

# It's Your Country, Too!

## An adult literacy workbook on politics, elections, and community participation

“Not interested!” “It’s boring.” “It doesn’t matter.” “There’s nothing in it for me.”

These are the refrains we hear from our students when the subject of “voting and politics” comes up every election cycle. Yet, in discussions about social and political issues like poverty, human rights, and the justice system, they can’t seem to stop talking! We realized that what we needed was a civic engagement literacy resource that really spoke to our students’ interests and needs.

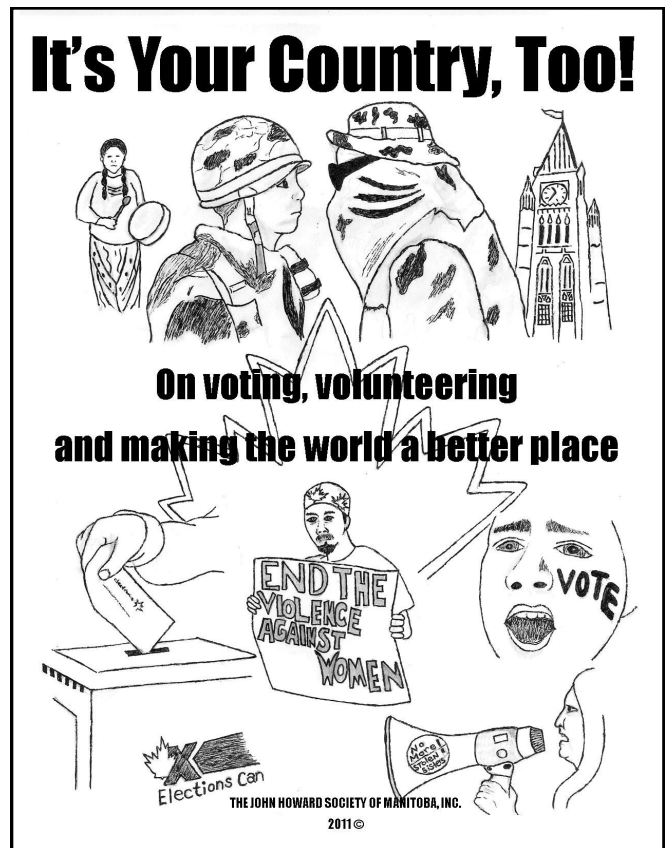
“It’s Your Country, Too” is an accessible guide to voting, elections, and parliamentary democracy, but it doesn’t stop there. We recognize that many adult literacy learners are uninterested in or alienated by electoral politics, and that others want to know what they can do to change the world every day – not just once every four years.

This workbook also focuses on community organizing, volunteerism, activism and prisoners’ justice: everything from local food initiatives to the campaign to raise awareness about missing and murdered Aboriginal women; from the history of Prisoners’ Justice Day to the self-determination of Aboriginal peoples to how to find a fulfilling volunteer gig in your neighbourhood. “It’s Your Country, Too” shows learners that real community participation can be about more than just marking an X on a ballot.

The John Howard Society Literacy Series was developed to help students improve their reading, writing, and critical thinking skills while providing them with information on topics that are interesting, engaging and relevant to their daily lives. This book is written in plain language and at approximately a grade eight reading level. Learners can complete this workbook on their own or with the help of a tutor; its exercises help to build essential literacy skills such as writing, reading comprehension, numeracy, and document use, and discuss practical applications for these skills.

*It's Your Country, Too!* is 95 pages and is bound with a plastic coil for use in correctional settings. It is available for \$15.00 per copy from the John Howard Society of Manitoba.

You can order copies by contacting Janet Johnson at 204-775-1514. View the rest of our workbook series online at [www.johnhoward.mb.ca](http://www.johnhoward.mb.ca).



### FEATURES:

- Eighteen lessons and accompanying literacy exercises
- Personal experience stories from JHS literacy students, discussing their past community involvement and the issues that are most important to them
- Fourteen pages devoted to “Literacy Tips,” which contain instruction on complete and incomplete sentences, paragraphing, punctuation, capitalization, finding the main idea, calculating percentages, writing a letter to the editor, and more!
- Profiles of local community organizations, including Sisters in Spirit, Winnipeg Copwatch, and the Stony Mountain Prisoners’ Committee
- Contact information for Elections Canada and Elections Manitoba, as well as step-by-step instructions for voting for both incarcerated voters and those living in the community.