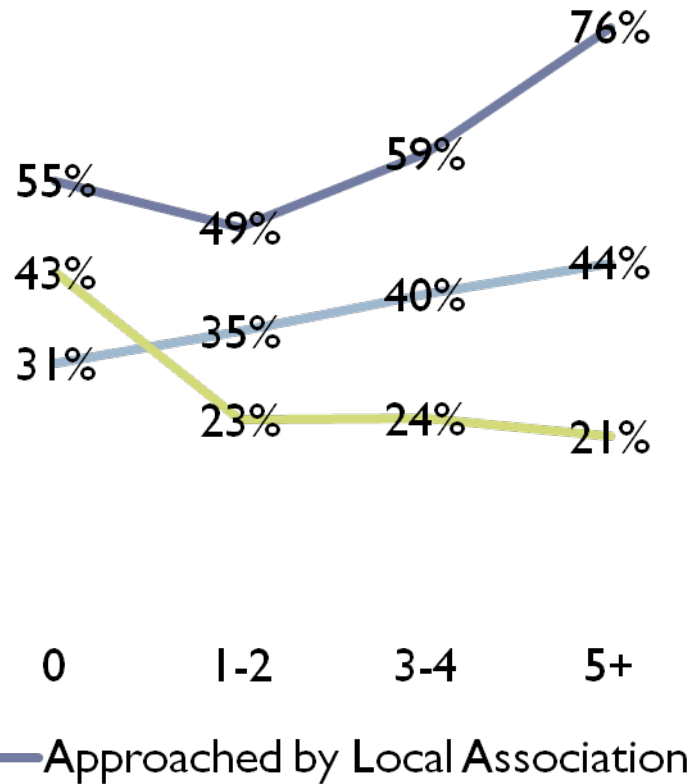


Candidates Recruited by Local Association

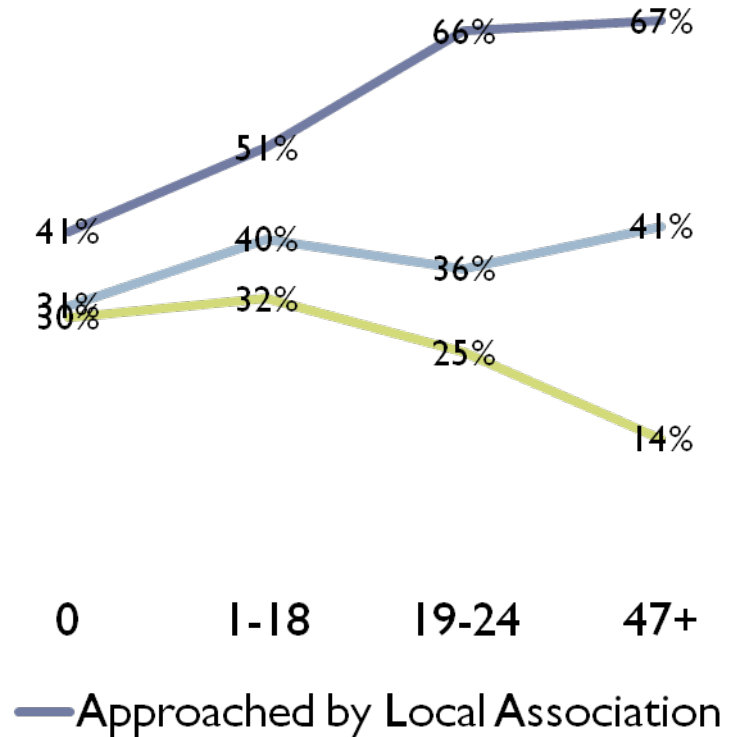
- ▶ Tend to be recruited in competitive ridings
- ▶ More likely to live in riding
- ▶ Encouraged by family and friends to run
- ▶ Less likely to reveal careerist, policy-related motivations
- ▶ Active in civil society organizations (both number of memberships and hours spent)



Recruitment, by Number of Civil Society Memberships



Recruitment, by Hours of Civil Society Association Involvement



Approached by National Party/Branch

No Party Recruitment

Approached by National Party/Branch

No Party Recruitment

Candidates Recruited by National Party/Branches

- ▶ Disproportionately female
- ▶ Less likely to live in riding
- ▶ More likely to have joined party in prior year
- ▶ More likely to expect to lose
- ▶ Involved in civil society organizations



Candidates not recruited by party

- ▶ Disproportionately male
- ▶ Less likely to be encouraged by friends, family
- ▶ More likely to express careerist, policy-related motives for running
- ▶ Less involvement in civil society organizations



Gender & Party Recruitment

	WOMEN	MEN
Recruited by local association	67%	54%
Recruited by national party	47%	31%
No Party recruitment	18%	30%



Ethnicity and Party Recruitment

<input type="checkbox"/>	Member of Ethnic association	non-member
Recruited by local association	74%	58%
Recruited by national party	49%	36%
No Party recruitment	11%	27%



Conclusions

- ▶ Candidate recruitment remains a party-dominated function
- ▶ Local parties play key role; national parties a secondary one
- ▶ Distinctive profiles of candidates between 'political entrepreneurs' and those recruited by party

