



ACORN Canada

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TO Ministry of Attorney General

Re: Electoral Reform – How We Vote –

Recommendations from BC ACORN on 2018 Referendum. ACORN Canada is a community based organization for low and moderate income people. We believe that social and economic justice can best be achieved with a national membership who are invested in their organization and focused on building power for change. We have more than 113,000 members across the country, and 25,000 in BC. BC ACORN has called for electoral systems in Canada and BC that:

1. Make every vote count
2. Forms governments in proportion to the number of votes cast per party; and
3. Upholds local representation. The voting system in BC is broken. It's time to fix it.

Our current electoral system is one of the last western democracies that continue to use the antiquated system of First-Past-the-Post. Electoral reform is an issue that all community members should be concerned about. On behalf of fairness and equity, we seek to defend and strengthen rights. To make long-standing positive change in our communities, we need a new voting system where every vote counts.

In response to the Attorney General's request for public input on the process for the upcoming referendum on proportional representation –

BC ACORN endorses the "Make Every Voter Count" positions of:

1. Ballot Question: The ballot should include a specific question requesting a public mandate to adopt proportional voting that is linked to a transparent public process to choose a specific proportional system.
2. Timing of Referendum: The referendum campaign should not overlap with the fall municipal election campaigns.
3. Campaign Finance and Third-Party Advertising Regulations: The referendum should be subject to regulations that limit the influence of big money.



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Thanks,

BC ACORN Executive Board

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