

February 23, 2018

Electoral Reform – How We Vote
Recommendations from Fair Vote Kamloops on the 2018 Referendum

Fair Vote Kamloops is a grassroots, non-partisan citizens' organization working to promote the adoption of proportional representation in British Columbia. We are one of the groups which make up Fair Vote Canada – BC, and we currently have 70 local volunteers.

While we support all the recommendations made by the Fair Vote Canada - BC Steering Committee submitted to you on January 23, 2018, we are writing to emphasize those positions which seem especially important from our point of view in the Interior of BC.

1. It is especially important to us that the primary referendum question asks about proportional representation as a general approach (as per pp. 3 and 4 of the Steering Committee presentation).
2. It is especially important to us that the referendum threshold be set at a simple majority (50% plus one).
3. It is especially important to us that it is made clear that under proportional representation, local representation and representation of geographic regions will be maintained.
4. It is especially important to us that the list of criteria which all systems must meet in order to be considered should be stated by a credible, neutral source, such as Elections BC.
5. It is especially important to us that voter education materials emphasize the outcomes associated with systems (e.g. fairness, percentage of ballots which serve to elect MLAs, degree to which legislature mirrors composition of electorate), rather than focus mainly on technical details of various particular methods (e.g. ballot counting and system mechanics).

Thank you for the opportunity to present our views.

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