



National Institutions

A government that serves its people



This Afghan gentleman, at a polling station in Kandahar province, displays the election card from the 2009 election held in August.

© D/FANT/MAECI

On August 20, 2009, with the support of Canada and the international community, the Afghan people voted in the first Afghan-led presidential and provincial council elections since the fall of the Taliban. Elections are an important part of the democratic process in Afghanistan.

What Canada is doing

Canada is helping Afghanistan build stronger public institutions at the national and provincial levels, and establish democratic processes that will give citizens better access to basic services.

The Canadian Governance Support Office (CGSO), a Canadian initiative, is a civilian-led team that provides expert technical support and advice to the Afghan government in Canada's six priority areas. Canadian experts are deployed in Afghan ministries in key areas such as policing services, human rights law, elections operations, vocational programming and education, engineering, financial management and administration. The CGSO program is helping to build the institutional capacity of the Government of Afghanistan.

The Afghan Independent Election Commission is organizing parliamentary elections in 2010. Canada is one of the lead countries providing electoral assistance in Afghanistan. We are working with the Government of Afghanistan and other donors to determine what type of support is required for the 2010 elections. For the 2009 presidential elections, Canadian funding helped to support voter registration and education, recruitment and training of election officials, as well as the work of the Independent Election Commission and the Electoral Complaints Commission.

Working hand in hand with Afghans, Canada is helping to reform the public sector by shaping a new generation of public servants. Stronger legislation, policy, and programming will ensure Afghans get the services they need.

