

Yes

Here are some reasons why someone might argue that Canada **should lower the voting age** to 16.

Increasing Democratic Representation

Youth are impacted by many of the decisions our government makes. Lowering the vote could further the historical march for democratic representation. A significant youth vote could force politicians to address the specific concerns that younger citizens of Canada have.

16- and 17-year-olds Already have Similar Rights, Responsibilities, and Requisite Knowledge

16- and 17-year-olds already have all or most of the necessary civic knowledge, skills, and cognitive ability to vote responsibly. After all, many drive, work, and pay taxes already. Teens are often already interested in politics, and they have high stakes interests in emergent issues, social opportunities, and economic development.

Increasing Democratic Participation

Lowering the voting age has the potential to increase long-term voter turnout by establishing voting habits early. Moreover, perhaps younger voters can reverse declining democratic participation. Lowering the age of voters might result in a “trickle up” effect, with younger people energizing their families and communities to become more civically engaged alongside them.

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