

FACTS ABOUT THE NEW TRUDEAU CABINET

Much has been said about the diversity of the new Canadian cabinet under Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. The cabinet was chosen in line with the principle of demographics – i.e. the composition of the cabinet looks (and sounds) like Canada. Notably, the shares of female, minority and French-speaking appointees were all in line with their shares in the national population (at approximately half, one quarter and one quarter, respectively).¹

The Liberal caucus itself (184 MPs) is not a mirror of the Canadian population. Women represent just 27 per cent of caucus, but were nonetheless chosen for half of the cabinet positions. This has spawned some criticism that perhaps the quality of the female appointees might not be as high as their male counterparts. Does this inquiry have merit?

The below are socio-economic stratifications of the cabinet based on the 30 appointed (ministerial) positions and omits the position of prime minister.

The stratifications include:

- Gender (pg. 1)
- Ethnicity (pg. 1)
- Language – by gender (pg. 2)
- Country of birth – by gender (pg. 3)
- Home province – by gender (pg. 4)
- Age – by gender (pg. 5)
- Level of education – by gender (pg. 6)
- Most common universities attended – by gender (pg. 7)
- Most common fields of study – by gender (pg. 8)
- Most common professions – by gender (pg. 9)

Gender:

- Female: 15 (50%)
- Male: 15 (50%)

Ethnicity:

- Minority: 7 (23%)
- White: 23 (76%)

Table: Gender and ethnicity

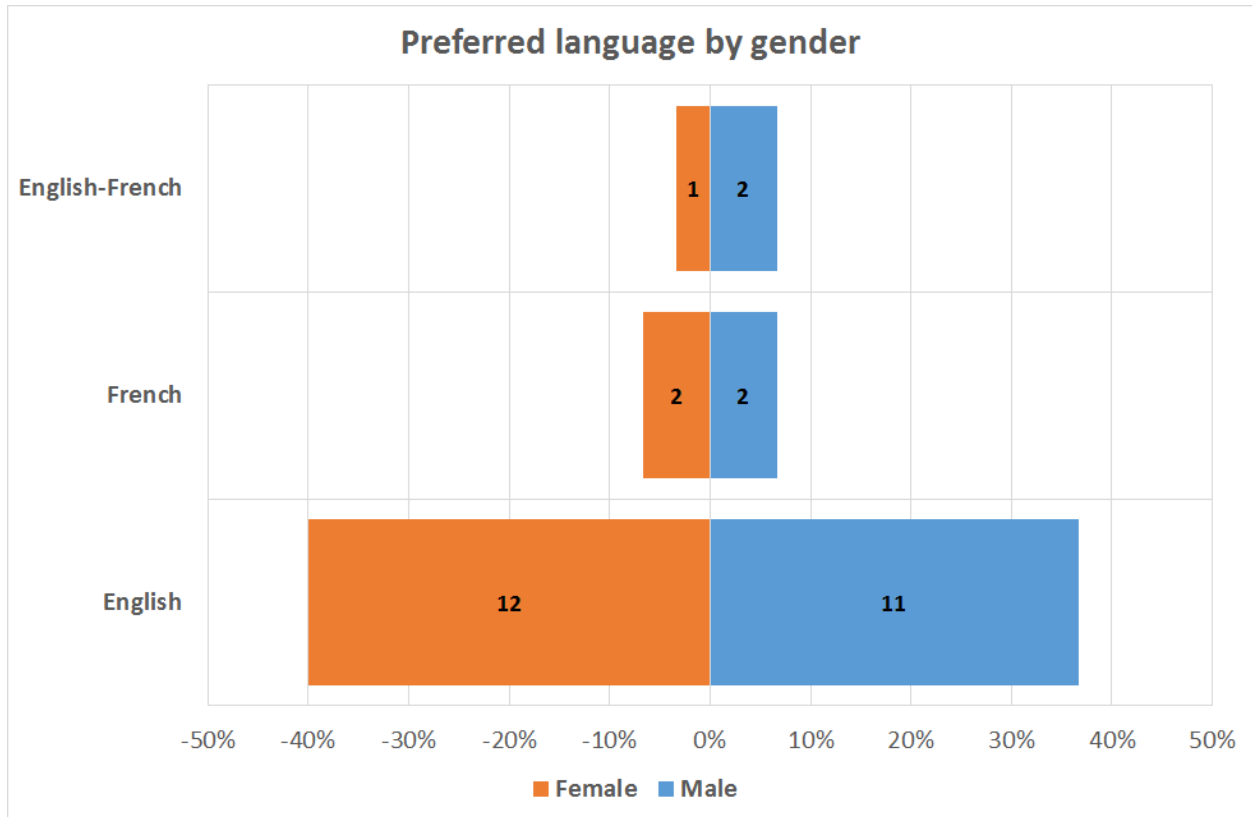
GENDER \ ETHNICITY	Female	Male	Total
Minority	3 (10%)	4 (13%)	7 (23%)
White	12 (40%)	11 (37%)	23 (77%)
Total	15 (50%)	15 (50%)	30 (100%)

¹ Based on the 2011 Census and projected to 2015, the share of minorities is 26 per cent. French as a mother tongue has declined to close to 20 per cent, but it is offset by immigrants and internal migrants who have picked it up as a primary language of use – all told, French is the primary language for about a quarter of the population.

French speakers: 7 (23%)

Preferred language of correspondence:²

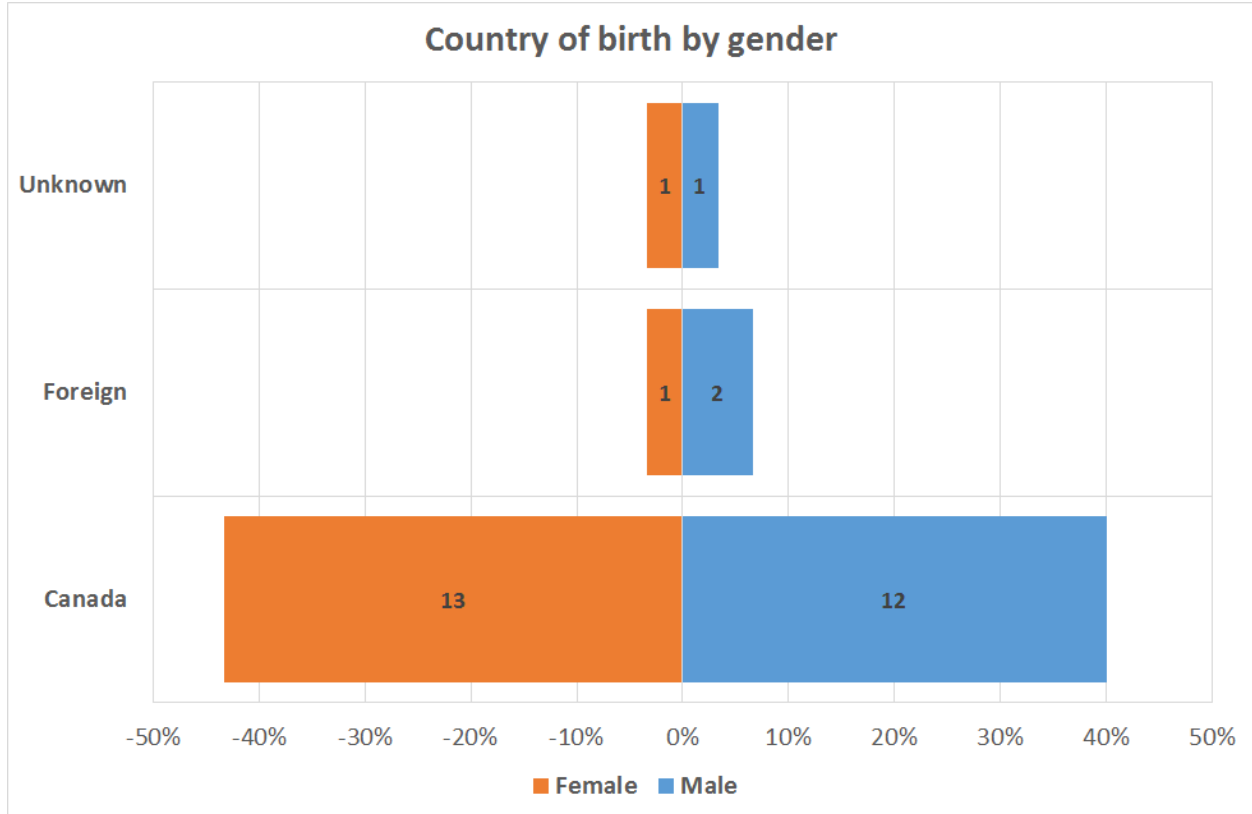
- English: 23 (77%)
- French: 4 (13%)
- English or French: 3 (10%)



² This is the language of preferred communication as profiled on their Parliamentary page. Some were deduced when no such information exists. Also, some people may list French (or English) as their preferred language of communication even if they are able to speak the other (i.e. both) official language (and possibly at a fluent level).

Country of birth:

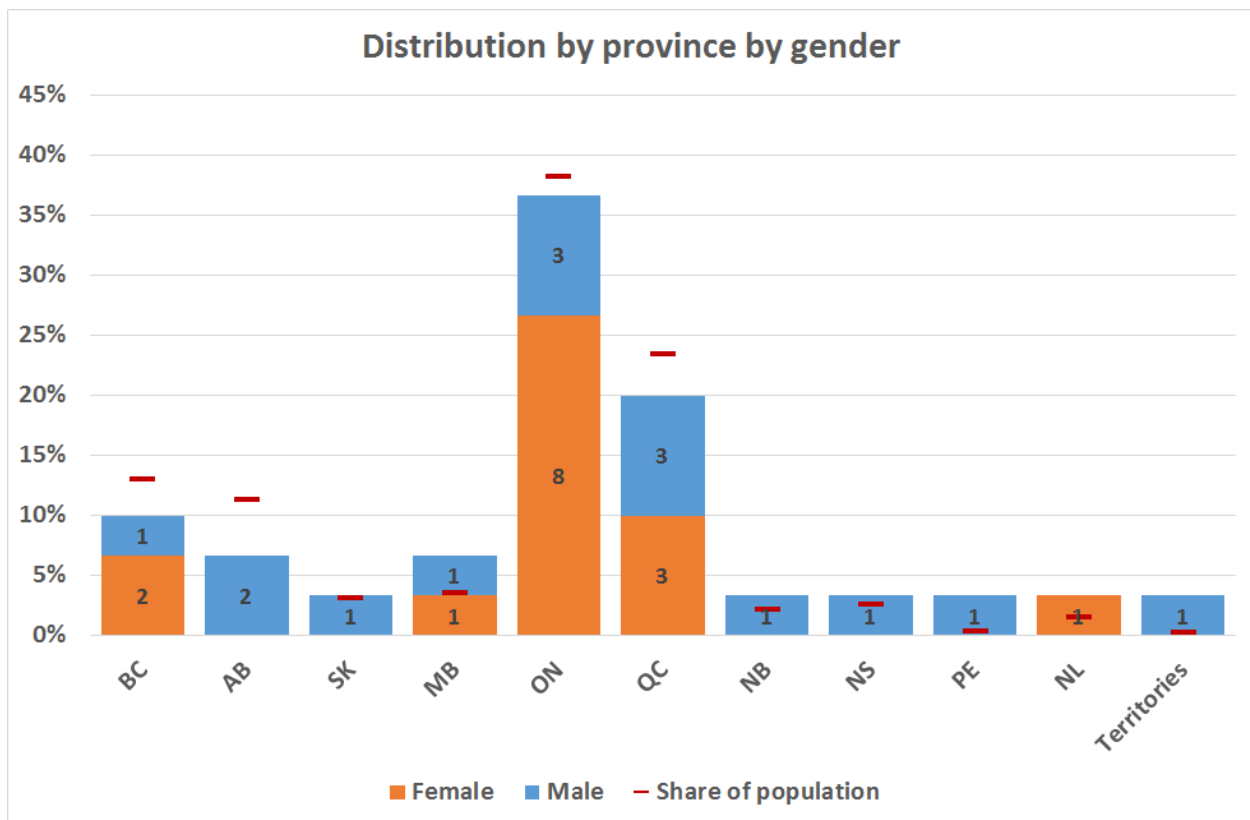
- Canada: 25 (83%)
- Foreign: 3 (10%) of which India 2 (7%) and Afghanistan: 1 (3%)
- Unknown:³ 2 (7%)



³ The unknowns were almost certainly born in Canada but no confirmed data to support it.

Home province:

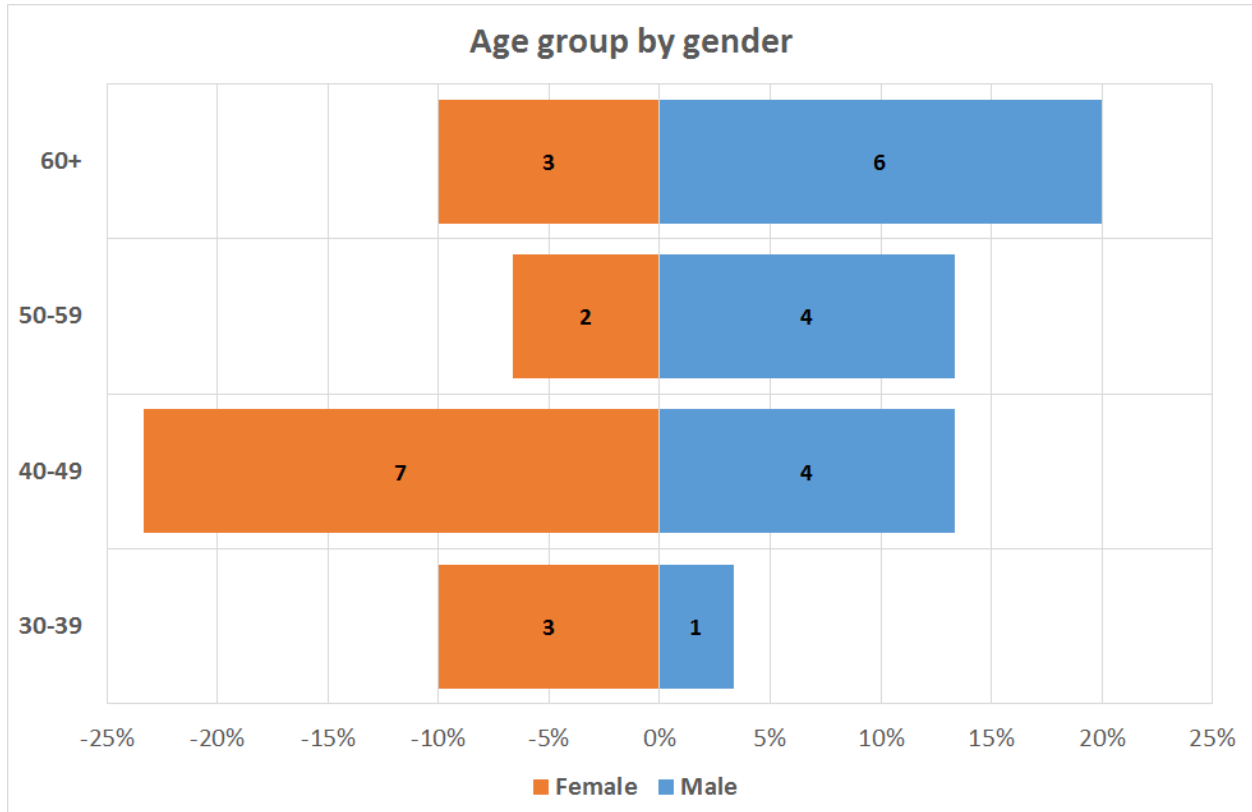
- BC: 3 (10%)
- AB: 2 (7%)
- SK: 1 (3%)
- MB: 2 (7%)
- ON: 11 (33%)
- QC: 6 (20%)
- NB: 1 (3%)
- NS: 1 (3%)
- PE: 1 (3%)
- NL: 1 (3%)
- Territories: 1 (3%)



Median age:⁴ 49

By age brackets:⁵

- 30-39: 4 (13%)
- 40-49: 11 (37%)
- 50-59: 6 (20%)
- 60+: 9 (30%)



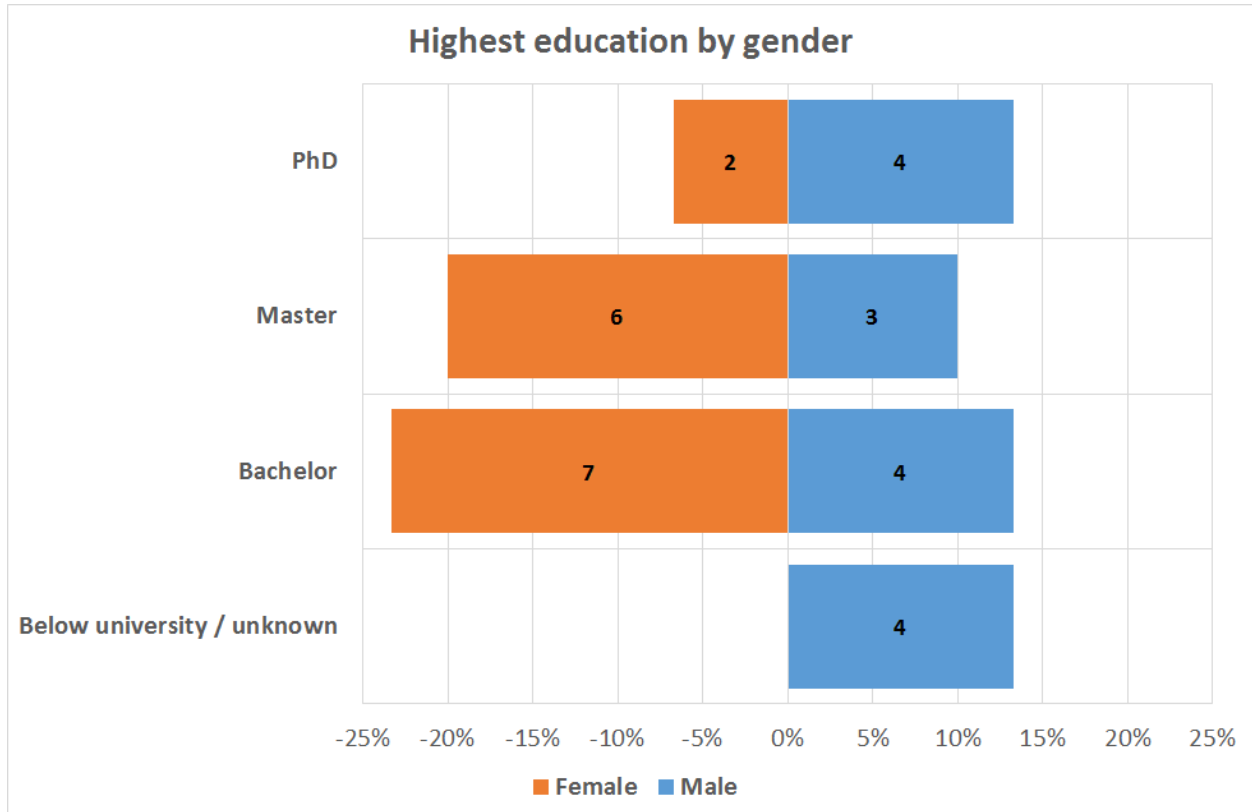
⁴ A few ages were estimated.

⁵ *Ibid.*

Number with degree: 26 (87%)

Highest level of education:

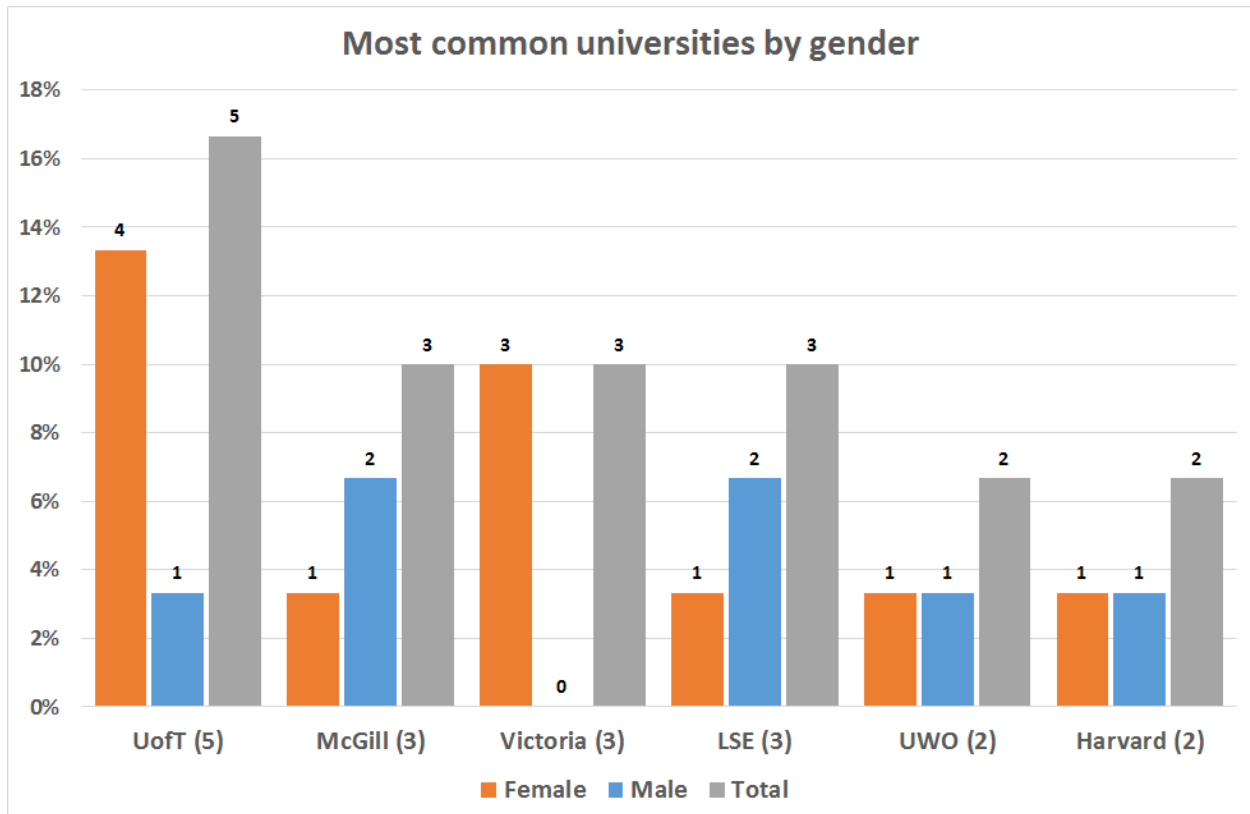
- Below university / unknown:⁶ 4 (13%)
- Bachelor's or equivalent: 11 (37%)
- Master's or equivalent: 9 (30%)
- Doctoral or equivalent: 6 (20%)



⁶ It is probably fair to lump unknown into the “below university” group since most public personalities would openly share/declare their educational credentials if they existed.

Most common tertiary education institutions (institutions with 2 or more alumni):⁷

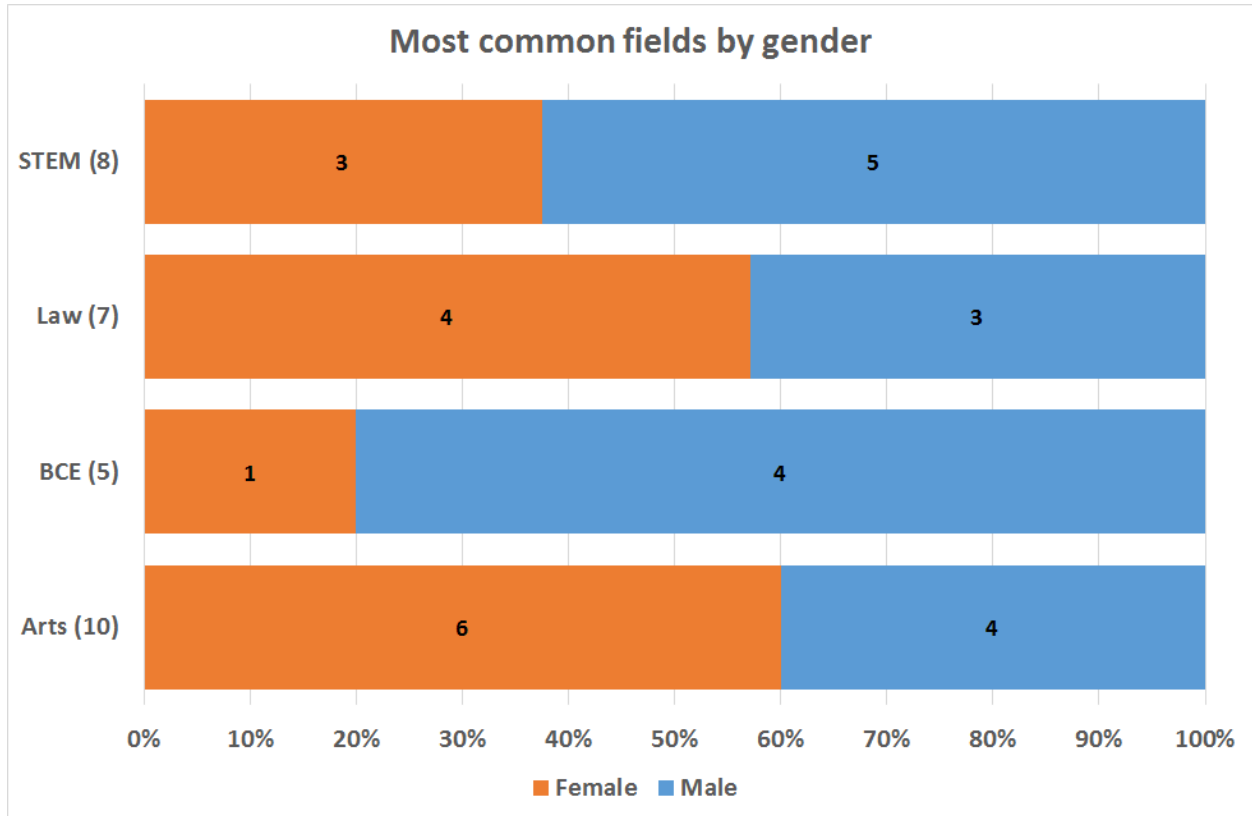
- University of Toronto (UofT): 5 (17%)
- McGill University: 4 (13%)
- University of Victoria: 3 (10%)
- London School of Economics (LSE): 3 (10%)
- University of Western Ontario (UWO): 2 (7%)
- Harvard University: 2 (7%)



⁷ Note that alumni can be affiliated with more than one institution. Alumni is defined as having obtained a degree at the institution – thus this excludes executive training, summer schools, course work, attendance but incompleteness, etc.

Most common fields of study:⁸

- Arts: 10 (33%)
- Business, commerce and economics (BCE): 5 (17%)
- Law: 7 (23%)
- STEM:⁹ 8 (27%)

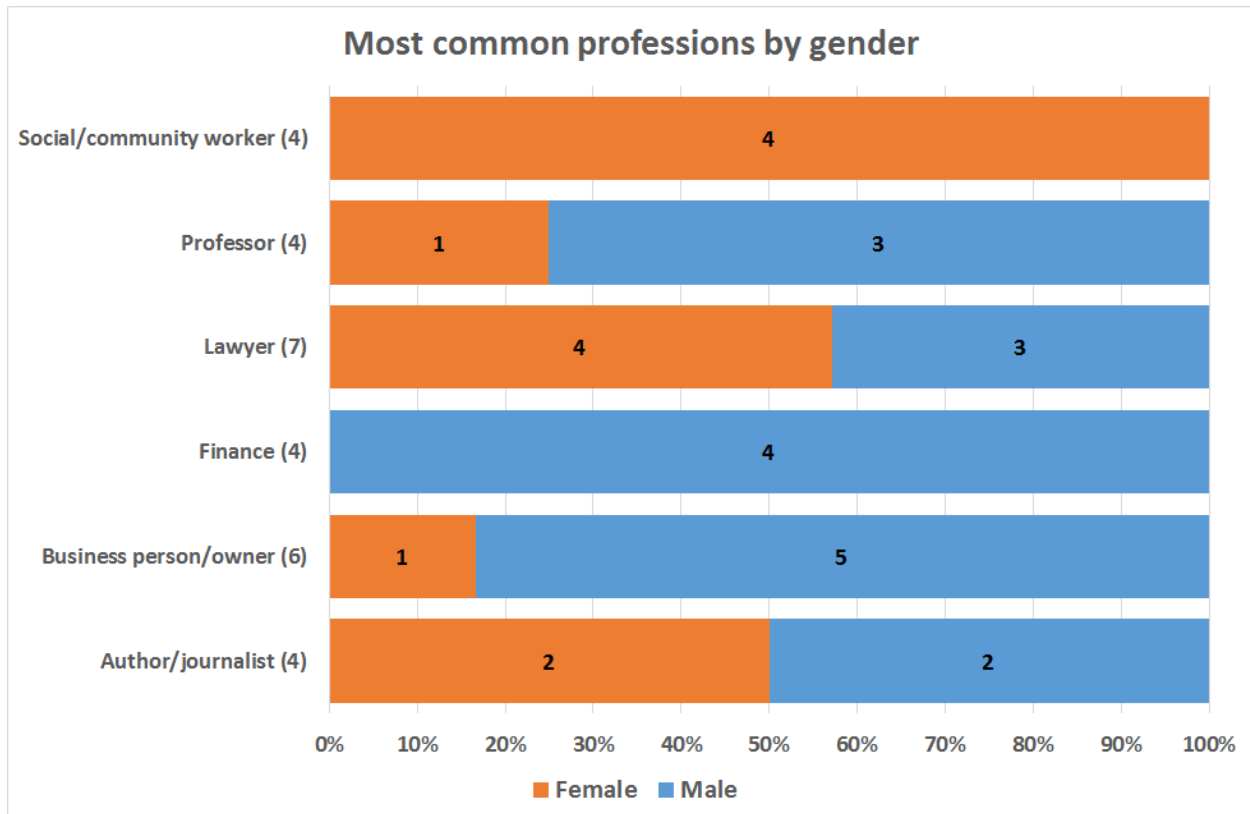


⁸ An individual can have more than one field of study associated with him/her.

⁹ Based on the broad definition of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) as defined by National Sciences Foundation (this includes some of the social sciences such as economics, psychology, etc.).

Most common professions prior to entering federal politics:¹⁰

- Author / journalist: 4 (13%)
- Business person or business owner: 6 (20%)
- Lawyer: 7 (23%)
- Finance related: 4 (13%)
- Professor: 4 (13%)
- Social and community worker: 4 (13%)



¹⁰ These vocations are both self-reported and as noted in the public sphere – individuals may (and commonly do) list or have multiple professional tracks prior to their entry into politics.