Edging Towards Diversity

A Statistical Breakdown of Canada's 41st Parliament, with Comparisons to the 40th Parliament

June 2011

With Additional Comparisons to the 112th US Congress and the 55th British Parliament

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Public Policy Forum **June 2011**
Building Better Government

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Overview

Canada's 41st Parliament, elected on May 2, 2011 saw a significant turnover of MPs, with more than a third being elected for the first time. This major infusion of new, inexperienced MPs coincides with the first majority parliament in almost seven years. Only 57 of 308 MPs (*18.5%)* have experience in a majority parliament in Ottawa.

The 41st Parliament is, on average, younger (less than 50 years old); more female (76 female MPs – largest number in Canadian history); *and* more diverse (almost 10% of MPs are members of visible minorities) than previous parliaments.

Members of the "class of 2011" come from a broader range of professional backgrounds, including business, education and community organizations. The political or public service background of MPs is primarily from the municipal and provincial levels of government.

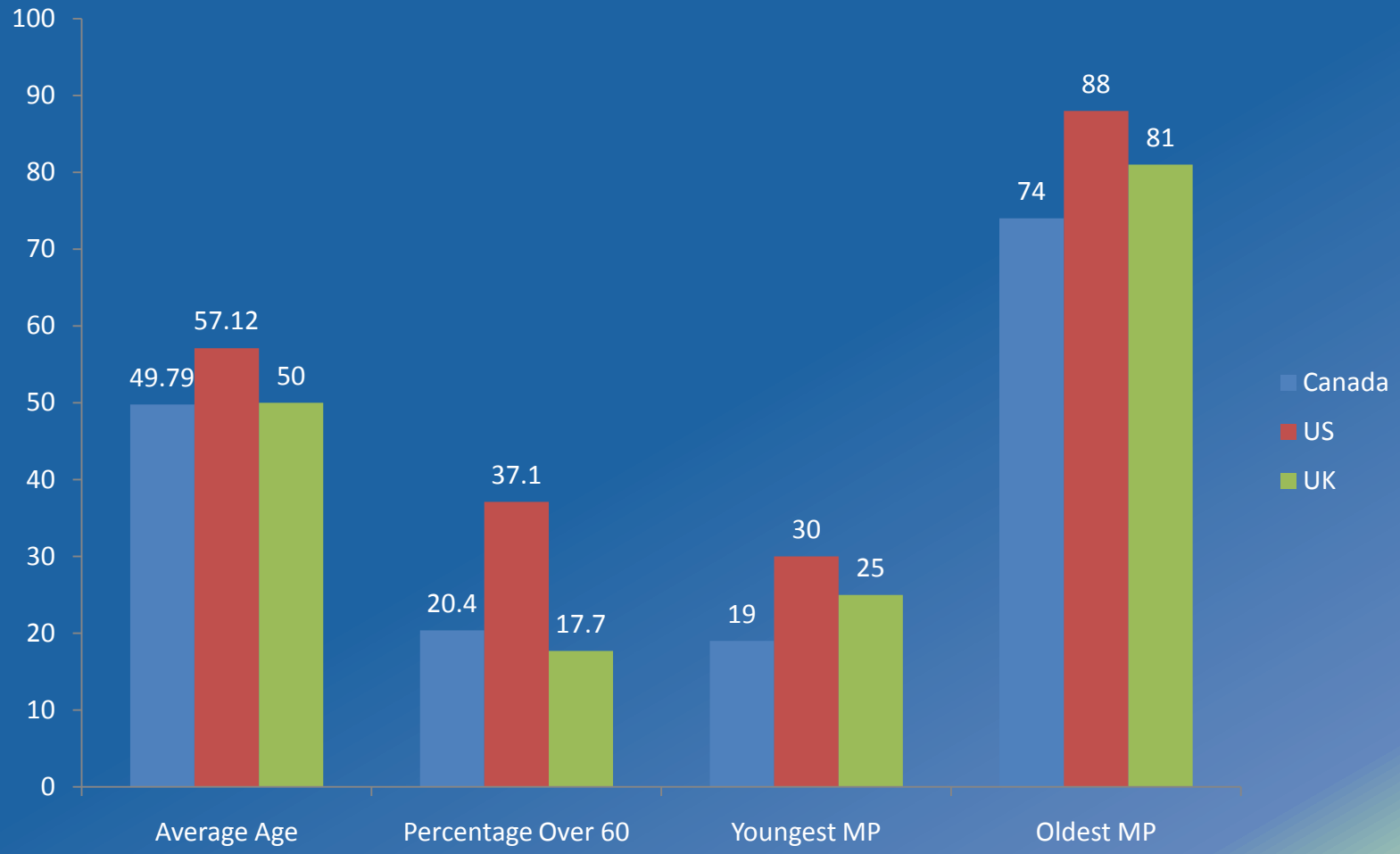
When compared with the British House of Commons or the US House of Representatives, Canadian MPs are younger and less experienced.

However, this profile of our new Members of Parliament clearly demonstrates that Canada's federal elected representatives are becoming a more accurate reflection of the population of the country. Indeed, with the 41st Parliament, our House of Commons is slowly, but surely, edging towards a diversity that mirrors the Canadian reality.

Age of Canadian MPs in 41st Parliament

- Average Age: 49.79 years
  - Down from 51.39 years (-1.61 years)
  - 50.53 for Men (vs 51.25, a decrease of 0.72); 47.27 for Women (vs 52.00, a decrease of 4.73 years)
  - 63 over the age of 60 (20.4%, vs 24.3% in 40th Parliament – a decrease of 3.9%)
    - Youngest MP: Pierre-Luc Dusseault, NDP(19)
    - Oldest MP: Ray Boughen, Conservative Party (74)
- Average Age US House of Representatives : 57.12 years (+0.1)
  - 161 (37.1%) over the age of 60
    - Vs. 187 (42.5%) over the age of 60
  - 45 (10.1%) over the age of 70
    - Vs. 48 (10.9%) members over the age of 70
  - Youngest Representative: Aaron Schock, Republican (30)
  - Oldest Representative: Ralph Hall, Republican (88)
- Average Age UK MP : 50 years
  - 17.7% over the age of 60
  - Youngest MP: Pamela Nash, Labour (25)
  - Oldest MP: Sir Peter Tapsell, Conservative (81)

Age of Canadian MPs in 41st Parliament

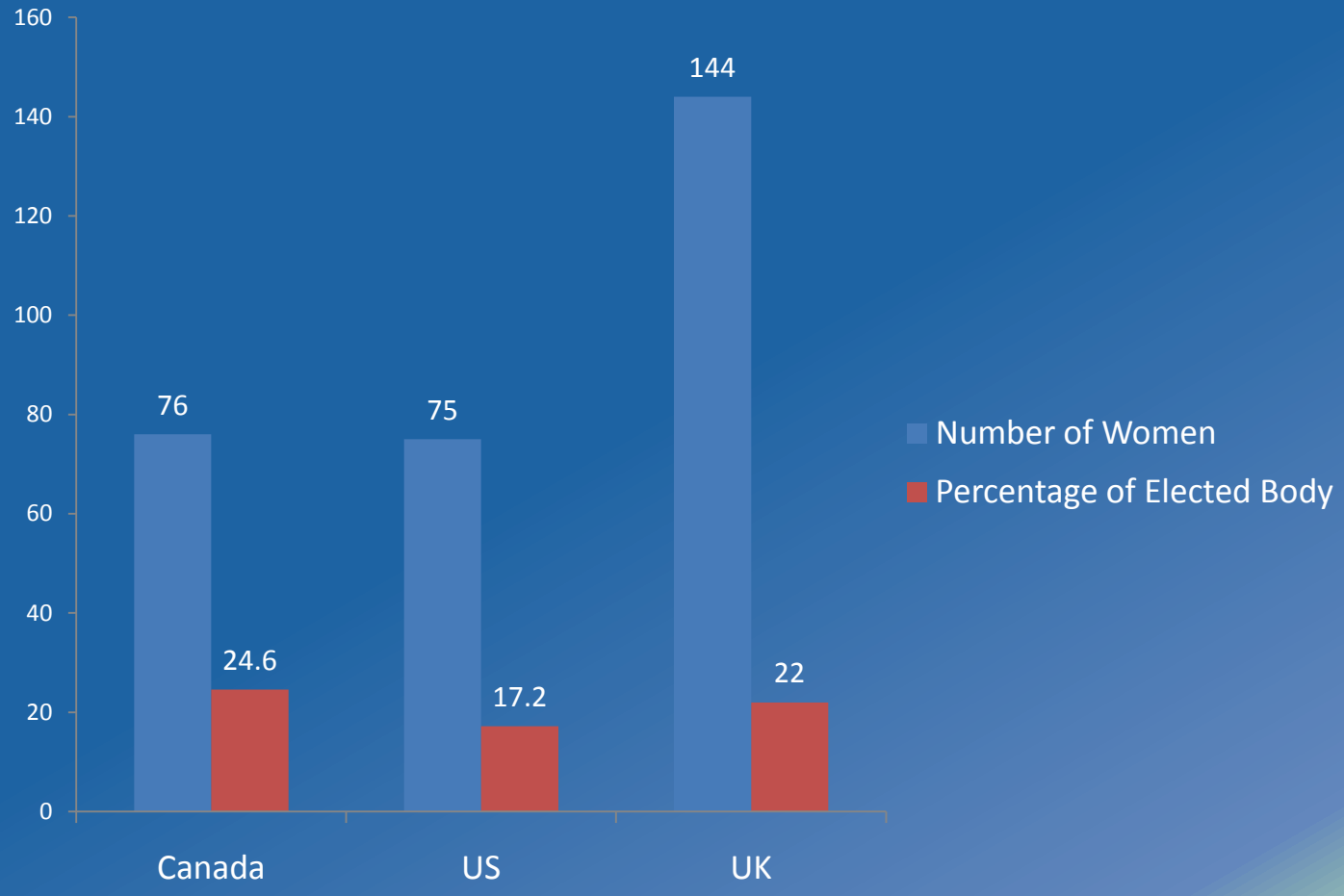


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Gender of Canadian MPs in 41st Parliament

- 76 Women in Parliament – 24.6% of MPs (+2.2%)
  - Highest in Canadian history – 69 women in 40th Parliament, 64 women in 39th Parliament
  - Party breakdown:
    - Conservative: 28 (16.9% of Conservative caucus)
    - NDP: 40 (38.8%)
    - Liberal: 6 (17.6%)
    - BQ: 1 (25%)
    - Green: 1 (100%)
- 75 (17.2%) Women in the US House of Representatives
  - Vs. 78 (17.8%)
  - 51 Democrats, 24 Republicans
- 144 Women MPs (22%) in the UK
  - Compares with 127 (18.2%) in 2005, 120 (18.2%) women in 1997 & 19 (3.0%) women in 1979
  - Highest percentage of women in UK history

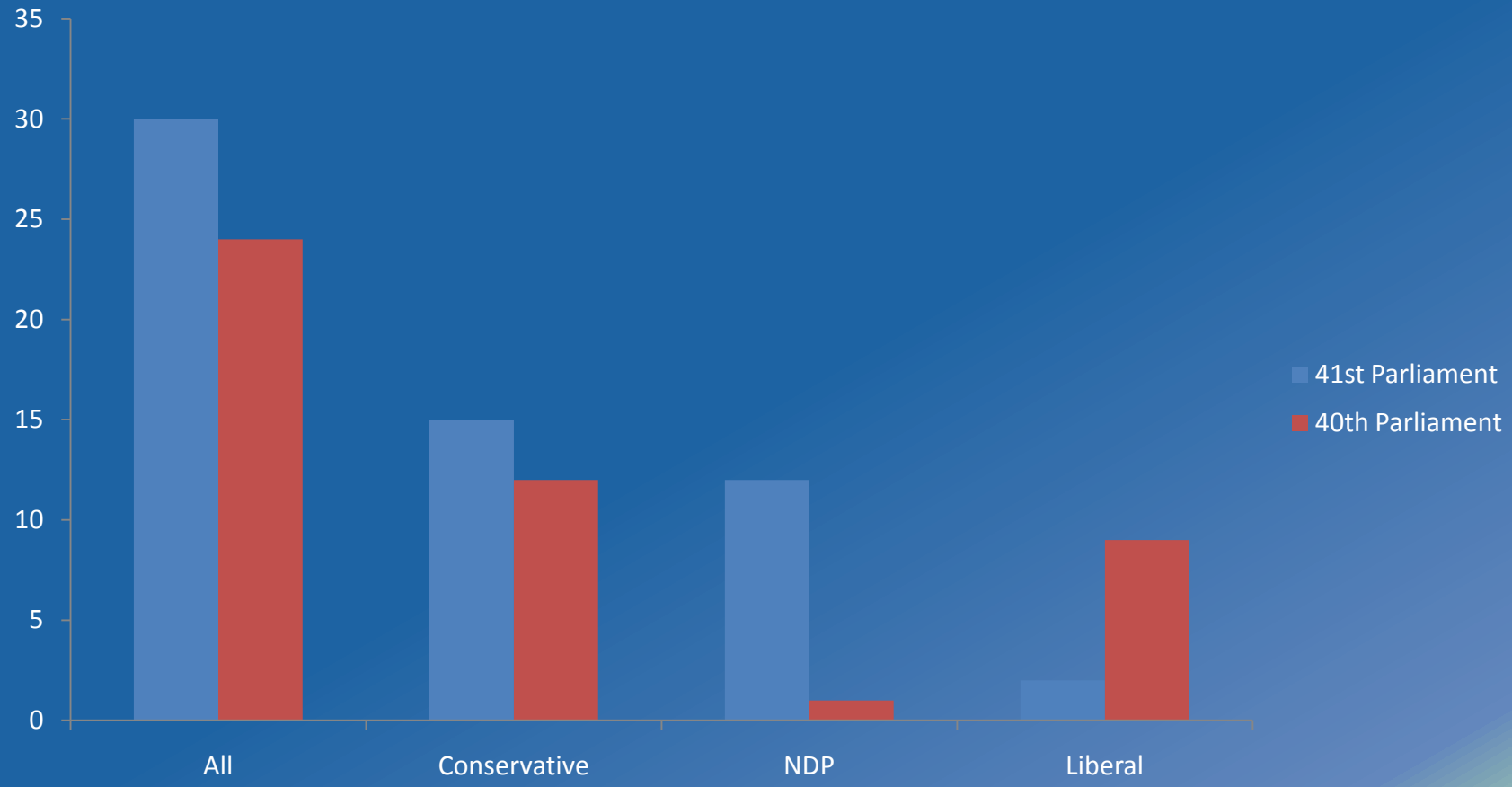
Gender of Canadian, British, and American elected representatives



Ethnicity of Canadian MPs in 41st Parliament

- 30 (9.4%) of MPs are members of visible minorities(+ 1.6%)
  - Vs 24 (7.8%) members of 40th Parliament
  - 15 in the Conservative Caucus
    - vs. 12 MPs last Parliament
  - 12 MPs in the NDP Caucus
    - vs. 1 MP last Parliament
  - 2 MPs in the Liberal Caucus
    - vs. 9 MPs last Parliament
- 88 (20.2%) US Representatives in Congress are members of visible minorities
  - Vs. 76 (17.3%) members of 111th Congress
- 27 British MPs (4.2%) are members of visible minorities
  - vs. 15 (2.3%) in previous parliament

Ethnicity of Canadian MPs in 41st Parliament:
number of members of visible minorities

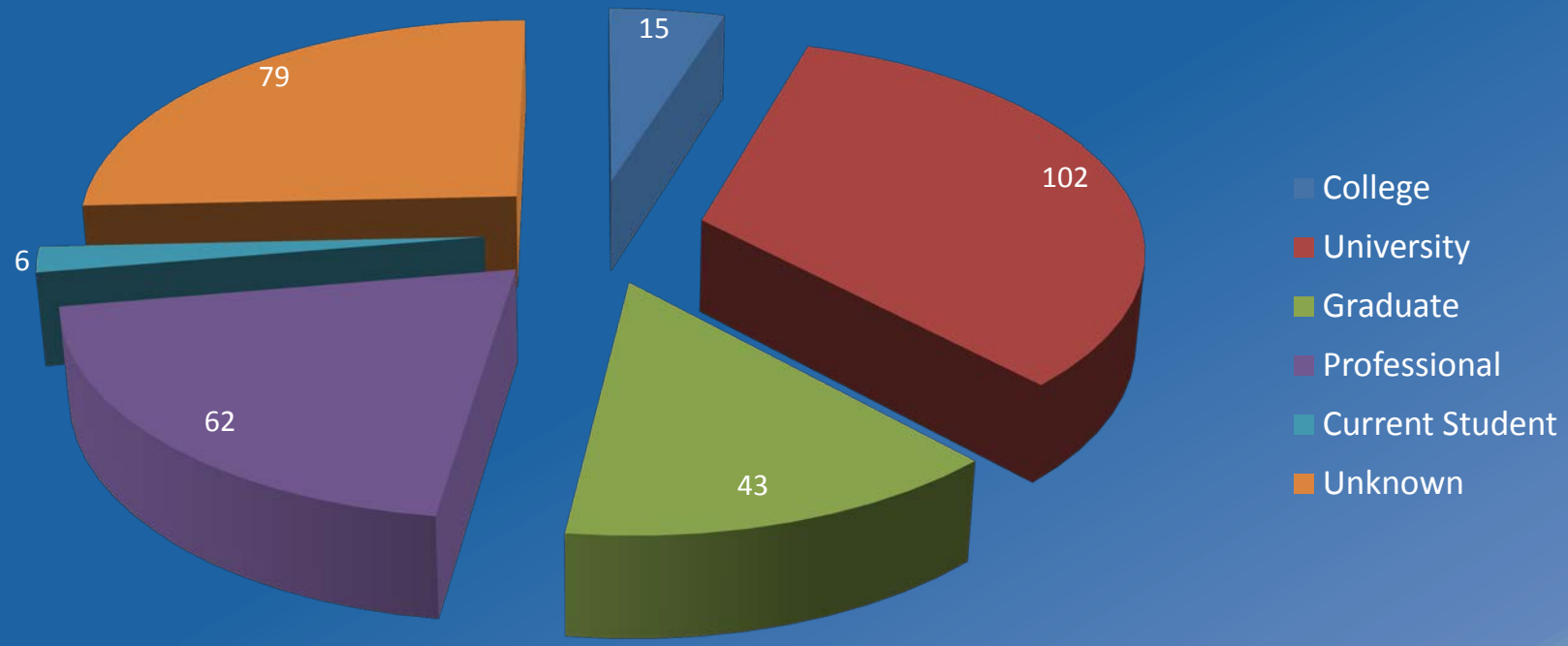


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Education of Canadian MPs in 41st Parliament

- 74% of all MPs have completed some post-secondary education (*based on number of MPs whose educational background is known)
  - Decrease of 11% from last Parliament
- 15 (4.9%) College Graduates
- 102 (33.1%) have completed some or all studies towards a bachelors degree
- 43 (13.9%) have completed graduate studies (MA, PhD)
- 62 (20.1%) have a professional designation (e.g. lawyer or doctor)
- 79 (25.6%) have no listed educational experience
- 6 (1.9%) are students currently working towards their BA

Education of Canadian MPs in 41st Parliament



Education, 55th House of Representatives and 55th British Parliament

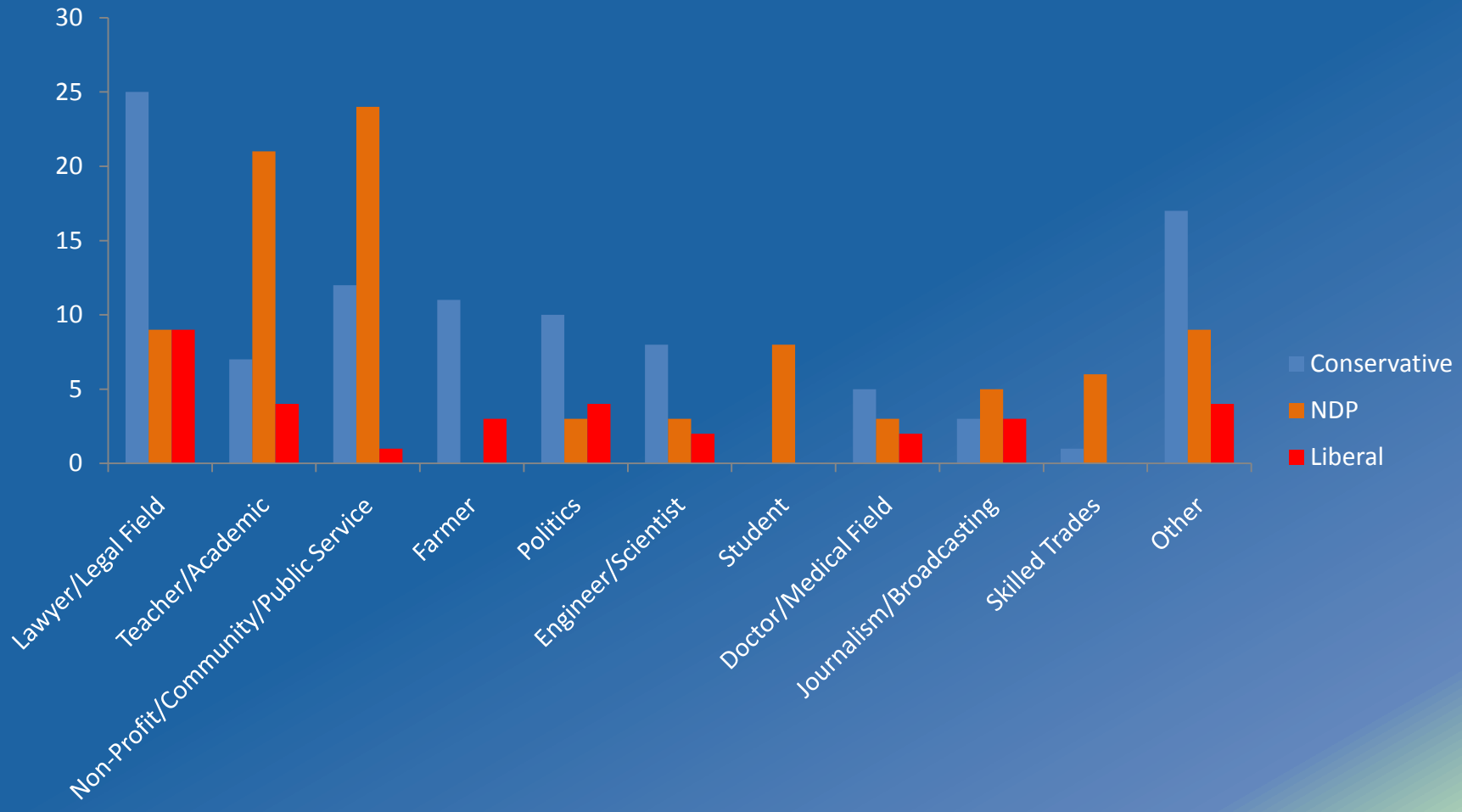
- 399 (92%) House Representatives have a university degree
  - Vs. 409 (92.7%) (decrease of 10 or 2.7% - a further decline from 110th Congress)
  - 26 did not attend a post-secondary school (no education beyond secondary school)
    - Increase of 23 Representatives
  - 83 members have Masters Degrees
  - 167 have law degrees
  - 2 Representatives were Rhodes Scholars, 3 were Fulbright Scholars, 1 was a Marshall Scholar, and 1 Representative was a Truman Scholar.

- 540 (89.8%) of UK MPs attended university
  - vs. 465 (72%) of UK MPs in previous parliament
  - 170 (28.3%) went to either Oxford or Cambridge

Professional Background of Canadian MPs in 41st Parliament

- 35 (11.4%) teachers or professors
  - Down from 42 in last Parliament
- 43 (13.9%) lawyers
- 38 (12.3%) non-profit or community activists
  - Increase of 20 MPs
- 12 (12.9%) journalists
- 17 (5.5%) politics (career exclusively involved in politics, as elected official or staff to an elected official or political party)
  - Decrease of 12 MPs
- 81 (26.3%) business/entrepreneurs
- 14 (4.5%) farmers
- 13 (4.2%) engineers/scientists
- 10 (3.2%) medical professionals
- 7 (2.3%) skilled tradespersons

Professional Background of Canadian MPs in 41st Parliament



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Professional Background of Members of 112th House of Representatives

- 28 from the medical field
- 29 former mayors
- 28 have served in the legal field at city, county, state, federal or military jurisdictions
- 4 Peace Corps volunteers serve in the House
- 8 from law enforcement field
- 9 scientific researchers in the House
- 11 former journalists
- 7 accountants
- 4 pilots serve in the House, including a former pilot of Marine One (the President's helicopter)
- 4 from entertainment/sports industries
- 30 from farmers of farm-related occupations
- 7 social workers serve in the House

Professional Background of British MPs in 55th Parliament

- 156 Business background
- 84 from "White Collar" professions
- 86 Lawyers
- 38 Journalists
- 25 Manual Labourers
- 49 from Teaching careers
- 90 from Politics (career exclusively involved in politics, as elected official or staff to an elected official or political party)
- 18 from Civil Service

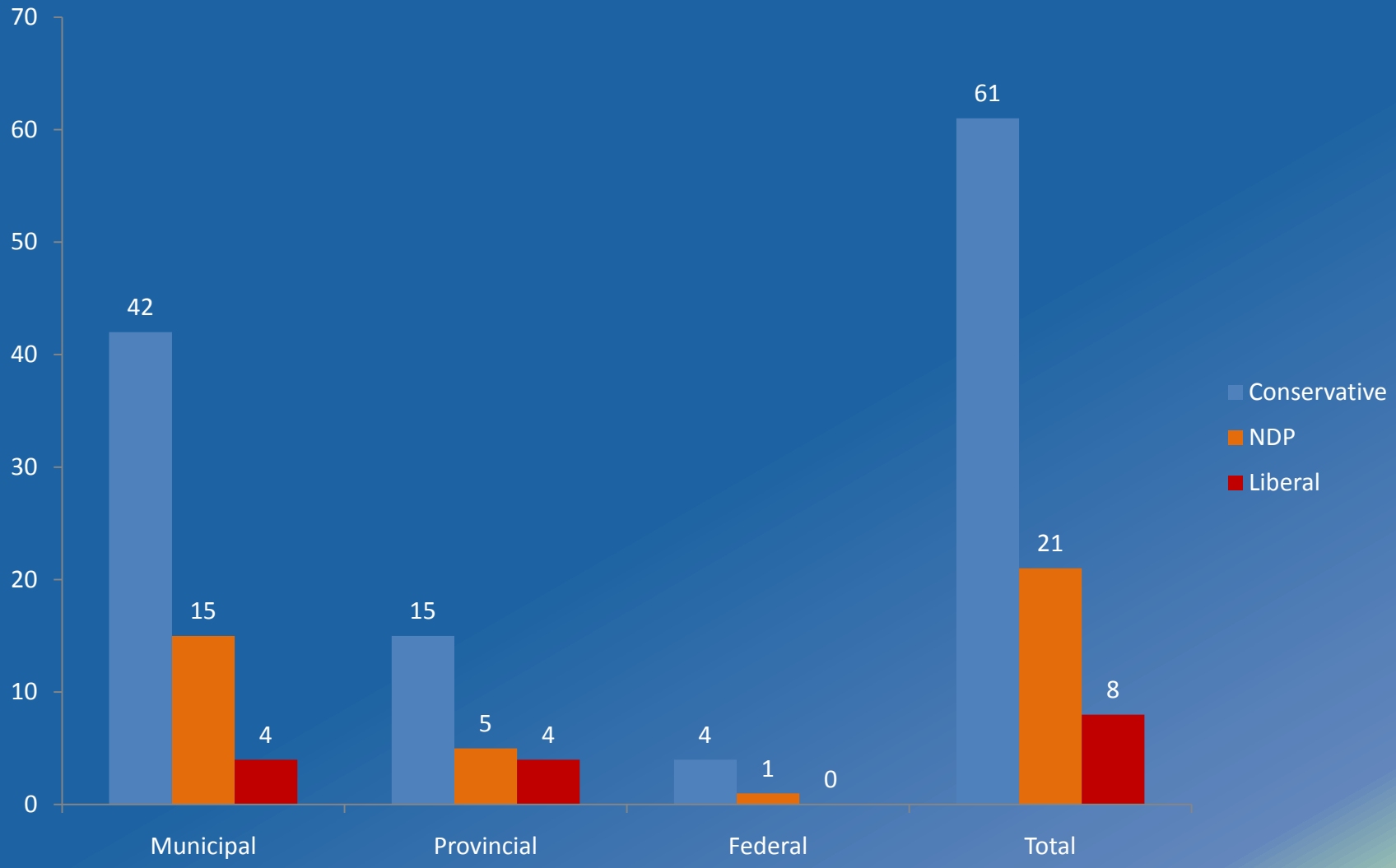
Political Experience of Canadian MPs in 41st Parliament

- 109 MPs are newly elected (35.4% of Parliament)
  - vs.74 new MPs in 2008 (24% of Parliament)
- 57 MPs have experience in a federal majority Parliament (18.5%)
  - 27 Conservative MPs
  - 21 Liberal MPs
  - 8 NDP MPs
  - 1 Bloc Quebecois MP
- Average Tenure, 41st Parliament: 4 years, 9 months
- 169 MPs have less than 5 years experience
  - Down from 208 in 40th Parliament
- Longest serving MP: Louis Plamondon: 26 years, Conservative, Bas-Richelieu—Nicolet—Bécancour, QC
- 14 MPs with more than 15 years experience (4.5%) – an increase of 2 MPs

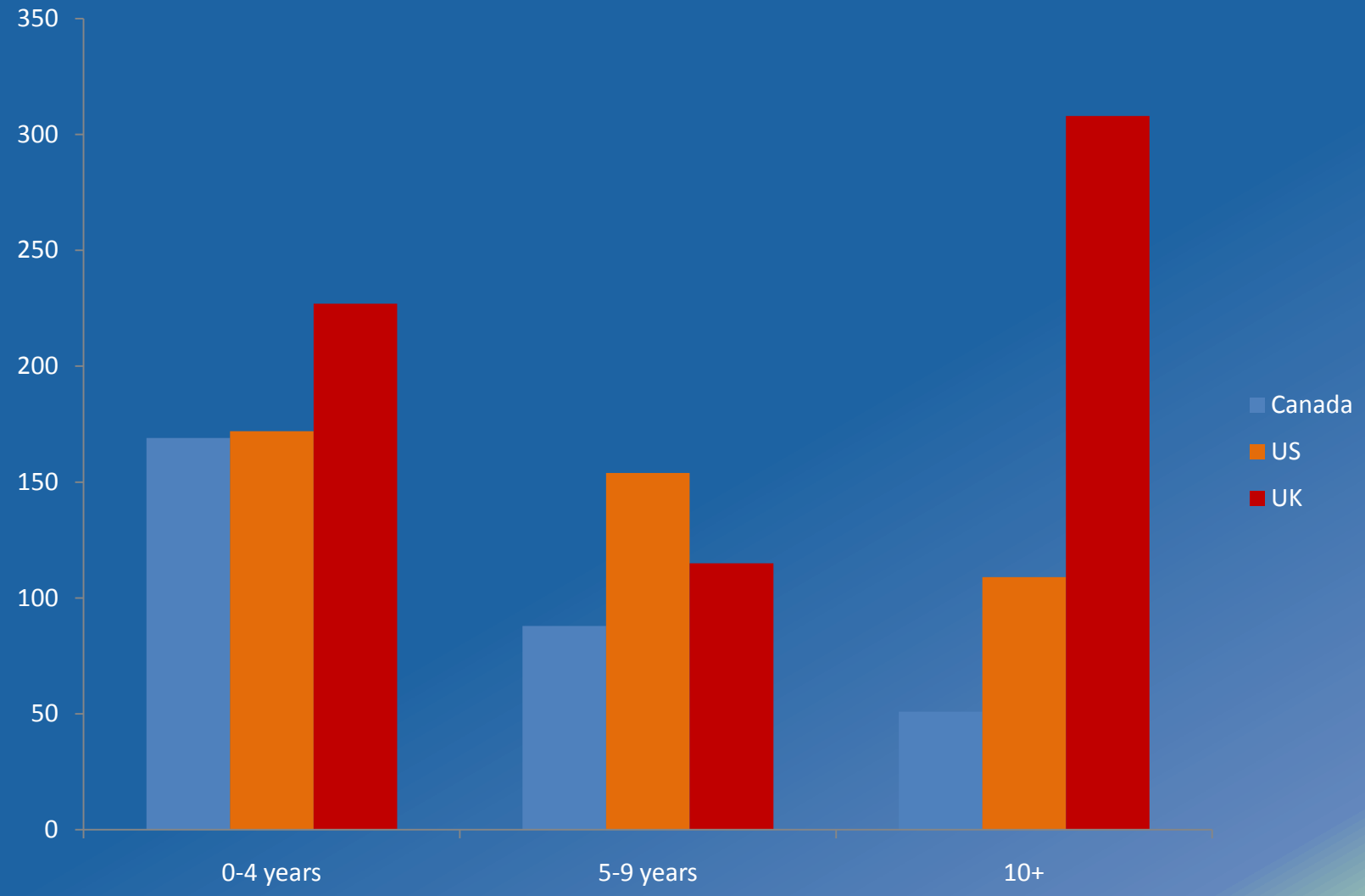
Political Experience of Canadian MPs in 41st Parliament

- 86 MPs (27.9%) have experience in Provincial/Municipal politics
  - Down from 102 (33.1%) in 40th Parliament
  - 24 (7.8%) have provincial experience – down from 28 (9.1%)
  - 62 (20.1%) have municipal experience
  - 5 are former MPs who did not serve in the 40th Parliament, including one former federal cabinet minister
- 16 (5.2%) MPs have provincial cabinet experience
  - Down from 20 (6.5%) in 40th Parliament
  - 10 Conservative MPs
  - 3 Liberal MPs
  - 3 NDP MPs

Previous Political Experience of new MPs by Caucus – 41st Parliament



Years of Experience – Canadian, American and British elected representatives



Political Experience of Members of 112th House of Representatives

- Average Tenure: 9.8 years of experience
- 172 (39.5%) of Representatives have less than 5 years experience (increase of 21)
  - 52 Democrats
  - 120 Republicans
- 109 (25.1%) of Representatives have over 15 years experience (decrease of 12)
  - 67 Democrats
  - 42 Republicans
- Longest tenure: John Dingell (56 years)

Political Experience of British MPs in 55th Parliament

- 227 (34.9%) MPs are newly elected as of 2010
- 342 (52.6%) have less than 6 years experience (i.e. 2 terms or less)
  - Compares with 207 (32%) of MPs who in 2005 had less than 7 years experience (i.e. 2 terms or less)
- 308 (47.4%) have 10 years or more experience (i.e. 3 or more terms)
  - Compares with (38.9%) of MPs who had more than 10 years experience (i.e. 3 or more terms)
  - 35 (3.8%) have more than 30 years experience
  - Longest Serving Member: Sir Peter Tapsell, Conservative (45 years)
- 27% of Conservatives, 50% of Labour MPs and 37% of Liberal-Democrats were elected before 2001 General Election (> 10 years experience)