

Alternate voting system

What about a system where voting in each electoral district takes place twice. In the first round one can vote for any of the candidates who are registered. The second round of voting is for either of the top 2 candidates from the first round. People who did not vote for either of the 2 top candidates in the first round can now choose which candidate or party (of the 2) they want to represent them. This prevents votes from being watered down by small parties. It also gives people a second chance to vote for 1 of 2 candidates who they feel will best represent them.

An alternate to who qualifies to be on the ballot for second round voting could be anyone who gets more than a certain percentage of the first round vote e.g. more than 20% of the total votes.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2018 8:40 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Another idea for voting

To whom it may concern:

One of the things that concerns me in our present system is the propensity for politicians to become engaged in partisan competition (we must beat the) rather than focussing their efforts on wisely governing the concerns of the country, or province, or even the municipality. I recently learned what is done in Nunavut, and thought why don't we consider that for the whole country.

In Nunavut, individuals are elected because they are considered good people, with good values, not associated with a party, but personally. They are elected to provide leadership to the territory, and as such all elected people sit down, and form a collaborative group whose mandate is to wisely govern the territory. They elect a spokesman leader from among themselves, and then work together to legislate in wisdom through a very cooperative process. I suggest that this would get rid of some of the partisan politics that are tiring the electorate of this nation. It would put good men and women into the positions of leadership based on their own merits, take the glamour from leading positions such as cabinet or premiership, and put them to work together, governing for the good of the whole province. This would be my vote for our future system of election.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2018 4:18 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: BC 2018 referendum on Electoral Reform

I recommend the BC NDP conduct this referendum according to the guidelines and recommendations by Fair Vote Canada and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

I especially recommend that the BC NDP remove the List Proportional Representation and the Mixed Member Majoritarian systems from any list presented to voters. There are other systems that would work better for BC, and Rural-Urban is one. The ballot should only present options which would provide proportional representation FOR BC as options. Including any system which does not provide genuine proportional representation across the province would look suspiciously like the BC NDP were trying to sabotage the referendum, and I would prefer to take the government at its word that it is holding this referendum in good faith.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

For a Mixed Member Proportional Electoral System in BC

Submitted by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

February 14, 2018

Summary

- The current FPTP electoral system chronically distorts election outcomes with respect to the popular vote and should be replaced by a proportional system
- We propose that MMP is the proportional electoral system that best matches the voting experience and geographical distribution of BC voters
- MMP ensures that MLAs have faced the voters and have been elected by votes cast for them personally
- Additional advantages of MMP are that it provides a simple method of voting and transparent process of calculating seats from votes

1. The problem: the current electoral system distorts the popular vote

BC electors currently vote for one of the candidates in a local single-member district to become their Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA). For most voters, the most important qualification of a candidate is his/her party affiliation: Who would the MLA support when the government is formed?

The present “first past the post” (FPTP) system awards a seat to the candidate who receives the greatest number of votes in the district contest. FPTP tends to confer a majority of seats in the Legislature on a single party, even though that party’s candidates do not receive a majority of the popular vote. Between 1956 and 2011 there were 16 consecutive BC elections that returned a majority government but **only 1 time in 16** did it have a majority of the popular vote¹. In one case, it did not even have a plurality of votes.

The unresponsiveness of FPTP (typically, 55—60% of electors vote for a candidate whose party does not form the government) has undesirable consequences:

- Citizens may stop voting because “My vote doesn’t count”. This is particularly true in the case of safe districts, where the same party wins election after election
- Electors may engage in insincere voting – i.e. voting for a candidate they dislike in order to block election of a candidate they dislike even more
- Third parties elect few or no candidates. Two-party dominance leads to polarization and to policy lurch when government changes hands

2. All MLAs should have faced the voters

Closed list MMP, where MLAs owe their seat to having a high position on a list presented by a political party, has a number of serious flaws. Such MLAs have an incentive to focus on internal party politics rather than provide service to constituents. They are dependent on the good graces of central party leadership: if a list MLA leaves party caucus, there will be strong pressure for him/her to resign, on the grounds that their election was due to votes for the party, not for them personally.

There are several flavours of MMP where top-up MLAs do face voters directly:

- “Bavarian” open list² has each party nominee listed as a district candidate and also as a regional candidate in all other districts of the region. An elector has 1 vote for a district candidate and 1 vote for a regional candidate. Both the votes for its district and its regional candidates count towards a party’s popular vote
- 1-vote MMP sums the votes for a party’s district candidates in order to calculate party popular vote for a region. A party’s strongest losing candidates fill the top-up seats. The German state of Baden-Württemberg has used a system of this type for 70 years.
- Dual Member Proportional has exactly 50% of the seats as top-up seats. It is akin to 1-vote best losers MMP, with an additional condition that only 1 top-up MLA can come from each district. Districts are twice the size of FPTP districts.

3. The voting system should be simple and transparent

Whatever its other faults, FPTP is simple and the calculation of seats from votes is transparent: voters make an X opposite the name of one of the candidates and the person with the most X’s is the winner. At the other extreme is Single Transferable Vote with its fractional vote transfers. (In Australia’s 2016 election one candidate, who was the first preference on 77 out of 2.7 million STV ballots, became the 12th senator elected for Queensland, thanks to a web of preference transfers.)

We favour the 1-vote version of MMP with best losers filling top-up seats.

- It has the same simple method as FPTP for marking a ballot, offering a smooth transition from FPTP to a proportional system.
- Top-up MLAs all have faced the voters
- Candidates for top-up seats are in competition with candidates of their party in other districts but (unlike open list MMP) it is indirect competition, so they have no incentive to mount an expensive region-wide campaign.
- Unlike MMP with 2 votes, the 1-vote version cannot be gamed by so-called “decoy lists”.

4. MMP addresses the challenge of BC's electoral geography

Any electoral system must confront a stark fact about BC electoral geography: the North, Cariboo-Thompson and Columbia-Kootenay regions contain 1/7 of the population of BC, but 6/7 of the area, much of it mountainous and/or forested. For that reason, the 2014 BC Electoral Boundaries Commission Act specified that the North and Interior regions should not have their number of districts reduced from the previous 17 seats³.

A proposal to replace FPTP cannot ignore this issue. Rather than a one-size-fits-all system, it may be necessary to continue special measures for the North and Interior. Mixed member proportional representation (MMP) could be tuned to have a lower fraction of top-up seats, with smaller (or no) increase in district sizes, compared to the rest of the province, for example.

Under the current system of single-member districts (SMDs) there is an expectation that MLAs will be defenders of local interests (e.g. preserve funding for a local hospital), in addition to their role in choosing a government. Voters like the idea that they could call on the services of "their" MLA, even if most of them won't have occasion to do so.

A system that elects several MLAs in a large district (Single Transferable Vote or Regional PR) would be an abrupt break from past experience. Mixed Member Proportional retains single-member districts that are similar in size to the current system's SMDs.

5. The referendum should offer several PR choices to voters

In 2005 and again in 2009 a BC referendum asked whether FPTP should be replaced by STV. Other systems were not an option: citizens who wanted change, but wanted Alternative Vote or MMP, could not have expressed that desire.

In 2018 we should avoid that error. It can be done in either of two ways: (A) a 2-step referendum to see (1) whether FPTP should be kept or replaced accompanied by (2) an indication of preferences among several PR systems or, better, (B) a single preferential ballot where FPTP appears on equal footing with several alternatives.

Prince Edward Island has shown that the latter method can work well. In 2016 PEI held a plebiscite on electoral reform.⁴ It was a preferential ballot on which the choices were the existing FPTP system, 2 other non-proportional systems and 2 proportional systems. The plebiscite results gave a clear picture of how many voters preferred each of the 5 systems (first choice) and which 2 systems had the widest acceptance. The BC referendum should follow the PEI model.

The referendum must be more than the single question "Do you favour change from the current voting system to Proportional Representation?" --- asking voters simply to approve a change to PR and ceding the choice of system entirely to experts, a small citizens' group or elected politicians. That is asking voters to buy a pig in a poke. There are fundamental differences among proportional systems: the role of parties in selection and election of candidates; choices offered on the ballot; how to resolve the inherent conflict between small district areas and small fractions of wasted votes. These are not esoteric concepts and citizens must be given a chance to express their preferences among such options.

Thank you for this opportunity to present our views.

¹ Wikipedia article on the BC election of 1956, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Columbia_general_election,_1956, and similar articles for subsequent elections.

² See <http://wilfdays.blogspot.ca/2016/01/open-list-mixed-member-proportional.html> for details of the Bavarian open-list MMP.

³ Final Report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission, 2015
http://elections.bc.ca/docs/rpt/BC-EBC_Final_Report-Sept_24_2015.pdf

⁴ Elections Prince Edward Island report <http://www.electionspei.ca/plebisciteresults>

☒ Election

☒ Districts

☐ Voting

Getting Electoral Reform Right – How We Vote

Recommendations from Election Districts Voting on the 2018 Referendum in BC

By [REDACTED]

Submitted to: [REDACTED]

February 20, 2018

Introduction

Election Districts Voting (www.electiondistrictsvoting.com) focuses on improving the way politics works through nonpartisan education, advocacy and modern electoral reform.

Here are my recommendations on the electoral reform referendum process.

Recommendation 1: The Question

Voters should not be forced to choose between our current electoral system (known as first past the post or as FPTP) and the fuzzy concept of proportional representation (PR). To be fair, voters should be informed about the pros and cons of different PR electoral systems, not just the pros and cons of FPTP.

I recommend offering voters a choice between FPTP and alternative PR electoral systems. The top two choices should then proceed to a second mandatory referendum, which may or may not include FPTP.

Recommendation 2: A Level Playing Field

I recommend the government recognize one official proponent group for each electoral system choice placed on the referendum ballot. Each group should receive an equal amount of public funding.

Recommendation 3: PR Options on the Ballot

In the government's questionnaire, the following PR options are listed:

- Party List Proportional Representation
- Single Transferable Vote (STV)
- Mixed Member Proportional (MMP)
- Mixed Member Majoritarian

The above models were invented in previous centuries to solve the democratic problems of past centuries, not the democratic problems of our modern world. We can do better with a made in BC solution that stands out above all other models.

I recommend replacing the above options with the following modern options:

- First Past The Post Proportional Representation (FPTP PR) – Overlapping Districts
- Alternative Vote Proportional Representation (AV PR) – Overlapping Districts
- Single Transferable Vote Proportional Representation (STV PR) – Overlapping Districts

Annex 1: Three Made In BC Models For The Modern World

FPTP PR

FPTP PR is the natural alternative for the people of BC. The people are familiar with the simple FPTP voting method and the single-member district system of representation. What's more, the FPTP PR electoral system gives the people what referendums and polls have respectively said they want – FPTP and PR.

FPTP PR is also a good compromise for FPTP and PR advocates. Each advocacy group gets a part of what they want. FPTP advocates get to keep the very simple FPTP election method and PR advocates get very effective PR.

FPTP PR is a Single-Member District PR electoral system. Its single-member districts:

1. Give PR to parties, which can be close to perfect.
2. Strengthen the right to effective representation. Close to 100% of voters can directly elect preferred candidates.
3. Keep voting quick and simple. Voters just put a mark beside a candidate in separate single-member election districts on the voter ballot. Also, they vote in as many or as few districts on the ballot as they want.
4. Make representation clear. Only one elected candidate represents each district.
5. Make personal election results clear. Candidates are elected by the most votes. This means voters have no difficulty in knowing how their personal votes are used to elect candidates.

6. Are so simple to construct, the BC Electoral Boundaries Commission can use BC's current election districts to build the same number (or any other number) of new election districts for the next election in 2021. So, if desired, election district construction can be quick and easy.

FPTP PR is more representative of the people than PR options in the government's questionnaire. For example, consider the following. On Election Day:

1. Each FPTP PR voter puts a mark beside just one candidate in three separate overlapping single-member districts on the ballot. This three overlapping single-member districts FPTP PR electoral system gives about **88%** or more of the voters the voting power to directly elect preferred candidates.
2. Each FPTP PR voter puts a mark beside just one candidate in four separate overlapping single-member districts on the ballot. This four overlapping single-member districts FPTP PR electoral system ensures about **94%** or more voters directly elect preferred candidates.

Now, compare the above overlapping FPTP PR single-member district election results to the following election results from the STV questionnaire option that has no overlapping districts. On Election Day:

1. Each STV voter ranks candidates on a three-member district ballot in order of preference. This three-member districts STV electoral system ensures about **75%** or more of the votes directly elect preferred candidates.
2. Each STV voter ranks candidates on a five-member district ballot. This five-member districts STV electoral system ensures about **83%** or more of the votes directly elect preferred candidates.

Election result comparisons show FPTP PR single-member districts ensure larger proportions of voters directly elect preferred representatives and that fewer votes are wasted. This means FPTP PR single-member districts produce better PR and do a better job at representing the people than STV multiple-member districts. Besides this, the FPTP election method is the simplest of all election methods on record and the STV election method is amongst the most complex.

Additional information on the FPTP PR electoral system is available at <http://electiondistrictsvoting.com/> and at <http://electiondistrictsvoting.com/fptp-pr/>.

AV PR

AV PR is another Single-Member District PR electoral system. Its single-member districts:

1. Give PR to parties, which can be close to perfect.
2. Strengthen the right to effective representation. Close to 100% of voters can directly elect preferred candidates.
3. Keep voting reasonably quick and simple. Voters rank order as many or as few candidates as they want in separate single-member election districts on the voter ballot. Also, they vote in as many or as few districts on the ballot as they want.
4. Make representation clear. Only one elected candidate represents each district.
5. Make personal election results clear. Candidates are elected by an absolute majority of votes. This means voters have little or no difficulty in knowing how their votes are used to elect candidates.
6. Are so simple to construct, the BC Electoral Boundaries Commission can use BC's current election districts to build the same number (or any other number) of new election districts for the next election in 2021. So, if desired, election district construction can be quick and easy.

AV PR is more representative of the people than PR options in the government's questionnaire. For example, consider the following. On Election Day:

1. AV PR voters rank as many or as few candidates as they want in three separate overlapping single-member districts on the ballot. This three overlapping single-member districts AV PR electoral system gives about **90%** or more of the voters the voting power to directly elect preferred candidates.
2. AV PR voters rank as many or as few candidates as they want in four separate overlapping single-member districts on the ballot. This four overlapping single-member districts AV PR electoral system ensures about **96%** or more voters directly elect preferred candidates.

Now, compare the above overlapping AV PR single-member district election results to the following election results from the MMP questionnaire option. This questionnaire option has two votes, one for a FPTP single-member district representative and one for a Party List.

On Election Day:

1. Each MMP voter casts one vote for a single-member district candidate on the ballot. This FPTP electoral system component of MMP gives about **50%** or more of the voters the voting power to directly elect preferred candidates.
2. Each MMP voter also casts one vote for a Party List on the ballot. This Party List electoral system component of MMP gives **0%** of the voters the voting power to directly elect preferred candidates.

Election result comparisons show AV PR voters exert far more direct control over representatives they elect than MMP voters. The FPTP electoral system component of MMP

only ensures about 50% or more voters directly elect preferred representatives. Also, the Party List electoral system component of MMP ensures 100% of the voters fail to directly elect candidates of choice. This means the Party List dilutes and reduces the total proportion of legislative assembly members that are directly elected as representatives of choice. To be more representative; the MMP electoral system should enable large majorities of voters to directly elect candidates of choice, not just parties of choice.

In summary, election result comparisons show AV PR single-member districts ensure much larger proportions of voters directly elect preferred representatives. This means AV PR single-member districts produce better PR and do a better job at representing the people than MMP single-member districts and party lists. Besides this, the AV PR electoral system is simpler than the MMP electoral system. That is, the MMP electoral system is a complex combination of electoral systems that can be difficult to easily and fully understand.

Additional information on the AV PR electoral system is available at <http://electiondistrictsvoting.com/av-pr/> and at <http://electiondistrictsvoting.com/>.

STV PR

STV PR is a Multiple-Member District PR electoral system. Its multiple-member districts:

1. Give PR to parties, which can be close to perfect.
2. Strengthen the right to effective representation. Close to 100% of voters can directly elect preferred candidates.
3. Keep voting reasonably quick and simple. Voters rank order as many or as few candidates as they want in separate single-member election districts on the voter ballot. Also, they vote in as many or as few districts on the ballot as they want.
4. Make representation reasonably clear. Only two or three elected candidates represent each district.
5. Make personal election results somewhat clear. Candidates are elected by a quota of votes with an election formula that makes the tracking of how personal votes are used to elect candidates difficult for voters. However, voters have considerably less difficulty tracking personal votes in small multiple-member districts (few representatives per district) than they do in large multiple-member districts (many representatives per district).
6. Are simple to construct. The BC Electoral Boundaries Commission can use BC's current election districts to build new election districts for the 2021 election. So, if desired, election district construction can be quick and easy.

STV PR is more representative of the people than PR options in the government's questionnaire. For example, consider the following. On Election Day:

1. Each STV PR voter ranks candidates in two separate overlapping two-member districts on the ballot. This two overlapping two-member districts STV PR electoral system ensures about **89%** or more of the votes directly elect preferred candidates.
2. Each STV PR voter ranks candidates in two separate overlapping three-member districts on the ballot. This two overlapping three-member districts STV PR electoral system ensures about **94%** or more of the votes directly elect preferred candidates.

Now, compare the above overlapping STV PR multiple-member district election results to the following election results from the STV questionnaire option that has no overlapping districts. On Election Day:

1. Each STV voter ranks candidates on a three-member district ballot in order of preference. This three-member districts STV electoral system ensures about **75%** or more of the votes directly elect preferred candidates.
2. Each STV voter ranks candidates on a five-member district ballot. This five-member districts STV electoral system ensures about **83%** or more of the votes directly elect preferred candidates.
3. Each STV voter ranks candidates on an eight-member district ballot. This eight-member districts STV electoral system ensures about **89%** or more of the votes directly elect preferred candidates.
4. Each STV voter ranks candidates on a fifteen-member district ballot. This fifteen-member districts STV electoral system ensures about **94%** or more of the votes directly elect preferred candidates.

Election result comparisons show STV PR representatives are directly elected to small multiple-member districts by larger proportions of the votes and that fewer votes are wasted. For example, about 94% or more of the votes directly elect STV PR candidates to three-member districts. By contrast, about 75% or more of the votes directly elect STV candidates to three-member districts. So, about 25% or less of the votes are wasted by STV three-member districts and about 6% or less of the votes are wasted by STV PR three-member districts. This latter figure is much better.

What's more, highly proportional STV PR electoral systems deliver better multiple-member district links to voters. For example, about 94% or more of the votes directly elect candidates to STV PR three-member districts and to STV fifteen-member districts. As a result, STV PR three-member district voters obtain simpler, clearer and stronger multiple-member district links than STV fifteen-member district voters.

In summary, STV PR multiple-member districts produce better PR and do a better job at representing the people than STV multiple-member districts. Besides this, personal STV PR

election results can be somewhat less difficult for voters to interpret than personal STV election results.

Additional information on the STV PR electoral system is available at <http://electiondistrictsvoting.com/reformed-stv/> and at <http://electiondistrictsvoting.com/>.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute my recommendations on the electoral reform referendum process.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, November 25, 2017 4:52 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: electoral referendum

Thank you for soliciting feedback and engagement on the topic of electoral reform.

I have some concerns and suggestions about the upcoming process.

1. At its most fundamental there is just a binary choice: proportional representation vs FPTP.

This referendum should NOT be clouded by multiple PR choices. Development of a particular PR system should be a post-referendum process, including an additional referendum or online vote if necessary. Furthermore, the design/modification process should be continuous, with a recurrent post-election feedback and revision program.

2. Paid advertisements supporting or attacking any referendum topic should be BANNED OUTRIGHT. Such advertisements are undemocratic, obfuscate the public's ability to form unbiased opinions, and sway outcomes in favor of the most well-funded or well-publicized groups, often on the basis of misleading information. Leaving any 'gray area' open for advertising will inevitably result in abuse of the medium. Government-funded advertising to enhance awareness and participation should be mandatory. Public information regarding all referendum topics should be provided via a single official resource/website.

3. A voter qualification process should be instituted. The opinion of uninformed people who have not adequately learned about each proposed choice should not be included in any referendum.

The province could implement a simple online test of basic referendum topics. Successful completion would 'unlock' each individual voter's eligibility to participate in the referendum.

We expect a minimum threshold of knowledge prior to issuing even a new driver's license - a 'referendum voting license' should be no different.

Thank you for considering my feedback.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2018 3:26 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Electoral Reform - How We Vote Written Submission

1. The inclusion of MMM(mixed-member majoritarian) in the info section which is not a wholly proportional system should not be included for that reason as this is a referendum on switching to a PR system.
2. Rural-Urban PR should be on the ballot. It's specifically made with Canada and British Columbia in mind and should be included.
3. There must be a qualifying level of proportionality that a potential system must reach to be deemed admissible. In the federal ERRE committee, they used the Gallagher Index to find a system's level of proportionality and determined that the Gallagher score should be at least less than 5 to meet the standards of a proportional system. Here is the scoring of some of the potential systems looked at on the federal level.
<http://election-modelling.ca/overview/index.html>
4. If the referendum does not specify a specific proportional system, and the system is chosen at a later point then it is paramount that a citizens assembly be set up to decide the new proportional system as was done in the earlier 2000s.
5. Any referendum with multiple choices should be a ranked ballot.
6. A two-part referendum is best, the first question should ask whether the voter would like to change to a proportional system. The second question should ask which proportional system they would like to change to. If the second question has multiple options it should be a ranked ballot.
7. The new PR system should give equal opportunity for independents to succeed.
8. The new PR system should allow for ranking candidates while still meeting requirements of proportionality.
9. 80% of OECD countries use PR. All PR ballots for BC can be designed to be user-friendly AND offer choice. British Columbians are no less intelligent than our counterparts in these other countries that use PR systems, we don't need the ballots to be dumbed down in favour of simplicity.
10. Systems that include a party list should not use a closed list. An open list or the best runner-up model should be used.
11. My personal preference for the new electoral system is Rural-Urban PR. It is a highly proportional, accountable, fair, localized, representative system, and uniquely tailored to BC's needs.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2017 1:43 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Electoral Reform
Attachments: ElectoralReform_Brief.pdf

Attn: Citizen Engagement Committee

In October I sent a proposal to Mr Eby in the context of Electoral Reform. A copy of that correspondence is shown below. He responded that I should engage in the process that would be forthcoming - which is the intent of this communication. The comments I made to Mr Eby remain germane - unless the implementation is really simple, the proposal will fail. The reason is simple - Canadians would be happy to maintain the first past the post - it's worked just fine for the last 150 years - and if they can have proportional representation, that would be good also. But not at the cost of scrapping FPTP. My proposal does both.

I trust that you find it interesting.

I would be happy to interact with your staff if you need further input.

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Eby,

One of the platforms of the election campaign made by the Federal Liberal party was to introduce proportional representation to the country's electoral system. After a full consultation by a Parliamentary Committee, the platform was dropped. One of the main reasons for this failure is that while the idea is appealing, the actual technical implementation is complex. It would be a shame if the BC proposal were to suffer the same fate. Put simply, unless the implementation is really simple, the proposal will fail.

What I would like to propose is a model that I presented to the "Special Committee on Electoral Reform" in 2016. It is simple and almost cost free to implement, easily comprehensible, and easily reversible, if necessary. I would be happy to interact with your staff if you need further input.

[REDACTED]

Fractional Representation:

Proposal:

Under a fractional voting system, each riding would continue to operate as at present, with the same geographic boundaries. Each riding would send to Parliament the member who received the largest number of votes in that riding.

The only change is that, for voting, each elected member is assigned a fractional weight, which reflects the percentage share of the vote received by the member's party. This weight is only used when a member votes in the House of Commons. The weight is calculated as:

$$Weight = \frac{\%vote}{\%seats}$$

Thus, for example, if the Green party receives 10% of the votes, and 5 % of the seats, then each Green party MP would have a weight of 2, thus ensuring proportional representation.

Example:

Assume (for ease of calculation) that there are 100 seats, and 3 parties:

Party	Seats	% Vote	Weight
A	20 (20%)	40%	2.00 (40%/20%)
B	20 (20%)	20%	1.00 (20%/20%)
C	60 (60%)	40%	0.66 (40%/60%)

Thus, assuming voting on party lines, with parties A and B voting for the motion, and C voting against, the results under the two systems would be:

Party	Un-weighted Vote	Weighted Vote
A - For	20	40
B - For	20	20
C - Against	60	40

So under the un-weighted system, the proposal would be defeated 40 to 60, while in the weighted system it would be passed 60 to 40.

Precedent:

- World Bank – weight proportional to member's financial contribution.
- IMF – weight proportional to member's financial contribution.
- Public companies – weight proportional to number of shares owned.
- Québec Agglomeration Councils – weight proportional to relative size of population.

Implementation:

Pragmatically, an electronic voting system in which the weights are programmed for each MP, would be the obvious method of implementing this process. In 2003, a special committee endorsed the principle of electronic voting in the Chamber and recommended in two of its reports to the House that the necessary electronic infrastructure be installed in the Chamber during the summer of 2004. While the greater part of this infrastructure was installed as recommended, no further action has been taken in respect of electronic voting. Electronic voting is already implemented in:

- The European Parliament
- The Council of Europe
- The Italian Senate and House.
- The Greek Parliament
- The US House of Representatives

Advantages

- Is well understood, since no change is required from the existing electoral system.
- Is familiar, since proxy voting occurs for every public company.
- Provides one-to-one relationship between a riding and its elected representative.
- Provides exact proportional representation at the party level.
- Does not require any new administrative structures
- Does not require constant redefinition of riding boundaries as population changes.
- Is by far the most cost-effective method of implementing proportional representation.

Details

- **Theory:** The theoretical basis of the weighting procedure is based on the equivalency principal. Consider the context of equal representation by riding size. Riding A has a population of 10,000, while an average riding has a population of 5000. Clearly, since there is one representative from each riding, then riding A is under represented. One solution is to split riding A into two separate ridings, while another solution is to keep the riding as it is, and to assign a voting weight of 2 to the representative of riding A. Since the two measures result in exactly the same outcome, they are equivalent. Fractional representation is based on this theory.

- **Change:** At a general election, the weights for each member are evaluated using the ratio of proportion of votes to proportion of seats. At this stage, if all members vote on an issue, then the weighted vote reflects the proportion of votes captured by each party at the general election. These weights are then assigned to each riding, and do not change until the next general election. If there is a by-election, then the weight stays the same. If a member becomes an independent, then again the weight does not change (and thus provides no incentive for such a move).
- **Free votes:** The government can declare that it will treat a particular item (excluding budget or non-confidence issues) to be a free vote, and the defeat of the item does not amount to a vote of non-confidence. If all parties permit a free vote, then this is no longer a party vote, and unitary weighting is appropriate. Since a mix of weighted and un-weighted votes is illogical, unitary voting is only permitted if there is a unanimous decision by the chief whips of all the parties to permit a free vote.
- **Constitutionality:** Democratic rights are covered by articles 3, 4 and 5 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Article 3, which gives every citizen the right to vote in an election, is not affected by this proposal, since the entire voting process is unchanged. Article 4(2) which permits the continuation of the House of Commons beyond 5 years in special circumstances (war, etc.) would be based on a unitary vote, and not a weighted vote. And as there is no constitutional right to have a vote counted in a certain way, there is no provision that would make fractional representation unconstitutional.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2018 7:58 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Dual Member Proportional
Attachments: Submission to the BC Attorney General - How DMP Could Work in BC.pdf;
ATT00001.htm

Dear Attorney General,

In 2013, I received funding from the University of Alberta to develop a new electoral system tailored for the Canadian context. The result was a system called Dual Member Proportional (DMP). Two years ago, it became the third proportional electoral system to be included in a plebiscite/referendum on electoral system reform in Canada. When the Government of PEI made the decision to include it in their plebiscite, few had heard about DMP. Despite this, DMP went on to be competitive with FPTP and MMP.

To help with their education effort, Elections PEI created a website with information on the five options in the plebiscite. The section on DMP (<http://www.yourchoicepei.ca/dual-member-proportional-1>) was written using my work (posted at DMPforCanada.com) as reference. I also assisted directly by reviewing the DMP material for the website.

After going through the How We Vote website, I noticed an absence of background information on DMP. I have put together a short paper (attached below) to demonstrate how DMP could work in BC. It gives a general overview of how the system works, how it addresses common concerns people have with electoral system reform, and provides a concrete analysis of what DMP would mean for BC by using data from last year's election. I hope you will find this submission informative and see DMP as a worthy option to consider for inclusion in your province's upcoming referendum.

I also noticed that not all submissions are being publicly posted on the How We Vote website. Since this submission would be of educational value to British Columbians, I would like to give you my permission to post it publicly.

I wish you luck in your work on this issue. If there's any way that I can be of assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me. I would be happy to help.

Regards,

HOW DUAL MEMBER PROPORTIONAL COULD WORK IN BRITISH COLUMBIA



February 1, 2018

1 INTRODUCTION

Dual Member Proportional (DMP) is a compelling alternative to the Single Member Plurality (SMP) electoral system. It was developed with funding from the University of Alberta and was intended to address the shortcomings of SMP while satisfying Canada's unique needs. The result was a voting system that retains the simple ballot design and highly localized representation of SMP while ensuring that all members of the electorate are given an effective vote.

Before 2016, Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) and Single Transferable Vote (STV) were the only proportional electoral systems governments across Canada had chosen to put to a public vote. Reform has arguably remained elusive because of the shortcomings of these two options. Many dislike the party lists required by MMP and oppose the large, multi-member districts needed to implement STV. DMP avoids these features and, as a result, has garnered significant support.

In 2016, DMP was chosen by the Government of PEI for their plebiscite on electoral reform, making it the third proportional electoral system to be subject to a formal public vote in Canada. Despite being almost completely unheard of at the beginning of the year, DMP garnered over 40% of the votes cast in favour of proportional representation. DMP also secured the most second choice votes of all five voting systems in the plebiscite, which included SMP and MMP, and received more combined first and second choice votes than the status quo.¹ Additionally, DMP received the support of some conservative MLAs and the endorsement of *The Guardian*.² The PEI experience has proven DMP to be a credible proportional alternative to SMP. Its ability to acquire broad partisan and public support, along with its principled design, make it a worthy alternative for all governments in Canada to consider.

This submission will provide an overview of how DMP could work in BC. Section 2 will discuss the basic mechanics of DMP and how it improves upon the most prominent alternatives. In Section 3, it will be shown how DMP addresses common concerns people have with electoral system reform. Finally, Section 4 will demonstrate the efficacy of DMP with a simulation based on the last BC election.

¹ For the complete results of the 2016 PEI plebiscite, see the *Interim Report of the Chief Electoral Officer for the 2016 Plebiscite on Democratic Renewal*: http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/elec_demrefpleb.pdf.

² *The Guardian*, "EDITORIAL: We endorse DMP option in plebiscite", published October 29, 2016, <http://www.theguardian.pe.ca/opinion/editorials/editorial-we-endorse-dmp-option-in-plebiscite-111292/>.

2 DUAL MEMBER PROPORTIONAL

Stated briefly, DMP works by creating two-member districts where the first seat is filled by plurality (this ensures that the first place candidate always wins a seat) and the second by a process that ensures proportionality of the results.³ More specifically, proportionality is achieved by using the provincial voting results to determine the number of seats each party deserves and the individual district results to determine where each party will win its seats. In other words, DMP optimizes election results by simultaneously working to give each district its most preferred representation and each party its deserved number of seats. As a result, DMP would provide MLAs with a strong incentive to focus on both the good of the entire province and that of their local communities.

By electing all candidates within dual-member districts, two complaints made against MMP are eliminated: that it requires the use of long party lists, which hinder the electorate's ability to hold candidates accountable, and that it creates two tiers of representatives. Since every MLA would belong to a two-member district, DMP would not introduce a second tier of representatives. Neither would long party lists be a feature of DMP. As Figure 1 shows, the DMP ballot would retain the simplicity of the current ballot design.

The two-member district structure of DMP would also allow it to bring the benefits of reform to all British Columbians. Unlike STV, which struggles to deal with large geographical areas, DMP would be able to accommodate rural communities while providing them with the full advantages of electoral system reform. Furthermore, DMP is not beleaguered by the practical constraints that limit MMP. With MMP, the number of candidates required to be listed on the ballot increases with region magnitude. This makes it impractical to have large regions, since, at a certain point, there are simply too many candidates that need to be listed on the ballot. With DMP, however, the ballot is completely independent from region magnitude. This would allow DMP to be implemented with a single region for the entire province, thereby minimizing the number of ineffective votes and making every vote truly equal.

³ A thorough explanation of this process is contained in Section 6.1 of the DMP report, which can be found at DMPforCanada.com on the "How it Works" page under "More Details".

3 DMP AND COMMON CONCERNS ABOUT PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

3.1 Proportional electoral systems force voters to choose a party

In addition to ensuring that parties receive the representation they deserve, DMP also respects votes cast for independent candidates. Unlike some proportional alternatives, independent candidates are able to effectively compete for all seats under DMP. Indeed, if an independent candidate places first or second within their district, they are declared elected. As a result, DMP does not require voters to ever select a party in order to fully participate in the election process.

3.2 Proportional electoral systems make voting difficult and the meaning of votes unclear

DMP utilizes one of the most simple ballot designs possible. As can be seen by the sample ballot shown in Figure 1, it is nearly identical to an SMP ballot. The only difference is the addition of a second candidate for each party that decides to nominate one. Since the experience of voting under DMP would be nearly identical to voting under the current system, British Columbians would be knowledgeable enough to vote under DMP before receiving education about the change in voting system.

This simple ballot design, along with the principled process that is used to translate votes into election outcomes, would provide the electorate with a clear and easy to understand vote. A vote cast under DMP would have two simple meanings, which are easily understood through an example. Consider a voter who marks their “X” beside the Red Party in Figure 1. This vote would help elect the Red Party’s two candidates, in the order they appear on the ballot. Additionally, this vote would contribute to the Red Party’s seat allocation in the Legislative Assembly. Therefore, even if the Red Party’s candidates in this district receive insufficient local support to be elected, the vote would still have an effect on the overall composition of the Legislative Assembly.

3.3 Proportional electoral systems are unfair to rural voters

Many proportional electoral systems leave the public wanting when it comes to the matter of rural inclusion. STV and MMP force decision makers to choose between geographically expansive rural districts, which would produce a high degree of voter equality, and moderate increases to existing districts, which would yield low quality results. Given this reality, it isn’t surprising that many are concerned about the effects of electoral reform on rural communities.

DMP presents a solution to this dilemma through its innovative design. Since it would be applied at the provincial level in BC, there would be more flexibility to create districts with below average populations. In extreme circumstances, such as Peace River North, DMP would provide the option of leaving the district with one MLA while still ensuring that each of its residents' votes counts towards overall election outcomes. Most importantly, rural voters would have the same voting power as their urban neighbours, regardless of the size of their district.

3.4 Proportional electoral systems reduce local control and accountability

Under DMP, every MLA would belong to and represent a two-member district.⁴ Importantly, MLAs would remain accountable to their local constituents and would rely on their support for re-election. Furthermore, the use of two-member districts would allow BC to retain the close relationship all MLAs have with their communities. However, DMP would not merely retain the status quo. Instead, it offers to improve upon this relationship. Simulations of past elections demonstrate that approximately 80% of districts could be expected to be represented by two different parties in future elections. This would significantly increase the number of British Columbians who are represented by a candidate they voted for and provide a large majority with a choice between two MLAs from different parties to approach with their concerns.

⁴ Unless, of course, a few single-member districts are created for the purpose mentioned in Section 3.3.

4 SIMULATION OF THE 2017 BC ELECTION

This section will show how DMP could have improved the outcome of the 2017 BC election in concrete terms. Using voting data from May 2017, a simulation of the last BC election under DMP was produced. The results of this simulation are displayed in figures 2 through 8.

To simulate election results under DMP for BC's last election, several assumptions and choices had to be made. First, the district threshold and reserve factor were set at 5% and 10%, respectively.⁵ Second, it was assumed that each single-member district was a two-member district. Of course, if DMP is used for future elections, the number of districts would decrease so that the number of seats would not increase. However, the effect of reducing the number of districts on the simulation results would not be significant. Finally, BC was treated as one region.

Figures 2 through 5 display the distribution of the popular vote and the distribution of seats under DMP and SMP for the province and its three regions.⁶ These charts show that DMP would have given each party the share of seats they deserved at the provincial level and created more balanced representation at the regional level.

According to Figure 6, 87% of the elected candidates under DMP would have placed first or second within their districts. Stated differently, 87% of the seats would have been assigned to the same candidates as under a plurality formula. Some object to the remaining 13% by saying that second place candidates should not lose to lower place candidates. The crux of this argument is that these candidates do not have a legitimate claim to a seat. However, this argument is made within the single-dimensional context of SMP and ignores the multi-faceted approach DMP takes to determining which candidates have sufficient democratic legitimacy to be elected. DMP requires candidates to have a mandate based not just on the local district vote, but on the overall provincial vote as well. When a second place candidate belongs to a party that doesn't have a mandate for more seats based on the provincial vote, the candidate is denied the seat and it is given to the next best performing candidate whose party has such a provincial mandate. Thus, these candidates would be elected because they possess the strongest local mandate of the parties that have yet to receive their deserved share of seats in the Legislative Assembly.

⁵ For an explanation of thresholds and the reserve factor, see the "How it Works" page of DMPforCanada.com.

⁶ Note that votes cast for independents and parties that received less than 3% of the vote are grouped into the "Other" category.

Figures 7 and 8 quantify how local and regional representation would change under DMP. Figure 7 shows that 89% of the districts would have been represented by two different parties. This effect would improve how British Columbians are represented by increasing the number of voters in each district who are represented by a party they support. Figure 8 reveals that parties would see the regional diversity of their caucuses increase. For example, the Liberal, New Democratic, and Green parties would have obtained representation in 78%, 77%, and 31% of BC's districts, respectively. This would have been a 29, 30, and 28 percentage point improvement for these parties over the result obtained with SMP, respectively. By broadening the regional representation of political parties and introducing political diversity at the local level, DMP would foster greater civility and collaboration in BC's politics.


5 CONCLUSION

DMP would make many significant improvements to election outcomes in BC. It would distribute each party's seats more evenly across the province, ensuring better regional representation within party caucuses. It would improve how voters are represented at the local level by electing candidates from two different parties in a majority of districts. Most importantly, replacing SMP with Dual Member Proportional would ensure that the choices of all voters are accurately reflected in the Legislative Assembly. This would be accomplished by making sure that every vote has a meaningful effect on election outcomes. In brief, DMP would allow BC to retain local representation, promote collaboration between parties, achieve proportionality, and preserve the SMP voting experience.

For more information about DMP, visit DMPforCanada.com.

FIGURES

Sample DMP Ballot


 Place a single "X" beside the option you most support.

<input type="radio"/>	Red Party 1. Candidate A 2. Candidate B
<input type="radio"/>	Blue Party Candidate
<input type="radio"/>	Orange Party 1. Candidate A 2. Candidate B
<input type="radio"/>	Independent Candidate

Figure 1

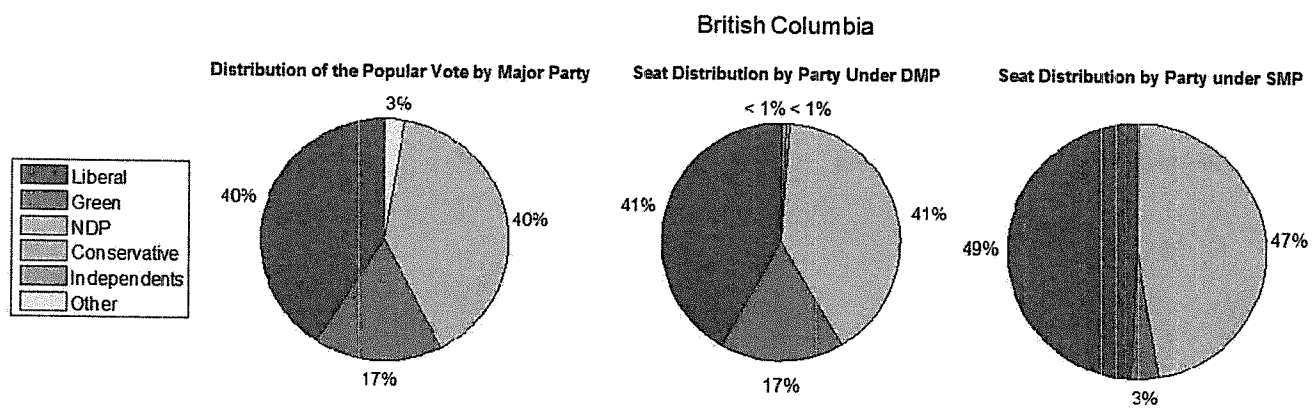


Figure 2

Metro-Vancouver

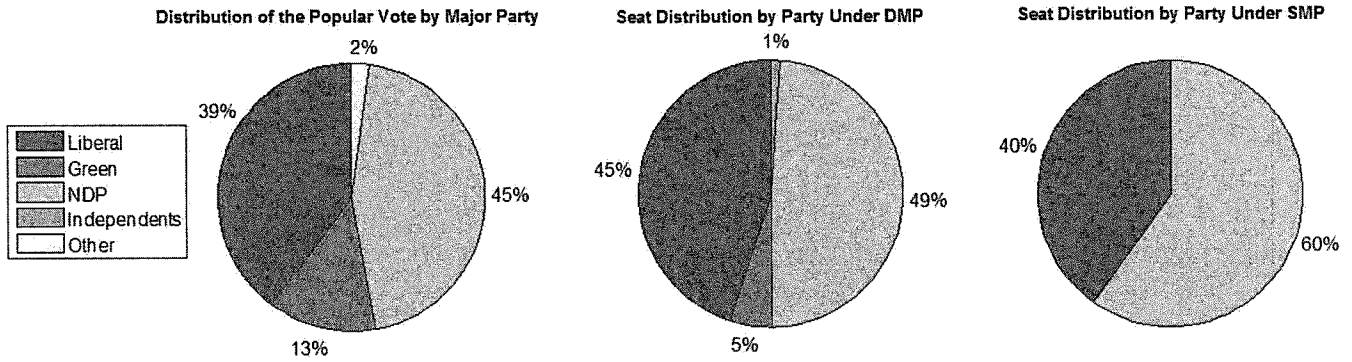


Figure 3

Interior & North

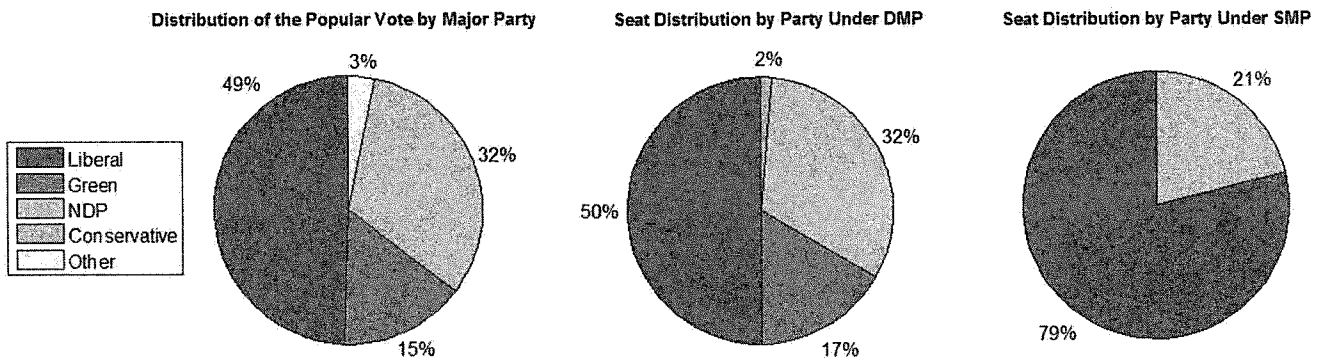


Figure 4

Vancouver Island

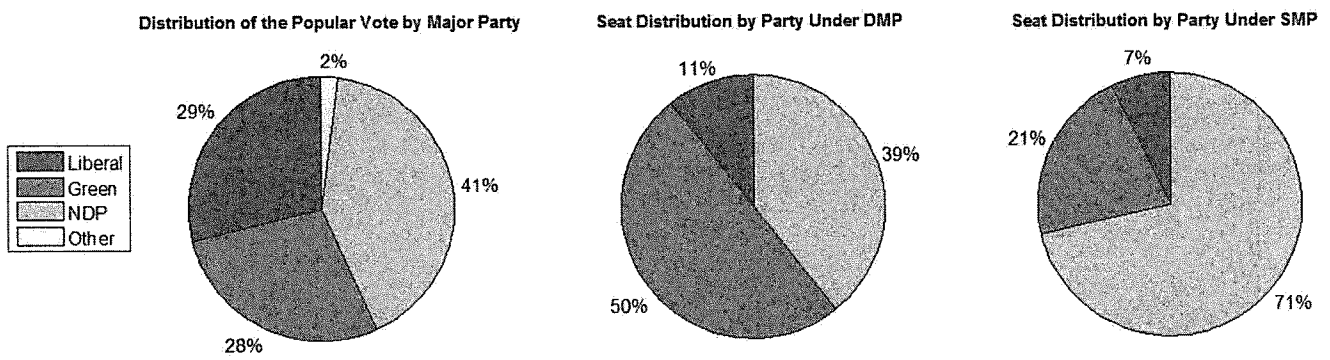


Figure 5

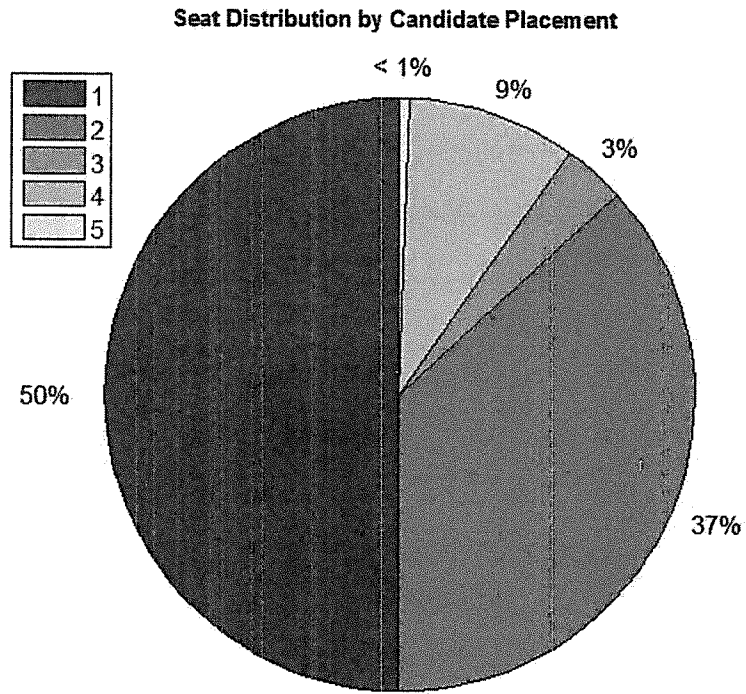


Figure 6

Districts With Single Party Representation vs. Districts With Dual Party Representation

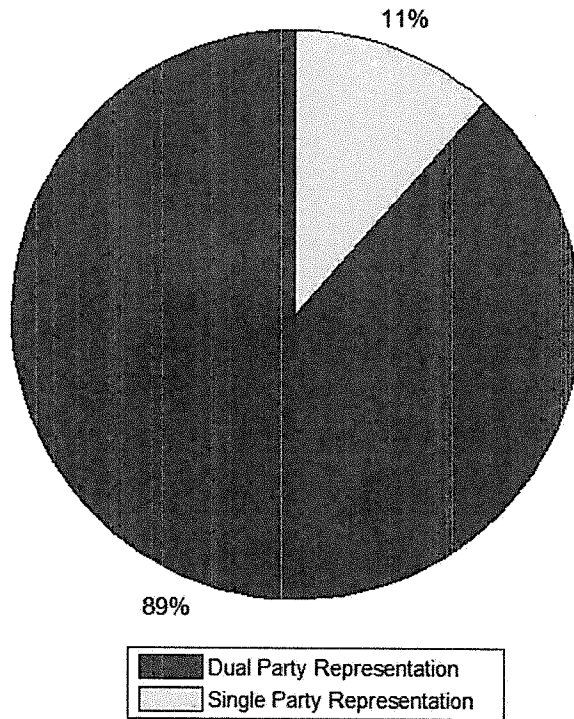


Figure 7

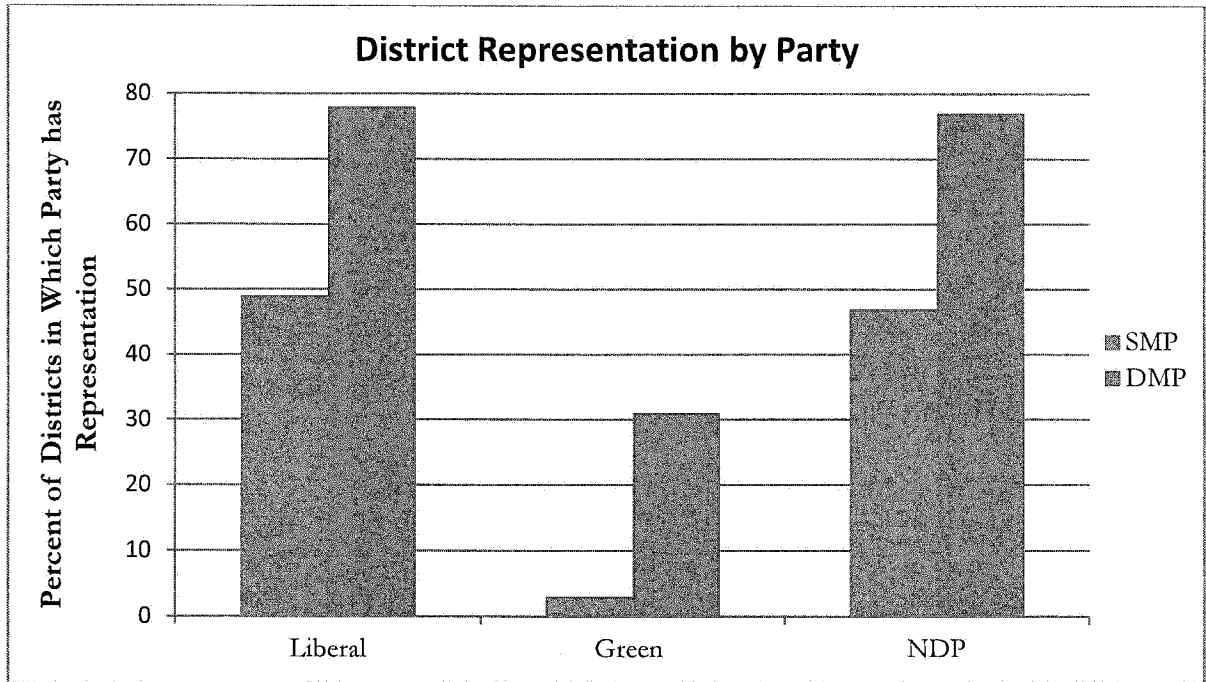


Figure 8

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2017 1:54 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Electoral Reform

Mixed-Member Proportional Representation with a Preferential Local Ballot

In the over twenty years I have been voting in B.C. provincial elections, I have voted for representatives from the following parties: Liberal, NDP, Green, and Pacific Democratic Alliance. I mention my voting history to demonstrate that I am not aligned to any political party, as electoral reform often seems to be associated to specific political parties.

My diverse voting is a reflection of the single vote I am granted, which is supposed to capture my preference for a local MLA and my preference for a party/leader. Having only a single vote means I usually have the dilemma of voting for my preferred local candidate even though I do not favour their party/leader, or I vote for an undesirable local candidate because they represent my desired party/leader. The solution to this is mixed-member proportional representation.

Mixed-member proportional representation would enable British Columbians to still vote for their favoured local MLA candidate, while also enabling voters to cast a second vote, on the same ballot, for the party they would like to have with the most seats in the legislature. This additional vote, for a specific party, helps ensure we no longer elect majority governments who receive a minority of the votes.

To do mixed-member proportional representation, additional regional seats in the legislature, such as fifty seats, would need to be established. Each party would have a list of candidates for their regional representation. If a party received ten percent of party votes, they would win ten percent of the new seats; thus five seats.

Unfortunately, simply switching to mixed-member proportional representation will still frequently result in local candidates being elected without receiving a majority of the votes. This is because of our first-past-the-post system, which elects the candidate receiving the most votes, even though they may have received less than fifty percent of the votes. The solution to this is a preferential local ballot.

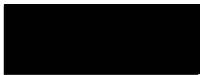
A preferential ballot creates instant-runoff voting, resulting in the winning candidate having more balanced support of the electorate, compared to first-past-the-post. With a preferential ballot for the local MLAs, voters would rank the candidates in order of most preferred to least preferred. You would write "1" in the box of the candidate you prefer most. You would put "2" in the box of the candidate you prefer next. You would continue ranking all of the candidates. If there are five candidates, you would rank them 1 to 5.

If one candidate receives fifty percent or more of the first preference votes (those votes marked "1"), that candidate wins. If no candidate receives more than 50 percent, the instant-runoff begins. The candidate with the fewest number of "1" votes is removed from consideration, and ballots for that candidate are re-assessed with the number "2" candidates receiving the votes from that ballot. This instant run-off process continues until one candidate receives more than fifty percent of the total votes casts.

Mixed-member proportional representation with a preferential local ballot puts a stop to the frequent "false majority" governments we are accustomed to, while also enabling British Columbians to vote for a local

candidate, as well as a party/leader. Yes this would be a new way of voting, but similar voting systems exist around the world. Therefore, I hope people won't suggest that mixed-member proportional representation with a preferential local ballot will be too complicated for British Columbians. I have confidence in the voters of B.C.

Sincerely,



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 24, 2017 6:03 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Electoral reform

Unfortunately I have seen no electoral reform proposal that does not leave a group disenfranchised. All the proposals seem to be no more than shuffling the deck chairs on the Titanic and will produce no useful fix.

Currently when voting one has a choice between the local candidate they feel will best represent them, the party that present the platform they find most favourable, or the leader best a 10 sec sound bite with a flashy smile. Rarely do all three choices align with one x. (in the last election they did for me - unfortunately the rest of the voters disagreed with me) The concept of super ridings with many elected will fail as all candidates will focus on votes from the high population centers in their riding and the voters in outlying areas will be virtually disenfranchised.

Tinkering with the first past the post will fail in the end because often one's choice is not a simple 1,2,3 ranking and depending on who is left one's choices may change - in party elections for leaders they have a progressive runoff - don't the people deserve the same? Seldom does the front runner in ballot win the election.

The simplest solution appears to be a return to the original concept of parliament and elect a number of independents who are chosen because they as people best represent their constituents and have them meet in the legislature to determine who among those elected has the most confidence of the elected and they will have to continue on a daily basis to do the will of the people or face a loss of confidence.

The concept of political parties is so en-grained into our society that no political party seems prepared to rule themselves out of existence.

I appreciate each independent will often find they need a local association to assist them in the election - a good test to show they are a leader if they can collect a group of constituents to show their leadership skills.

As there would be a number of independent candidates throughout the province it would become a challenge for deep pockets to buy enough candidates to have a significant impact on government especially if campaign spending limits were reduced even more than they are now. In the age of digital media how much money is really needed for a campaign?

No need for high priced newspaper ads - I have ignored them for many years. My preferred choice for decision making is to meet the candidate and talk to them and staff to get answers on matters of concern for me.

If I can not approach the candidate and staff when they are seeking my vote I have little expectation they will respond to me once elected.

--

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

EMR_VLog

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjoJtiTtqunMy6jwEohzLNQ> Electromagnetic Radiation (EMR) are reaching dangerous levels that are now and will increasingly negatively affect all life on earth.

Feb.14, 2018



Brief to the Attorney General of B.C.

RE: Electoral Reform

Introduction

"There is no perfect or even best electoral system" (Carty, UBC)

The province's engagement process is greatly flawed. The province has not conducted any **valid random polls** of the silent majority of British Columbians who do not come out to town halls, submit briefs, answer online surveys or who will appear before a provincial electoral reform committee.

Your respondents will not be a valid random representative cross-section of the BC population. The respondents, in my opinion, will be mainly academics, political party members, avid PR supporters like Fair Vote Canada members and political dilettantes. This is a very small % of the BC population.

Dr. Nelson Wiseman: (U of T) comments to the federal ERRE committee, July 25,2016, Ottawa

" I don't think Canadians are terribly interested in this issue. I think studying alternate voting systems is an elite pleasure industry."

If you look at any of the polls taken before the last election, in which people were asked what the most important issues were, you'll see that changing the electoral system did not register. Now, are Canadians interested? The people you will be meeting—and you're going to be travelling across the country—I suspect are going to be largely self-selected. Most will be in favour of changing the system, but **they will not be representative of the public.** "

Federally, CBC News (Oct. 2015) compared federal party platforms and election promises on 19 issues- **electoral reform was not one of them.**

" When opinions come from town halls or unscientific surveys, people who feel strongly about issues are more likely to weigh in. That means the results are not representative of the mass of people who didn't fill out the survey or trek down to the meeting. " (Time- Colonist editorial, Jan. 6, 2018)

Comments:

1. Use N.Z. as the referendum template

New Zealand did it very well. We can use the same questions and also two referendums just like they did in 1992 and 1993. They also had a third referendum(2011) after using

MMP since 1996. This one asked the people if they wanted to keep the new system. Electoral reform is a major democratic change- no need to rush things- and also after using any new system: the people - not vested interest politicians- must decide if they want to keep any new system.

2. Education

Few British Columbians know about your electoral reform consultation. You need to do a much better job on public relations and advertising. Your media exposure is very poor. If you want British Columbians to make an informed choice on electoral reform, you must have a massive public education plan and implementation thereof.

3. The statement " **make every vote count**" is semantic antics.

Every vote counts equally now, does it not? It is the **result** and number of MLA's elected that may not be equal to the percentage of the popular vote

Under STV and MMP, there are thresholds and quotas- so if your candidate or party does not reach them, your vote does not count in electing an MLA. i.e. contrary to the mantra " make every vote count"

One's vote for a small fringe party or independent may not result in an MLA under any system except maybe pure party list PR with no quotas or thresholds.

In regards to the MMP electoral system, the Law Commission of Canada 2004 Report " Voting Counts: Electoral Reform for Canada" stated:

Recommendation 13

"There should be no threshold for gaining access to the list (compensatory) seats"

There is no system other than pure PR that would make all MLA seats exactly equal to the popular vote and even pure PR would not do it unless you could have a fraction of an MP.

If one wants an exact proportional vote in BC, you would have to do it by **weighted vote** using the simple formula $[(\text{popular vote \%} \times 87) / (\text{seats actually won})]$ Thus, to two decimal places based on 2017 election results the weighted vote would be for each MLA: Liberal (0.82), NDP (0.86), and Green (4.89)

The lowest practical threshold for electing an MLA based on 2107 election results would be 1/87 or 1.15% of the provincial valid votes cast (approx. 22,700 votes).

Most current BC MLA's did not get anywhere near 22,700 votes including John Horgan (12,144), Andrew Weaver(15,257) and Rich Coleman(15,007).

Hardly likely that a small fringe party or independent could achieve 1/87 of the popular vote, however, if they did, what's wrong with that. It's democracy. It also promotes diversity and inclusiveness by having MLA's other than from the big three.

4. Cynicism and public distrust

"Voters are not interested in electoral reform" (Wiseman, U of T)

There is "deep antipathy and suspicion of political parties amongst voters" (Carty, UBC)

"less than 2% of Canadians belong to political parties and those that do are not representative of the general population" (Cross, Mt. Allison U)(Young, U of C)(The Contours of Political Party Membership in Canada)

Some polls (Reader's Digest, May 2012) and (Ipsos Reid, Sept. 2014) show Canadians do not trust politicians very much, only 6 to 11%. Politicians are at the bottom of the heap on the scale of public trust along with lawyers, used car dealers and telemarketers.

So now in BC, we have partisan politicians and partisan political parties, with a vested interest in certain electoral systems, devising and framing the referendum question(s) rather than an independent non-partisan body of citizens selected randomly from across the province.

Samara Canada states "changing the electoral system does not guarantee a significant boost in satisfaction with the way democracy works."

5. Does an electoral system increase diversity ?

No. It is political parties through their nomination processes .

BC political parties are very sophisticated marketing organisations with the major power tripping goal of getting the most MLA's they can. They now, smartly, target ethnic groups and minorities and what better way to get out that vote than having an ethnic or minority candidate.

The diversity of our current MLA's is close to the general population now. We have indigenous, LGBT2 , Indo-Canadian, Chinese MLA's, etc , and this is with FPTP.

There is a lack of equity in female MP's (29 females to 58 males) However, most women place great value on home, friends and family and politics is not for them. Politics is an alpha male ultra competitive partisan sport complete with flying elbows , fickle fingers and Shawinigan handshakes. Political parties have teams of researchers constantly trying to dig up dirt on their opponents. If a party does not do well in an election, the leader is gone, post-haste, just like hockey coaches.

6. Economic correlation between electoral systems and debt/GDP ratio?

No study can prove that . There are far too many variables.

"the relationship between debt and growth is a politically charged issue" (quote from The 90% question- The Economist , April 2013)

7. Voter turnout

No studies can really
or decreases turnout.

prove or disprove whether an electoral system increases
Academics have debated this for years.

It depends on the
of The Economic

election issue to a large extent. . In the Feb 2014 issue
Journal (Royal Economic Society) Professors Herrera,
Morelli and Palfrey show that **in a tight election FPTP gets a bigger turnout than PR.**

In New Zealand, Robert Peden, Chief Electoral Officer stated before the federal ERRE committee: " New Zealand has been experiencing a significant decline in voter participation since the early eighties. There was a spike in participation in 1996 and 1999, but since then the **overall trend of declining participation continues**, which is of concern to the commission, to the New Zealand Parliament, and to the government.

There has been research on the impact of the change in participation by Professor Jack Vowles; it indicates that **the change to MMP has had a neutral effect on participation.** "

Voter turnout is all over the map and bears no statistically valid relation to electoral system.

Switzerland was 48.40 % in it's last election, France was 42.64 % Canada 68.28% US 65.44% , Germany 76.15% , Finland 66.85%, Japan 53.68% (figures from IDEA- International Institution for Democracy and Electoral Assistance)

In Canada, the Royal Commission on Electoral reform(1989) stated " 5% of the population are perennial non- voters" and that a substantial portion of those who do not participate in any given election do so for " **everyday life reasons**" such as being away, sick, busy, or unenumerated. The Broadbent poll (Dec. 2015) shows that 81% of respondents voted even if they believe their vote will not change the outcome in their electoral district.

8. AV (preferential- ranked ballot)

By using AV, MLA's would need broad support to be elected and would need 50% plus one vote to get elected in the geographic riding after successive counts. Not like BC, now, where many MLA's are elected in the low 30% range in ridings.

AV does not seem to be "FPTP on steroids" in Australia

Some get elected with a very small portion(0.54%) of the national vote but the majority vote in their ridings after successive counts . Also, they have more diversity than Canada, federally, with approx. 8 parties and two independents .

Also in Australia under AV, "supporters of minor parties are not disenfranchised as their votes are redistributed to other candidates according to the voter's nominated order

of preference which can then form part of another candidates winning quota." (Wikipedia)

Furthermore, the "Three Ontario Votes" project show some parties like the NDP would do better under AV than FPTP . 308.com shows the same.

A new voting system is a whole new ballgame. Especially with an optional preferential ballot where people can vote for one candidate or all of them. No one really knows what would happen with the behaviour of voters and political parties in BC. **There is lots of strategic voting under any system.** N.Z shows 31% strategic voting. Australian political parties give voters an AV list (plumping they call it) to help them rank in the manner that would be best for the party in that riding

My choice for BC would be AV Plus ie. AV geographically (approx 60- 70% of MLA's) so we don't get MLA's elected with 30 % or so of the vote and the plus would be approx 30-40% of MLA's from regional open party lists, also voted in by AV. So basically AV with an MMP component but with more list MLA's than the 1998 UK Jenkins Commission.

To ensure exact proportionality, a weighted vote could also be assigned to each MLA to make things exactly proportional to the popular vote for the different parties.

10. MPP

Every vote does not count because of quota's or thresholds and the geographic MP's are still elected by FPTP rather than AV.

The only way to have perfect proportion to the second decimal place would be a **weighted vote** in the Legislature using the simple formula [{ % popular vote x 87 } divided by geographic seats won] with AV used in the current ridings.

There are 9 countries that use MMP and 58 countries using FPTP. (Samara Canada)

In MPP, who decides who gets on the party list side of the ballot? The biggest brown nosers to the party leader ? They might also be a geographic candidate- real double dippers.

In Europe, under MMP, small parties are still excluded from electing MP's with thresholds. i.e. in Germany if a small party gets less than 5% of the national popular vote and elects no geographic MP's they do not get an MP. So, if I voted for the Rhinoceros party and we got 3% of the national vote but no geographic vote, I won't get an MP of my liking. By comparison, Australia, under AV, has people getting an MP with 0.54% of the popular vote- a much lower threshold. In the Netherlands, I believe the threshold is 1/150 or 0.67%.

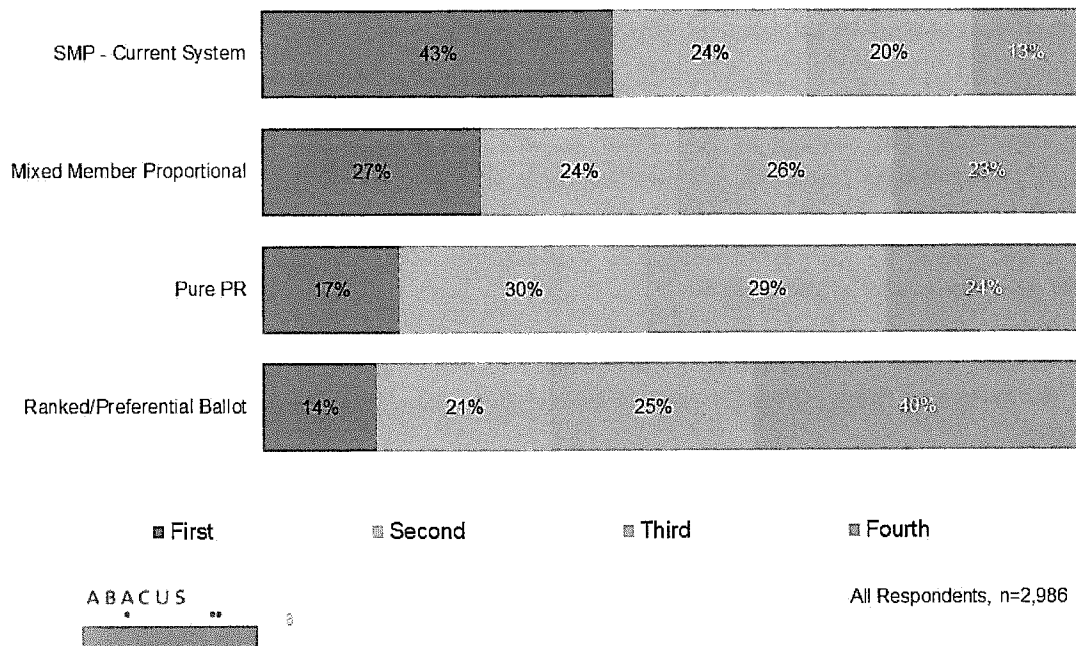
11. Broadbent Federal Poll (Dec 1015) (by Abacus Data)

One part of the poll (approx 3,000 random respondents) used a preferential ballot with the counts were as follows :

Preference for voting system



Below are descriptions of our current voting system and three possible alternatives. Please rank them from the one you like the most to the one you like the least.



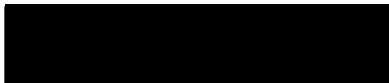
The Broadbent poll also showed the **main things people wanted from an electoral system**:

"When we asked Canadians to rate the goals they value most in an electoral system, the top 5 are:

1. The ballot is simple and easy to understand.
2. The system produces stable and strong governments.
3. The system allows you to directly elect MPs who represent your community.
4. The system ensures that the government has MPs from each region of the country.
5. The system ensures that the number of seats held by a party in Parliament closely matches their actual level of support throughout the country. "

12. Closing

Thomas Mulcair stated in regards to electoral reform " The other thing that people have to understand is that even if it's not constitutional change *per se*, it is **profound democratic change**, and precisely because of that, it's not the type of thing that you can do either by just snapping your fingers the day after an election, or without profound consultation. People have to be brought in. It's a little like any form of development -- this is democratic development -- and it has to be from the base up. People have to agree with it. You can't shove it down people's throats "



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 17, 2018 11:54 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: electoral reform options

I am not fully satisfied with any of the proposed options provided at <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/howwevote/voting-systems/>. I would like to see something like this:

Reduce the number of electoral districts to about half, but allow multiple candidates to be elected in each district. In order to be elected as a representative for a district a candidate must receive at least 10% of the vote, but there must be a limit as to how many MLAs can represent a district (perhaps 4). If more than 4 candidates receive over 10% of the votes in their district then only the top 4 get elected. Hence a region could have as many as 4 candidates, but most districts will probably have 2 or 3 candidates. When voting on a bill, each candidate's vote counts only as a partial vote which is a function of their support in the district. Hence a candidate who received 72% of the votes in his district during an election has 0.72 votes. An MLA who received a 25% share of the votes gets only 0.25 votes. Then you add up the votes as usual and if there are more yes than no votes the bill passes. With modern electronics it should be easy to rig up a system in which each MLA has a personal yes/no button during a vote, and his/her button is set to always register a partial vote in accordance with his/her success in the last election.

In this system every district has a small number of representatives, so there is local accountability. An individual MLA's power is proportional to his popularity in the district. As a result, voting is close to true proportional representation. The only people missing out on representation are parties who receive less than 10% of the vote in many or all districts.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this important issue.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

[REDACTED]
Tuesday, January 30, 2018 9:20 PM

To:

Subject:

[REDACTED]
Electoral reform referendum submission [REDACTED]

I would urge the B.C. Government to make this referendum question both simple and meaningful... "simple" by having only "two" choices on the ballot, "meaningful" by including an MMP system that was the clear choice of British Columbians during public consults and submissions during the Citizens Assembly process, Creating a ballot with an abundance of systems would be a complete waste of this exercise... MMP is a system that retains values that we already have in FPTP with the addition of diversity, choice and fairness...the values lacking in FPTP that kept many citizens from voting in the first place, No system is perfect but MMP is the choice of many modern democracies around the world for a reason, it's time our province had a chance to progress from what has served us for many generations... Thank you and may the best system win!

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 10:48 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Electoral Reform

Having lived with the results of the mixed member proportional [MMP] system in Germany in the past I can only emphasize the importance of not implementing it in BC.

Since many years the following happens:

There are 2 big political parties, Conservatives and Social Democrats. They each have a firm voter base of roughly 20-30% each. Furthermore there are 4 smaller parties, Liberals, Leftist, Rightwing and Green Party which often are only able to just jump over the 5% hurdle which entitles them to send representatives to Parliament.

None of the 2 big parties can form the Government alone and need one or two of the smaller Parties as a partner. Plain blackmail and continuous threats of leaving the Government block are regular occurrences. Needless to say all well intended and necessary legislature is watered down to the point where nobody even recognizes the original ideas.

In addition a lot of the representatives sent to Parliament are selected from lists and are not voted for directly. This becomes necessary to allow for the balance in the popular vote compared to the majority vote. A very bad idea since they do not represent a riding and can't therefore be held accountable directly by their constituents. In fact nobody knows up front which people and how many are selected from these lists until the ballots have been counted. Those seats are rather like patronage appointments. There is no way to get rid of bad politicians under this system or even get rid of a bad party all together since there is always a part of the population who will vote for them no matter what.

So what if votes fall by the wayside because only the front runner in each riding gets to Parliament. This will happen in the mixed system as well if your party of choice does not reach the 5% hurdle. Or if there is no minimum percentage required we will end up like the Parliament in the German Weimar Republic between the wars. Just imagine dozens of parties represented in Victoria...".

I sooner have the advantage of a Government which actually is able to make decisions and follows through than the endless bickering and horse-trading required in many European countries.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

Electoral Reform As Well As Other Issues:

<http://democracywatch.ca/campaigns/audit-ethics-commissioner-lobbying-commissioner/>
<http://democracywatch.ca/campaigns/democratic-head-campaign/>
<http://democracywatch.ca/campaigns/democratic-voter-rights-campaign/>
<http://democracywatch.ca/campaigns/government-ethics-campaign/>
<http://democracywatch.ca/campaigns/honesty-in-politics-campaign/>
<http://democracywatch.ca/campaigns/money-in-politics-campaign/>
<http://democracywatch.ca/campaigns/open-government-campaign/>
<http://democracywatch.ca/campaigns/protect-whistleblowers-who-protect-you-campaign/>
<http://democracywatch.ca/campaigns/shut-down-the-senate-campaign/>
<http://democracywatch.ca/campaigns/stop-bad-appointments-campaign/>
<http://democracywatch.ca/campaigns/stop-fake-online-election-ads/>
<http://democracywatch.ca/campaigns/stop-fraud-spending-by-politicians/>
<http://democracywatch.ca/campaigns/stop-muzzling-mps/>
<http://democracywatch.ca/campaigns/stop-pm-premier-power-abuses/>
<http://democracywatch.ca/campaigns/bank-accountability-campaign/>
<http://democracywatch.ca/campaigns/citizen-association-campaign/>
<http://democracywatch.ca/campaigns/corporate-responsibility-campaign/>

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2018 4:08 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: For proportional ballot

Dear How We Vote, I am a [REDACTED] year old [REDACTED], Postal code [REDACTED] I strongly support changing to a PROPORTIONAL BALLOT SYSTEM , even if this means more MLAs. Proportional is the only way to ensure every vote counts and create a more cooperative political climate.

Dear Ms. / Sir:

Please find attached a copy of my proposal for a “Parity Electoral System for All Canadians”. It outlines its advantages over existing Proportional Electoral systems and our current FPTP system. I believe it is very doable and has many benefits for all future voters.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

A Parity Electoral System For All Canadians.

Part 1: Support Voter Fairness. Or Not.

If we want genuine representative democracy, each vote must have equal value in electing candidates within the riding and across ridings in line with a party's popular vote. This can be assured by utilizing basic aspects of candidate performance:

- (1) interspecific competition within the same riding (i.e. individual candidate ratings are expressed as a popular vote percentage);
- (2) intraspecific competition (candidate rankings within the same party) and;
- (3) interspecific competitiveness of candidate merit across party rosters.

So how does it all work?

- First we establish the number of votes in a parity seat. Divide the provincial vote total by the number of legislative seats.
- Divide each party's popular vote by this quotient to establish a party's parity seat entitlement (PSE).
- Harmonize the PSE with the number of legislative seats by rounding up the portions of left-over votes as needed. *(An independent candidate or a candidate of a fledgling party with a vote total that exceeds the left-over portions of votes by party may thereby qualify for a parity seat).*

- Candidates with enough votes that equal or exceed the number of votes in a parity seat will qualify outright to represent their riding.
- An independent candidate who garners a majority of the vote in his/her riding will be allotted that riding.
- Those who finish first in their ridings but lack sufficient votes to qualify outright for a parity seat will be allotted their ridings when the party's riding total equals or is less than its PSE.
- When the number of candidates who finish first in their ridings exceeds the party's PSE, these candidates will be allotted ridings by intraspecific competition until the PSE is expended. Candidates that are bumped as a result will be placed on the party's merit list. This will create unassigned ridings.
- Next, prepare candidate merit rosters by rank-ordering the unassigned candidate ratings by party. This becomes the candidates' competitive rankings.
- Candidates from parties with unassigned PSEs will be allotted ridings from their party's merit roster until their PSEs are used up (*i.e. the rankings of unassigned candidates from party merit rosters are juxtaposed and the ridings are then awarded to those with the best ratings*).

In summary, the criteria for allotting ridings are: the availability of a party PSE;

interspecific ratings of candidates by riding; intraspecific rankings of candidates by party; and interspecific competitiveness of candidate merit across party rosters.

It's your choice. Support voter fairness. Or not.

Voter Fairness For All Canadians

A Parity Electoral System (PES) will transcend the capabilities of Proportional Representation (PR) as currently practiced in countries that utilize some form of PR. Here are some of its advantages.

Ridings can remain much as they currently exist. A single candidate will continue to represent a riding. Elected representatives will be treated as equal regardless of constituency size. Gerrymandering will no longer be a factor.

Members of the legislature will be selected by a combination of individual and party popular vote. The format of the current ballot can easily be changed to accommodate voting for a party even when there is no party candidate on the ballot.

Riding representatives will be determined by party entitlement to parity seats in conjunction with candidate competitive ratings within parties and between candidates from the party rosters. Party lists will be unnecessary (i.e., open lists, closed lists, mixed member systems).

Candidates who finish first by official recount procedures could be given priority placement on their party's merit roster.

Other innovative features are possible:

- **Candidates from party rosters could now replace politicians that prematurely vacate their seat. Why not?**
- **Party leaders can be allotted a parity seat outright wherever the party qualifies for one. Thousands of party members work long and hard to choose their leaders. This would end the requirement for them to contest a riding to be elected.**
- **Oh, if a politician defects, the gaining party could be required to forthwith bump one of its own elected members (i.e., the last one to be awarded a parity seat). The losing party could then fill the vacancy created from its party roster. *(After all, fair is fair).***

- The need for by-elections can also be eliminated by simply allotting replacement candidates from the appropriate party roster. The combination of candidate and party popular votes of the initial awarding of the PSE will thereby remain largely intact and avoid the needless waste of taxpayer dollars all the while meeting the spirit of parity representation of voters.

The issue of calling an election when a proposed budget fails to pass is also a concern. Why not give the parties two chances to agree on a budget? If they still cannot agree, the party leaders should automatically be exorcised. There is nothing like an arbitrary consequence for dealing with parochialism!

Now how fair is that?

Examples of A Parity Electoral System (PES) Versus The FPTP System

1) BC 2017 Provincial Election.

Candidates of the LIB and NDP parties finished first in more ridings than their parties' PSE. Candidates will be selected to represent their ridings by intraspecific party competition (candidate rankings within the same party) from among those that finish first. Those candidates not selected will be placed on their party rosters.

Parity seat gains/losses are shown in Table 1. Gains signify futile votes cast for unsuccessful candidates under the FPTP system. Losses signify the number of ridings which exceed a party's parity seat entitlement (PSE).

The need to harmonize the number of parity seats with the number of ridings is also shown. The fractions of left-over votes are rounded up until parity seats equal number of ridings. They are shown with an asterisk.

Party	Popular Vote	No. of Riding Seats (FPTP)	No. of Parity Seats (PSE)	Losses/Gains
LIB	796,672 (40.36%)	43 (49.4%)	35.11 = 35 (40.22%)	-8
NDP	795,106 (40.28%)	41 (47.13%)	35.05 = 35 (40.22%)	-6
GP	332,387 (16.84%)	3 (0.03%)	14.65 = 15* (17.24%)	12
LBN	7,838 (0.35%)	0	0.35 = 1* (1.14%)	1
IND	6,437 (0.28%)	0	0.28 = 1* (1.14%)	1
Other	35,474 (1.8%)	0	N/A	N/A
Total	1,973,914	87 (100 %)	87 (100 %)	-14, +14

Table 1: Results of Riding vs. Parity Seat Entitlement -BC Election 2017

Note 1: The number of votes that comprise a single parity seat is 22,689.

Note 2: The percentages represent a party's share of the total per column.

Note 3: The asterisks indicate riding/parity seat harmonization.

Entitlement by happenstance. Occasionally an Independent candidate or a fledgling party will receive enough votes to exceed the numbers of left-over parity seat votes. Should harmonization be needed, a party or an Independent candidate may thereby gain a parity seat (See Table 1).

Twelve additional GP candidates, one LBN, and one IND will be allotted ridings

based on their ratings. (Solely for information purposes, each LBN and IND candidate garnered more votes than any of the three members elected in the ridings of Cariboo North, Stikine, and Nechako Lakes).

The FPTP system in the 2017 BC election produced 975,136 (49.4%) futile votes. (Futile votes are votes cast for candidates who currently fail to get elected in a plurality, winner-take-all system). Imagine what would happen to voter satisfaction if these votes had value as part of parity seat entitlements. What portion of the 1,183,077 non-voters would decide to try and make a difference?

2) 2015 Federal Election.

Had the seats of Parliament been determined on the basis of a Parity Electoral System, the impact on the balance of power would have been very sobering. Nine million futile votes would have had value under a PES! The Liberals would have lost 14 seats in the maritime provinces, 12 in Quebec, 26 in Ontario, and 3 in the western provinces for a total loss of 55 seats. They stood to gain 2 seats in Sask and five in Alta. Net loss = 48 seats.

We need an electoral system that will ensure our MPs and MLAs represent at least 95% of like-minded voters. This means we must purposefully retrofit our current Electoral System to ensure voter parity. We also need to carefully consider the politicians we vote for, those who will respect what they promise and who will practice *genuine* representative democracy.

3) Alberta General Election 2015.

The results of this election show the very real deficiencies of the Canadian FPTP system. Once we convert each party's popular vote in terms of parity seat entitlement (PSE), we readily see how Alberta's voters were deprived of fair and equal representation. See Table 2 below.

<i>Party</i>	<i>Popular Vote</i>	<i>No. of Riding Seats (FPTP)</i>	<i>No. of Parity Seats (PES)</i>	<i>Losses/Gains</i>
<i>NDP</i>	<i>603459</i>	<i>54 (62.1%)</i>	<i>35.3 = 36* (41.4%)</i>	<i>-18</i>
<i>Wildrose</i>	<i>360124</i>	<i>21 (24.1%)</i>	<i>21.09 = 21 (24.1%)</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>PC</i>	<i>412958</i>	<i>9 (10.3%)</i>	<i>23.07 = 23 (26.4%)</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Lib</i>	<i>62171</i>	<i>1 (1.1%)</i>	<i>3.47 = 4* (0.05%)</i>	<i>3</i>

<i>Alta Party</i>	33867	1 (1.1%)	1.89 = 2* (0.02%)	1
<i>Green Party</i>	7321	0	0.43 = 1* (0.01%)	1
<i>IND</i>	5,916	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Vacant</i>		1		-1

Table 2: Riding vs. Parity Seat Entitlements -Alta Election 2015

Note 1: The number of votes that comprise a single parity seat is 17,091.

Note 2: The percentages represent a party's share of the total per column.

Note 3: The asterisks indicate harmonization of riding with Parity seats.

Notice that the Wildrose party and the PC party would have been able to form a coalition government or, the NDP party would have been able to form a minority government. Other combinations are also possible.

A Parity Electoral System will almost entirely eliminate futile voting, except for fringe parties and independent candidates. Results will now favor a coalescence of ideas and policies among parties, not the cockamamie outcomes that we have come to expect.

Isn't that what we all want? I certainly do.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 12:54 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FPTP vs Referenda p171007BC 2017Dec13

In 2004 the BC Citizens Assembly on Electoral Reform assumed that the proportion of parties in the Legislature should follow the proportions of the popular vote and that our existing Single Member Plurality (SMP or first past the post FPTP) system was therefore flawed. After much discussion the BC-STV was selected but failed when put to a referendum in 2005 and failed again in 2009. I was relieved because reducing representation from the north seemed unwise. FPTP has worked well for over 150 years – but why?

The realities of power mean that a voter can only guess at the future results from referenda or the future actions of even well-intentioned representatives. In Canada and BC a government has up to five years to show that it can do what is needed or else it can be quickly changed or required to call a new election if the Commons / Legislative Assembly and Governor General lose confidence. In the election the voters can judge the past performance of a member and if about 60% of voters choose various others then an incumbent will likely be replaced by the candidate most able to organize supporters which is a good test of ability to govern. In most proportional voting systems ability to govern is negotiated after the election which wastes time and distracts able representatives from working to promote peace, order and good government defined as needed to help people. Countries that use systems that cause coalitions only prove that with enough effort and good will anything can be made to work. (Consider Germany?) Also, we should avoid setting fixed election dates like the US to reduce constant striving for re-election.

Churchill may have said that the strongest argument against democracy (or referenda?) is a five-minute conversation with the average voter. Able elected representatives can gain expert understanding of complex issues using information not usually available to average voters, even if they had time from their personal lives. In California referenda voters insisted on low power prices that resulted in massive brown-outs in spite of expensive advertising. In BC the HST promoted by the federal government and approved by experts was put by then Premier Campbell to a referendum which voters rejected, forcing then Premier Clark to reinstate the cumbersome PST/GST at great wasted cost. Many other examples exist to show that government by referenda causes many problems (ancient and modern Greece?).

But Churchill also said that democracy is the worst system except for all the others. Representative democracy has evolved to find less bloody ways to remove a government since Charles I was beheaded in 1649. In Canada when government does not seem to be doing well enough Canadians vote for different representatives. Refugees from many countries wish their home governments were so easy to change. Democracy is so easy to lose (Germany 1933?) and so difficult to regain (Germany 1945?).

Now in BC we have representative democracy that works reasonably well. We should not risk a referendum. A small group of say 10 people can all discuss and agree on something with a 50% majority (although 66% is often preferred). But a normal election may only get a say 40% turnout and a referendum even less. With proportional voting a win with half of that 40% turnout would be only 20% of registered voters, based on a guess at the future, hardly democratic. With FPTP if about 60% of that 40% turnout votes for others, then the incumbent is usually removed and the best vote organizer gets to try. And the 24% rejection ($0.60 \times 0.40 = 0.24$) is based on experience with the incumbent. That is why FPTP works better than other systems for changing a government in the real world.

I hope this helps. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: Democracy 2.0 – A proposal to improve our B.C. Voting System

Dear Hon. [REDACTED]

MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL
AFFAIRS AND HOUSING
February 1, 2018
FEB 06 2018

<input type="checkbox"/> Min Sig	<input type="checkbox"/> Reply Direct	<input type="checkbox"/> Y11 File
<input type="checkbox"/> DM Advise	<input type="checkbox"/> DM	<input type="checkbox"/> IS

FWD to another Min?

Like most citizens in our province, I want our government's third attempt at providing British Columbians with an improved voting system to succeed.

I believe that when voters see an electoral system that delivers a government representing the majority of voters (not just the typical 40%), they will take more interest in elections and voter turnout will increase dramatically.

I was inspired when I read the article on electoral reform in the latest *Common Ground*: <http://commonground.ca/free-vote-2-0/> and a hard copy clipped from this magazine is attached for your convenience.

I ask you to read it in the hope that you will also see the merits of this proposed simple approach and agree to support it.

I like this model for the following reasons:

1. **It can keep the voting ballot EXACTLY the same as it is today.** Another option described in the above article is to add one additional choice asking voters to select which political party they prefer (in addition to voting for a specific candidate as they do today). I prefer keeping the ballot exactly the same as it is today as this keeps the voting ballot simple and familiar, which is crucial in reducing the fear of change for most BC voters who don't think about politics very much except at election time.

2. **It is a small incremental cost.** The above article recommends adding 15 additional seats to the legislature. To make the math easier in terms of calculating the percentage of seats each party would win based on their proportion of vote, I suggest modifying the proposal to add only 13 party-vote seats, to create a 100-seat legislature (this makes the math easier re: matching the proportion of votes to the proportion of seats). Adding 13 seats represents a very small percentage increase in government expenditures and is well worth the cost in order to achieve a result that more fairly represents voters values and preferences.

3. **The results are easy to understand.** First, it will deliver the same First-Past-The-Post 87 seat result as today. Then the 13 party-vote seats will be allocated to parties whose % share of 87 seats is less than their total party vote. These 13 seats are allocated to the top vote-getters by party who were not elected in the constituency-based FPTP vote (these 13 are NOT chosen from party lists). This approach delivers a legislature and government that more accurately represents the diversity of values from all voters across the province.

These additional 13 seats may not always be enough to guarantee results that are exactly proportional to the vote by party if the election is highly skewed, but when I tested it using several past election results, it was always very close.

Some ideas for the name of the above system are "BC Enhanced-FPTP" or "BC FPTP 2.0" or "BC FPTP+".

I am interested in your thoughts on this and am available to discuss further.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

[REDACTED]

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Free your

Giving the people of
to decide

“Your input will help shape the future of our democracy,” declares a November 17 BC government press release. The release announces the BC government has introduced legislation to hold a referendum in the fall of 2018 through a mail-in vote that will ask voters to decide whether BC should keep our current voting system (First-Past-the-Post) or move to a system of Proportional Representation. <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/howwewote/>

It also introduced a public engagement process with feedback via an online questionnaire to help shape the referendum. Public input ends on February 28, 2018 at 4PM, after which the input will be compiled into a report by the Ministry of Attorney General and made public.

But before the government's process was even launched, the BC Liberals were vigorously fighting against any electoral reform. Why? Why not give the process and ultimate proposal a fair hearing?

The Liberals had a different tack after they won the 2001 general election. That election blatantly illustrated the unfair results that a first-past-the-post voting system can deliver in multi-party democracies. The Liberals, with 57% of the popular vote, elected 77 MLAs, a whopping 97.5% of the seats in the legislature. The NDP, with 21.5% of the vote, won just two seats (Joy MacPhail and Jenny Kwan). The upstart Green Party, with 12.4% of the popular vote, got no seats, no representation and no chance to present its ideas in the legislature for debate.

Nearly everyone, including Campbell, realized election results like that aren't good for democracy and so he created the Citizens' Assembly On Electoral Reform to come up with a fairer voting system to put to the electorate for a vote.

Unfortunately, the Citizen's Assembly did not deliver an alternative that voters supported. Under the tutelage of two political scientists who were experts in a system

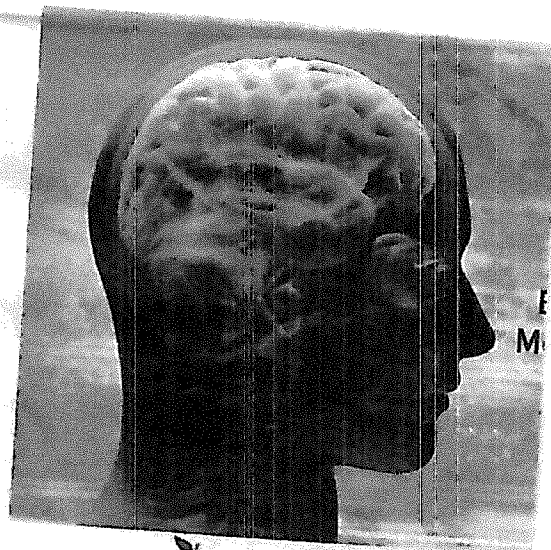
percentage of the popular vote that a party gets equals its share of seats. The method to “top up” seats varies. It most commonly from a ranked list of candidates provided by each party, but it could be based on the top “voters” that didn't get elected from each party.

Interestingly, one of the Assembly members independently went out on the street to test sample ballots representing the two different voting systems. He found that people overwhelmingly liked the MMP ballot better.

When the Citizen's Assembly held meetings in communities around the province seeking public input on a new voting system for BC, more than 80% of those who showed up expressed their preference for MMP system.

In the light of this, why did the Citizens Assembly choose STV?

One of the professors assured Assembly members they could decide independently of public input because they themselves were a random sample representation of the whole province. He also implied they could ignore much of the public input because it was “politically” initiated. Although Adriane Carr, then Leader of the BC Green Party, in the year prior to Campbell establishing the Citizen's Assembly, had previously personally sponsored an Initiative under the BC Recall an Initiative Act to hold a referendum on whether or not to adopt an MMP system, it was apolitical. Her Initiative garnered almost 100,000 signatures, not enough to be



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ts success, but enough to widely educate the public.

is I believe that what BC voters want and will readily adopt is a simple, easy-to-understand, inexpensive-to-implement and familiar-way-to-count-vote electoral system where a party's percentage of popular vote translates into the same percentage of seats in the legislature and the vast majority of electors' votes end up actually electing MLAs to the BC legislature – a made-in-BC MMP system.

0 I've improved on the system originally proposed at by Adriane Carr (now a Vancouver City Councilor) in her Citizen's Initiative, making it simpler and removing some elements, like a party "top-up" list, that were controversial in her 2002 Initiative bid.

y 1. Electoral Districts (ridings) stay the same – in number and geography – as they are today. No need for redistribution.

s 2. Voting for MLAs to represent electoral districts is carried out exactly as it is done today through the familiar first-past-the-post system.

i- 3. A second vote for "Which BC political party do you support?" is made from a list of registered BC political parties printed on the ballot. This vote is counted province-wide to determine each political party's popular support.

o 4. To be eligible to have representation in the legislature, a party must exceed a threshold of 5% of the popular vote. This is the same as in New Zealand and Germany.

5. Up to 15 extra MLAs are added to the legislature to achieve as close as possible a fair proportional representation for those parties that exceed the 5% threshold of support required, but elect less than their fair share of MLAs based on their party's percentage of popular vote.

6. The 15 "top up" MLAs (or less) as needed to most fairly adjust to achieve proportionality are selected from that party's unsuccessful candidates in that provincial election ranked by the candidates' vote, from highest vote to lowest. (Note: many candidates who don't win achieve a very near-to-winning vote in an electoral district.)

While having only 15 extra MLAs – easier to accommodate in BC's current legislature chambers – will not always result in a fully proportional Legislature, almost all the time it will. I can only think of one election that was so skewed, that 15 extra MLAs wouldn't be enough to correct the imbalance and that was the 2001 election, which started the whole process of considering a Proportional Representation voting system for BC. **4**

Paul George is a Canadian environmentalist living in Gibsons, BC. He is married to Adriane Carr, former leader of the Green Party of British Columbia. He cofounded the Western Canada Wilderness Committee and was the first recipient of the BC Spaces for Nature Wild Earth Award. He is the author of **Big Trees, Not Big Stumps**, a history of the Western Canada Wilderness Committee.

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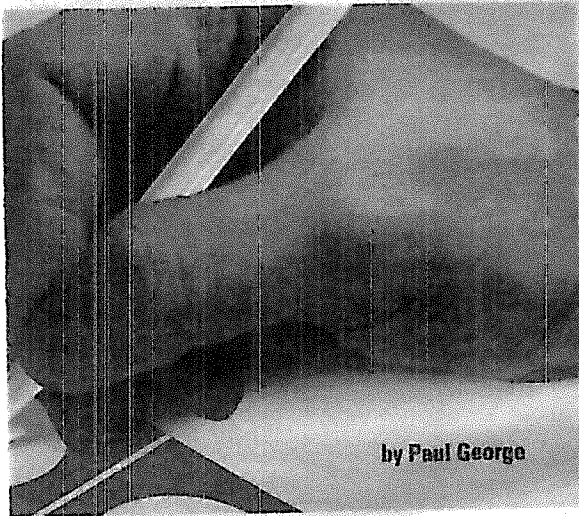
10AM 5PM



CALGARY
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FEBRUARY 3RD & 4TH

STAMPEDE PARK, BMO CENTRE, HALL D



by Paul George

Assembly. It was an innovative and exciting process involving people just like them. But there was no way they could have understood the system they voted "yes" for. There were no details. The made-in-BC STV system had not yet been designed.

To their credit, the Liberal government gave BC voters another chance to adopt the STV system in the 2009 provincial election. Between the two elections, the made-in-BC STV system was developed and a map of the proposed new ridings was circulated.

In the 2009 STV referendum, voter support plummeted. Why? Most political pundits figure it was because the devil was in the details. It was a complicated system. Electoral districts had varied numbers of MLAs. Some had seven; others (in the north) only two. Voter choice and the chance for representation varied as to where a person lived, which some perceived as not entirely fair. Some BC voters did not like the idea of ranking a long list of candidates. Some didn't understand how voters got "transferred" and didn't like having to trust a computer to tell them the results. This time, voters soundly rejected the Citizens Assembly's recommendation. Only 39% voted for BC STV. But the rejection of STV did not necessarily mean voters didn't support electoral reform and a fairer voting system for BC.

What the Citizens of the Assembly proposed and what BC voters wanted were at odds. This was even known by some Assembly members before they decided on STV.

Prior to choosing which electoral system to propose for BC, the Citizen's Assembly had narrowed their options to STV and one other proportional representation system: Mixed Member Proportional (MMP). Used in Germany and New Zealand, MMP systems give voters two votes: one for a local representative for their riding, just as we do today in BC and a second vote for their

5. Up to 15 extra MLAs are added to the legislature to achieve as close as possible a fair proportional representation for those parties that exceed the 5% threshold of support required, but elect less than their fair share of MLAs based on their party's percentage of popular vote.

6. The 15 "top up" MLAs (or less) as needed to most fairly adjust to achieve proportionality are selected from that party's unsuccessful candidates in that provincial election ranked by the candidates' vote, from highest vote to lowest. (Note: many candidates who don't win achieve a very near-to-winning vote in an electoral district.)

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6PM & SUN. 10AM – 5PM

Free your vote 2.0

Giving the people of B.C. the power to decide **how we vote**

“Your input will help shape the future of our democracy,” declares a November 17 BC government press release. The release announces the BC government has introduced legislation to hold a referendum in the fall of 2018 through a mail-in vote that will ask voters to decide whether BC should keep our current voting system (First-Past-the-Post) or move to a system of Proportional Representation. <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/howwewote/>

It also introduced a public engagement process with feedback via an online questionnaire to help shape the referendum. Public input ends on February 28, 2018 at 4PM, after which the input will be compiled into a report by the Ministry of Attorney General and made public.

But before the government's process was even launched, the BC Liberals were vigorously fighting against any electoral reform. Why? Why not give the process and ultimate proposal a fair hearing?

The Liberals had a different tack after they won the 2001 general election. That election blatantly illustrated the unfair results that a first-past-the-post voting system can deliver in multi-party democracies. The Liberals, with 57% of the popular vote, elected 77 MLAs, a whopping 97.5% of the seats in the legislature. The NDP, with 21.5% of the vote, won just two seats (Joy MacPhail and Jenny Kwan). The upstart Green Party, with 12.4% of the popular vote, got no seats, no representation and no chance to present its ideas in the legislature for debate.

Nearly everyone, including Campbell, realized election results like that aren't good for democracy and so he created the Citizens' Assembly On Electoral Reform to come up with a fairer voting system to put to the electorate for a vote.

Unfortunately, the Citizen's Assembly did not deliver an alternative that voters supported. Under the tutelage of two political scientists who were experts in a system called Single Transferable Vote (STV), a system used in Malta, Ireland and certain jurisdictions in Aus-

tralia, the Assembly voted to adopt STV and worked craft a tailor-made version suitable for BC.

STV systems are inherently complicated. They are characterized by multi-member ridings, with voters ranking their candidate preferences and a ballot tally system that redistributes an elector's votes when their more preferred choices meet defeat. Computers are used to determine who is elected in a timely way.

The voters at the time truly supported the Citizens Assembly. It was an innovative and exciting process involving people just like them. But there was no way they could have understood the system they voted “yes” for. There were no details. The made-in-BC system had not yet been designed.

BC's 2005 provincial election included a “Yes” or “No” referendum question on STV. British Columbia change to the BC-STV election system as recommended by the Citizens' Assembly. 57.7% of the voters said “Yes.” Unfortunately it wasn't enough to overcome the super majority passage imposed by the BC Liberal government at the onset of the Assembly.

The voters at the time truly did support the

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 2, 2018 9:37 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: electoral reform

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 1, 2018 9:58 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: electoral reform

sirs,

the question of electoral reform is everywhere, the motivation is quite questionable.

before asking the question you have to itemize the components of the perceived problem in terms of goods and bads.

after that you can itemize the thoughts of what will happen if I do this or that.

one of the arguments is that a minority can have enough candidates to form a government. that means that less than 50% of the votes can be elected for the job. this will happen if a few voters spoil their ballots or vote not to participate.

see trump.

in a tight vote this will be every time.

the result is that proportional representation will not work, particularly if you have more than 2 parties.

one of the most critical factors is "to vote". how can you raise the participation rate to go to the ballot box and also eliminate the spoiled ballots?

also you need to raise the influence of the elected candidate. this candidate has to represent his riding in government and not to represent the government in his riding. the last consideration should be the most critical because it encourages me to go and vote.

hence, retain the current voting system but give the elected official free rai to represent his constituents.

regards [REDACTED] north vancouver

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2018 10:59 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: govTogetherBC Contact Us Form Submission

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2018 10:42 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: govTogetherBC Contact Us Form Submission

First Name

[REDACTED]

Last Name

[REDACTED]

Email

[REDACTED]

Subject

Voting on a referendum

Comments

As usual every time I fill in a form I cannot proceed further I was supposed to tick off atleast 5 //// I ticked off 8 but was not allowed to proceed, I do not believe these questionnaires show non bias,

Check the below box if you consent to the above terms.

Anti-Spam Question: What's 8 + 4 - 8?

4

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 12:28 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: How We Vote

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 5:07 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: How We Vote

Minister Eby,

After reviewing the How We Vote website I have a request.

There are peer reviewed reports that analyze and compare the quality of representation among the popular modes of voting. Without access to this information the public cannot be expected to match the analytical capabilities of specialists in the field. Consequently I question how you could derive a meaningful mandate for change from a vote on the matter.

May I recommend the studies published by the University of Gothenburg as a supplement to the Democracy faculty at UBC <https://pol.gu.se/english>

I support election reform, but please provide citizens with the proper tools to make an impartial and informed choice.

Knowing your personal values, I hope you will soon thereafter, move on to tighter restrictions on the size of personal campaign donations and to some world class conflict-of-interest legislation.

Keep up the good fight.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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NOTICE: The contents and meta data of this message are confidential. Use by parties other than the intended recipient, or use, copying or storage for purposes other than the direct delivery of this message are forbidden. By using this email address you agree to keep it private. It is to be used solely for the purpose of completing this communication. Do not share it, reveal it in a C.C. list, use it in social media, share or publish it by any means without the owner's express permission.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 11:28 AM
To: Citizen Engagement GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: 'How We Vote'

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 11:17 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 'How We Vote'

Good morning,

A 'flyer' came in the post regarding the referendum on Feb 28th.

Being directed to engage.gov.bc.ca/howwevote, has not revealed anything about this topic.

I do NOT (nor do most of my friends) do Facebook, Tweeting, etc.

It should be more clear, readily accessible to find the information you are inviting us to find.

Thanks very much for further and simple directions!

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 4:08 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: No avenue for reader input on questionnaire on how BC votes

Over to you for response

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 1:44 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Minister, AG AG:EX
Subject: FW: No avenue for reader input on questionnaire on how BC votes

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for writing about electoral reform in British Columbia. We appreciate your taking the time to write on this important and pertinent topic.

On your behalf, we have shared a copy of your message with the Honourable David Eby, Attorney General. His staff will ensure that your comments are included in any upcoming, related discussions.

Thank you, again, for writing. It was good to hear from you.

cc: Honourable David Eby

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 12:49 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: No avenue for reader input on questionnaire on how BC votes

Dear Mr. Horgan,

I have been doing some study on Proportional Representation (PR) and find the three PR choices in the questionnaire to be needlessly complicated, Therefore, I'm afraid, potential voters will stick with the First Past the Post (FPP) present system that they already know and understand.

For example, all of the PR systems require voting on a dual ballot, be it Mixed Member Proportional Representation (MMPR) or another. One votes for a candidate of a political party from a constituency on one list, and on another list for persons on whose names are submitted by, presumably, political parties. To further complicate the process, these lists can be open (names can be added) or closed. Votes are usually tallied by Preferential Ballot (PB), a system which ensures that a successful candidate has more than 50% of the total vote when elected. But PB is very favourable for some political parties, such as the Federal Liberals, since the second choice of Conservatives would probably be the Liberals, who are less progressive than the NDP or Green Party. No voting system should reward or punish political parties.

The Single Transferable Vote Proportional Representation (STVPR) somewhat further "muddies the waters" of comprehension since the logic of such must be comprehensible to the voter. even though it may be the most desirable PR voting system. Furthermore, the results of an election will be delayed, unlike the expectations of election results presently, probably to the distaste of nearly anyone who takes a serious interest in politics.

Major considerations for BC citizens in changing from FPP to PR might well be:

1. easy comprehension
2. quick results
3. representation of constituencies
4. effectiveness of voting
5. possibly a potential for a legal challenge

So...let's deal with these in order.

Number 1 has already been discussed in the preamble. The desire to create greater voter turnout could well be negated by making voting needlessly complicated,

Number 2 also has been discussed in the preamble. Consider the effect on personal and business decisions if several recounts in a close election delay final results for several days. Your BC election was, to some extent, the victim of recounts results.

Number 3 has to be clarified. Do BC citizens want individuals who do not represent constituencies and therefore are not accountable to citizens of a constituency passing laws and making other important decisions? The citizen list chosen by politicians could enforce, not reduce, political conflict in the legislature. In fact, this is a major argument of persons who prefer FPP. An acquaintance with friends in New Zealand finds that those friends prefer PR, but not MMPR for the very reason just stated.

Number 4 is based on the PR system of voting, touting that since the number of representatives in a legislature coincide with the total percentage of votes political parties receive. But is this really true when the second and un-needed ballot on individuals is incorporated in PR?

Number 5 is based on traditional English democracy, in that only elected individuals can be lawmakers, and those individuals must be responsible in some manner to the electorate.

Please consider a PR voting option. Let's call it Percentage Proportional Representation (PPR)

- a) hold an election by the present FPP voting system.
- b) In doing so, make it understood that the total of elected candidates will represent the percentage of votes each party receives, (Independent candidates are usually lumped together to determine their percentage.)
- c) Choose the successful candidates on the percentage of votes each receives in their respective constituencies. For example, if Party A receives 10% of the total popular vote and that number is fifteen, the candidates of Party A who are elected are the fifteen candidates whose percentage of the popular vote in their constituencies

are the highest. Those who have a percentage tie can be decided on who receives the most number of votes, although such may favour urban candidates.

d) In doing so, each constituency has an elected representative, and representatives are responsible to carry out the wishes of constituencies. Moreover, no one who is not elected can make or influence the passing of laws, nor should they.

Yours truly,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact a signature.

Popular Representation

Proportional Representation through Weighted Legislative Votes — BC Election 2017

Our parliamentary democracy incorporates two distinct voting systems: an electoral voting system which facilitates the selection of representatives by the citizenry at the ballot box, and a legislative voting system, where those representatives exercise their mandate. While efforts to bring about proportional representation tend to focus on the electoral voting system, it may be that simple changes to the legislative voting system could more easily provide the fairness which reformers seek.

The current electoral voting system isn't perfect, but it does accurately and precisely measure the choices of citizens for their local representatives, and the parties to which they belong — in addition to providing representation for all regions of a vast province. The root of the problem lies in the legislative voting system, which fails to reflect accurately those electoral choices.

After going through the trouble of tallying and validating the electoral vote, we then proceed to deform the result by insisting on one unquestioned, unwavering and totally unnecessary premise: that one seat in the legislature must always and only count for one legislative vote. **It is in fact possible to achieve proportional representation under our current electoral system, but to do so legislative votes must be variable, permitting each party's share of the legislative vote to be matched to its share of the electoral vote.**

In the last BC election, The Green Party, for example, received 16.8% of the electoral vote. Under a fair system, it would be entitled to 16.8% of the legislative votes. In the 87 seat BC Legislature, that would mean 14.7 votes. But as it now stands, the Green Party has only 3 votes, one vote for each of its elected members. How can we reconcile the Green Party's share of the electoral — or popular — vote to its actual seat count without changing our electoral system? This can be accomplished easily if we weight each party's seat total by its share of the popular vote.

What if each Green Party seat in the recently minted BC Legislature were worth 4.8 legislative votes instead of just one? With its 3 seats, the Green Party would hold 14.6 legislative votes out of 87, or 16.8% of the total — the same as its share of the popular vote.* **If we dispense with the premise that one legislative seat must always and only equal one legislative vote, then it becomes obvious that we can have direct, accurate and precise proportional representation within our current winner-take-all electoral system.** Refer to the chart below to see how, within our current system, each party's share of the electoral vote in the last BC election would directly translate to the same percentage of the legislative vote using a little simple math.**

Furthermore, under a weighted legislative vote system, a ballot cast for a party anywhere in the province during the provincial election would actually count in the legislature, regardless of which party won the riding where the vote was cast — provided that the party receiving the vote passed the threshold of electing at least one member in one riding somewhere in the province. **A system of weighted legislative votes would virtually eliminate the problem of wasted electoral votes.**

A simple administrative reform requiring each party's legislative vote share to be weighted by its share of the electoral vote would bring about proportional representation without any need to overhaul the way citizens vote at election time. This reform would produce fair election outcomes in the legislature while avoiding both the contentious debates around electoral reform and the need to have a new electoral system approved through referendum. Our current electoral voting system would remain essentially unchanged while the legislative voting system would correspond directly to the popular vote. **This reform could satisfy both those who wish to keep our current electoral system unchanged and those who seek the basic fairness promised by proportional representation.**

A system of weighted legislative votes would favour no single party, no special interest, no private agenda. It would consist of applying a simple correction mechanism once all the electoral ballots were counted to translate a party's share of the popular vote into its matching share of legislative votes. **To reflect accurately the election results in the legislature, the weight of any given MLA's vote would be variable while the vote of each citizen would be equal.** A system of weighted legislative votes would not necessarily be the final word in electoral reform, but as a simple and effective fix, it would certainly be a good start.

Citizens for Popular Representation
Kamloops

2017 BC Election Results with Correction Mechanism for Popular Representation

Party	% Pop. vote	Seats	Vote weight per seat (correction factor**)	Legislative vote (out of 87 total*)	% Legislative votes
Green	16.84	3	4.88	14.65	16.84
NDP	40.28	41	.86	35.04	40.28
Liberal	40.36	43	.81	35.11	40.36

*Legislative Vote count for three parties does not equal 87 since the number of votes cast for parties which did not win seats is not represented. This can be addressed through other mechanisms which could be used to account for otherwise wasted votes in further stages of a weighted vote reform. Under the system proposed here, proportional representation only applies to parties that elect at least one member. The fact that numbers have been rounded for clarity accounts for any minor variances.

**Correction Factor for vote weight: $a \times b \div c$
a — number of seats in legislature
b — party's percentage of popular (or electoral) vote
c — party seat total

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 3:34 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: PRE- ³HOW WE VOTE² REFERENDUM QUESTIONS

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 11:15 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: PRE- ³HOW WE VOTE² REFERENDUM QUESTIONS

1. Privacy Is contact information permanently deleted and not saved anywhere, once "How We Vote" Referendum response is recorded and/or questions relating to it answered?

Re: the STV System

2. Clarification: "voters' *subsequent* choices" means *second, third choices etc., on the ballot*, not a *later vote*?
3. Noting that the STV system proposes between 2-7 MLA's be elected to a district is there a corresponding proposed increase in Voting District (number of voters) size and requisite creation of a new set of districts?

Thank--You for your time and for the opportunity to offer input :)

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 12:28 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Proportional Electoral System

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 7:38 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Proportional Electoral System

Honourable David Eby,
Attorney General of British Columbia

Dear Mr. Eby:

The adoption of proportional electoral system in Canada has been long overdue. For too long we have been governed both federally and provincially by parties which have been elected to power at times with as little as 35% of votes cast. Progressive new parties have been often shut out of participating in governing. More seriously sometimes a party has come to power by having more seats in the Parliament or a Legislative Assembly even though it has had received fewer votes than the party that has "lost" the election. In any referendum for an alternative electoral system to the current first-past-the post it is crucial that support for the proportional electoral system is not scattered in the first round of the referendum. The voters need to be asked if they are in favor of adopting the proportional electoral system or maintaining the first-past-the post. If the proportional system is chosen, then in a second referendum they could be presented with two or three models of the proportional system to choose one from.

Respectfully _____
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 1:56 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Proportional Representation

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 10:52 AM

[REDACTED]

Subject: Proportional Representation

BTW - Good call on the minimum wage!

The key word in "proportional representation" is "representation". Our riding *representative* carries our proxy votes to the Legislature, to assist other representatives in governing BC in areas beyond local jurisdiction. I want to be represented by a local MLA, residing in, and directly elected from, my riding. He or she would be directly representing our interests (by virtue of our proxy votes) in the Legislature. He/she would be directly obligated to us for his/her continued privileges as our representative.

I want this person elected by proportion, so that the elected representative is more closely aligned with the *aggregate* values of our riding, not just a simple majority in a 3-way split. A riding-based transferable vote is the only system that will deliver this. The way to measure this aggregate is through a riding-based Transferable Vote election.

I am strongly opposed to list-based proportional representation schemes and will vote for FPTP rather than for list-based PR.

List-based PR represents a further, and very explicit, corporatization of the electoral process - a final step in dissociating representatives (MLAs) from the citizens that they are supposed to represent, a process that has been eroding MLA-influence for the last 15-20 years. You probably think this is an extreme characterisation, but it is not. Coupled with party-candidate vetoes, party-whips, and leaders elected by insiders as government leaders in waiting, the influence of MLA's and riding voters has been almost completely eroded already. Lists would break the camels back.

Current System:

- I have one vote, operational in my riding, as does everyone in my community.

- We collectively agree to vote for a representative, who will go to the BC Legislature.
- This MLA is mandated to act on our behalf in making decisions about the larger, BC community.
- That MLA is, in the final analysis, beholden to the community for re-election

With Party Lists:

- I have one vote, but it is subsumed in the whole province.
- I delegate the use of that proxy vote to a political party, based on proportional arithmetic.
- The parties, independently of our community, decides who gets to be an MLA, get paid, wield power, etc.
- That MLA is completely indebted and beholden to his/her Party for his/her re-election.
- Elections, and therefore governments will be bought and sold by party insiders and lobbyists for external influencers.

If you have ever voted as a minor share holder in a proxy election for corporate Directors, you will recognize the pattern set out in 'Lists' above!

Despite the attractions of power, I sincerely expect that, as a sensible, commonsense person, you will find the idea of governments elected by the party with the best marketing campaign and/or fake news department, absolutely abhorrent.

Restoring the power of ridings to directly elect MLAs, and of MLAs to form governments via negotiating the 'confidence of the house' is probably the only recourse we have against the depredations of the 1% (and their Social Credit/Liberal stalking horses). It is imperative that you act to restore confidence in our MLAs.

Regards,

[Redacted]

--

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

AN ACCEPTABLE VOTING SYSTEM FOR BRITISH COLUMBIANS

British Columbians will soon go to the polls to make choices with regards to keeping, amending, or discarding the beleaguered first-past-the-post voting system.

The vote is forthcoming because a good segment of the voting population believes we need proportional representation which is lacking in our present first-past-the-post system. We need a system which makes every vote count, they say, and does not give a minority undue power such as when 35 – 39% of the popular vote can translate into a majority of representatives in the legislature.

There is also a strong voice which favors keeping the present first-past-the-post system, and this will be one of the choices in the upcoming referendum.

No matter which voting system, first-past-the-post or some form of proportional representation, is chosen, there will be strong disagreement with the choice. The group which believes that the first-past-the-post gives undue power in governing to a minority will be countered by the group which believes that proportional representation causes stalemates in government which results in votes of non-confidence and further elections in the hope that a governing group will result.

These are only two major weaknesses of the forms of government mentioned, however these weaknesses are major. What can be done to solve such problems and achieve a system of effective and stable government?

Merging the systems to form a hybrid could be the answer. Representatives to the legislature could be chosen 50% by first-past-the-post and 50% by popular provincial support.

What follows is an example of how this hybrid could be achieved. *(Numbers used in the sample below are somewhat similar to the numbers which resulted in the last provincial election. Favouritism, if shown, is not intended.)*

1. Divide British Columbia into 50 “rep. by pop” constituencies.
Each constituency will elect one representative by first-past-the-post method. The election may show the following result:
Liberal – 22
NDP – 20
Green – 8
TOTAL = 50 Representatives

2. The election may show popular provincial support as follows:

Liberal – 40 %

NDP – 38%

Green – 15%

Other – 7%

3. The percentage of representatives works out to:

Liberal – 40 % of 50 = 20

NDP– 38% of 50 = 19

Green – 15% of 50 = 11

Total = 50 Representatives

4. The final election result will be as follows:

Liberal – 22 + 20 = 42 reps

NDP– 20 + 19 = 39 reps

Green – 8 + 11 = 19 reps

TOTAL = 100 Representatives

The result shows a minority Liberal government, but it does give the Green Party more strength on account of the popular support result. Any two parties who cooperate can form a majority government. (51 is the number needed to have a majority government.) This is also quite achievable.

Further questions and problems would need to be addressed, such as: fixing constituency boundaries and deciding how 50 members by popular support would be chosen by the parties. These questions could be settled quite easily.

This hybrid system has a great strength in that it is not complicated and could strengthen our democracy, which needs a higher participation rate.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2018, 2:04 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: Questionnaire Election How we vote in BC

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: January 31, 2018 1:58 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Questionnaire Election How we vote in BC

Dear sir

This was in my commentaries in the questionnaire part 1 and 2:

The questions are too complicated or too similar, many people will not answer the question properly or will not respond at all.

The question should be simple: Are you in favor of a proportional vote in the next election: **YES or NO**

Explain what is a proportional vote on TV in prime time for people who don't understand it.

It seem to me like you are playing the same game as Trudeau, who has lost my respect and future vote for all of his lies, please make sure that is not what will happen in BC.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wIMIFnA8fXQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KONCXcpFEXg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xCjcJZbXN38>

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 8:33 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Questionnaire

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2018 9:55 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Questionnaire

I have bailed out of the referendum questionnaire because I always vote but am informed that I have to select my excuse(s) for not voting in order to proceed with the questionnaire. I expect that is not only the only flaw in the Questionnaire!

Perhaps it is worthwhile to note that I gave up cooperating with surveys some years ago because I kept finding that the surveys were flawed. (I have surveyed most of family and social circle and they too have entirely or largely given up answering questionnaires). It's not that I object to surveys being educational but I do object to loaded questions. In the past when I was cooperative it appeared to me that that the questionnaire had not been properly tested before being released. Anyway government by poll is a lousy idea. Many government decisions are complex and require study by people who are qualified and/or who have access to qualified advice.

Now that the production of false facts and emotional red flags has become increasingly pervasive and skillfully marketed...

I do believe that we need to move to proportional representation and that the BC government explain why it has chosen a particular version but that doesn't mean it has to conduct a referendum. Experience has shown that referendum voting is tainted with agendas that have nothing to do with the issue in hand.

Will there ever be a time when there is more trust in government? Maybe one should work towards earning it. Proportional representation might be a move in the right direction. But do spare us a referendum!

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

opinions were, at best, confusing. [REDACTED]

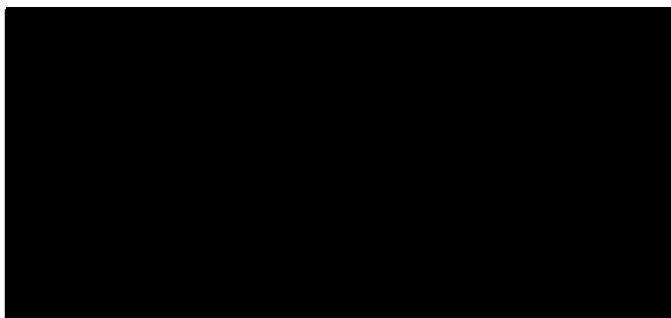
Virus-free. www.avast.com

January 14, 2018

Dear David,

With respect to distributing the democratic vote more fairly, I submit that proportional and semi-proportional representation, as laid out in Heather MacIvor's paper published in June 1999 on Electoral Insight, is the right sort of change we need from the First Past the Post present system.

Although I share doubts with millions of other voters that this change would affect the voter turnout, that is not the reason we should change. It is because campaign money is funnelled to individuals who are marketed as party representatives, but who do not genuinely represent the views and values of all the people who are actually using their vote against another candidate. In the Anyone But Harper campaign, I was forced to vote against my conscience for the first time in my life. I hope never to face such a compromise again.



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2018 9:17 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: survey

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 9, 2018 4:17 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: survey

Come on guys.....stupid survey. One question is how often I vote. I answered "ALWAYS". Next question is what of the following has prevented me from voting.....I can't go thro that without answering! Since I have ALWAYS voted, none of the responses apply. ***please fix this so I can take the survey!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!***

I want to answer the survey because I believe I will be disenfranchised under the suggested new system. I vote for the PERSON in my riding who I feel best aligns with my ideas. By vote transfer, I will have to vote solely for the party I prefer, and if the representative for that party in my area is an ASS, I will not vote with a system that takes my vote from one area to another!!!!!!!!!!

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2018 10:54 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Survey

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2018 8:24 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Survey

It's badly written

The second system is written from the point of view that you don't or won't vote.

If this is the focus of the mindset of the authors it should be turfed into the garbage as a political exercise trying to give an alternate truth.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 9:16 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: "Take the Questionnaire"

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 4:58 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: "Take the Questionnaire"

To whom it may concern,

Your online questionnaire re the referendum options is a joke.
There's not one question or option that affirms "first past the post."

How can you call this a meaningful questionnaire? Get serious and quit wasting tax dollars with this skewed attempt to give people one-sided choices. It reminds me of a dictatorial state's attempt to put only one name or a single resolution on the ballot.

[REDACTED]