From:
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 9:54 AM
To: ████████████████
Cc: ████████████████████
Subject: RE: referendum survey

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear ████████

Thank you for completing the electoral reform questionnaire and for forwarding your views on it and on the referendum ballot. Your response will be included and considered in the review of public input leading to the Attorney General's report on the referendum process.

Regards,

████████████████████████

From: ████████████████████
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 9:22 PM
To: ████████████████
Subject: referendum survey

Dear ████████

I filed in the survey for the referendum and here I want to add the following comments to those questions that did not allow for a proper answer because of how they were constructed, or did not give room for all possible answers.

1. Questions containing false assumptions (*):

The question "It should always be clear which party is accountable for decisions made by the government, EVEN IF this means that decisions are made by only one party" contains the false assumption " if more than one party forms the government, it is less clear who is accountable for decisions". My reply to this is: I disagree with the question's presupposition.

Similarly, question 18 makes the false assumptions that more choices for voters will produce an outcome that voters can't understand (18.b), or (18.c) an incomprehensible ballot. My answer is: I disagree with these presuppositions embedded in the question.

Question 19) is misleading because it implies (by asking us to choose only one) that the three options are mutually exclusive, when they are not. My reply is that I want flexibility and choice.

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(*) In logical terms, we say that the truth of propositions containing an assumption is true if the assumption is true, and undefined, or meaningless (rather than false) if the assumption they contain is false. To see this, consider: "the mad hatter voted" in a world where there is no mad hatter. Obviously you cannot say the sentence is true, but you cannot label it as false either, because if you do, you would have to consider its negation as true. Its negation is "the mad hatter did not vote", which is just as meaningless as its positive counterpart.

2. Some important questions are missing, and so we've been deprived of the opportunity to answer them in the survey. IN particular, we should have been asked if the referendum should have the following two parts (my answer is YES, IT SHOULD):

PART 1: Do you want BC to adopt a voting system in which the percentage of votes equals the percentage of the seats and almost every vote counts?

PART 2: Please rank the following options in your order of preferenc:

- Proportional Representation System a)
- Proportional Representation System b)

- etc.

3. It is misleading to include MMM and MMP among the proportional representation options, because they do not quite deliver proportional representation. We want to have proportional representation while preserving strong regional representation.

Thanks for considering these replies, which are more accurate than the survey allowed for.

Best regards,

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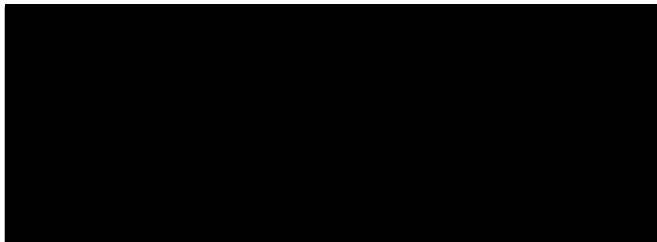
From:
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 11:34 AM
To:

Subject: RE: How We Vote - Stakeholder Submission - BC Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform (part 3 of 4)

Background:

In 2003, after two seemingly undemocratic election results, the BC Legislature unanimously create the **BC Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform**:

1. In 1996, the party with the second most votes (39.4%) formed a majority government with 39 seats (52%). The party that won the most votes (41.8%) got 33 seats (44%), and formed the official opposition.
2. In 2001, with 57.6% of the vote, the winning party claimed 77 seats (97.5%). The second-place party won 21.6% of the votes but gained only 2 seats (2.5%), leaving no official opposition.

Fearing that these types of electoral anomalies might re-occur, the **BC Legislature asked the BC Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform** to examine alternative electoral systems, consult with BC voters and make a recommendation to be ratified in a province-wide referendum.

At the time, our MLAs thought that this was a job for voters, not politicians. Political insiders were kept out of the process. The Citizens' Assembly members were voters, working on behalf of voters.

The BC Citizens' Assembly was to be the ultimate "**stakeholders**" group.

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160 ordinary, non-partisan voters were randomly selected from the provincial voters list to serve on the Assembly (1 woman + 1 man from each electoral district and First Nations).

The Assembly's 11-month process included:

1. **Extensive Learning** (6 weekends in Vancouver): About electoral systems and governance throughout the world.
2. **Public Consultation**: 50 public hearings throughout BC and 1,603 written public submissions.
3. **"What We Heard"** (weekend in Prince George): To review and discuss what voters had told the Assembly.
4. **Deliberation and Decision Making** (1 summer on-line and 6 weekends in Vancouver): The Assembly used the following decision-making process:
   i. **Establishment of core electoral values**:
      1. Proportionality,
      2. Effective Local Representation,
      3. Voter Choice.
   ii. **Selection of "Electoral System Families" which generally satisfy the Assembly's electoral values**:
      1. Mixed-Member Proportional (MMP), and
      2. Single Transferable Vote (STV).
   iii. **Detailed design**: Specific MMP and STV systems were fine-tuned and customized for BC.
   iv. **Assembly Vote**: "Which of the two alternatives would best serve BC?"
      1. MMP: 31 votes (20%).
      2. STV: 123 votes (80%).
   v. **Assembly Vote**: "Do we recommend retaining the current FPTP electoral system?"
      1. Yes: 11 (7%)
      2. No: 142 (93%)
   vi. **Assembly Vote**: "Do we recommend the STV (BC-STV) system to the people of BC in a referendum on May 17, 2005?"
      1. Yes: 146 (95%)
      2. No: 7 (5%)
   vii. **Recommendation**: With a very strong consensus, the Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform recommended that BC adopt a new voting system, which it called "**BC-STV.**"

The Assembly's recommendation was originally to be ratified by a provincial referendum with a 50% threshold. After the Assembly's **Preliminary Statement to the People of BC** (March 21, 2005), the BC government changed the referendum rules (Bill 52, May 20, 2004). Instead of requiring the normal 50% +1 to pass, a double 60% threshold would be required for this, and only this, referendum; 60% province wide and 50%+1 in 60% of districts.

In the 2005 Referendum, BC-STV was supported by:
• 57.7% of voters province-wide.
• More than 50% in 77 of 79 districts (97.5%).

Despite this high level of support, more than any political party had ever received in BC, the referendum failed to meet the revised double 60% threshold.

And here we are….

As a BC voter and a former member of the **BC Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform**, I feel that the Assembly's reports and fact sheets would be helpful as stakeholder submissions to the **How We Vote** process.

I personally feel in a bit of a quandary.

The BC Citizens' Assembly technically stopped existing in January 2005. I can't speak on behalf of the Assembly. Only its reports speak for the Assembly. However, I am sure that most surviving members would be happy, if the product of our 11 months work on behalf of our fellow BC voters would be made available to inform the current process.

I hope that you will be able to post these reports on the **How We Vote** website.

If you have any questions, please call or email.

Thanks.

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From: ████████████████
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 11:16 AM
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Subject: RE: How We Vote - Stakeholder Submission - BC Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform (part 3 of 4)

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Thanks ██████

From: ████████████████████
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 11:09 AM
To: ████████████████████████████████
Subject: RE: How We Vote - Stakeholder Submission - BC Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform (part 3 of 4)

Hi ██████

████████████████████████████ e sent multiple emails with the attached:

BC Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform – **Final Report** (English)
BC Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform – **Final Report** (French)
BC Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform – **Final Report** (Chinese)
BC Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform – **Final Report** (Punjabi)
BC Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform – **Technical Report**
BC Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform – **Glossary and Fact Sheets**

████████████████████████

██████████

From: █████████████████

Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 10:14 AM

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Subject: RE: How We Vote - Stakeholder Submission - BC Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform (part 3 of 4)

From the subject line, this seems like it is part of a broader submission. Can you clarify?

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From: ████████████████████████

Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 10:11 AM

To: ██

Subject: FW: How We Vote - Stakeholder Submission - BC Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform (part 3 of 4)

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From: ██████████████████████████████████████

Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 7:14 PM

To: ████████████████████████████████

Subject: How We Vote - Stakeholder Submission - BC Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform (part 3 of 4)

Hi,

Here is the **Technical Report** of the BC Citizens' Assembly to accompany previous email (part 1 of 4).

Thanks.

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From: ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 10:44 AM
To: ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓
Subject: Re: "Cut and Paste" and "Attachments"

Thank you again for your speedy reply.

Yes, I was told previously that " individual submissions will not be posted publicly" but shortly thereafter I see a public submission by ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓. I have never thought of her as an "organization".

In her submission, she simply presents, word for word, the report of a FEDERAL government committee from 2016 (Report of the Special Committee on Electoral Reform) concerning reform to the FEDERAL electoral system.

This report was professionally done. it's quite snazzy and 350 pages long. It should be professional since it was funded by the federal government. The Chairman of this report was ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓ ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓
▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓

Since this report was done in 2016, obviously▓▓▓▓didn't do any current research related to B.C.'s study of its electoral system (e.g. no updates by▓▓▓) yet▓▓▓enters this federal report as her submission.concerning possible changes to B.C.'s electoral system,

Actually, it doesn't really bother me as much as it appears. In fact, I agree with▓▓▓submission(excuse me, I should say the federal Report of the Special Committee on Electoral Reform) on a number of issues. In fact, if she wants to enter this report as her submission I am sure▓▓▓is well within▓▓▓rights.

I was just wondering though; instead of all the research I did and the very original proposals I will be presenting in my report, maybe I should copy the Australian Electoral Commission's report on electoral reform.....just kidding!

Have a Great Day,

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On Tue, Feb 27, 2018 at 9:10 AM, ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓ wrote:

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From: ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 10:59 PM
To: ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓
Subject: "Cut and Paste" and "Attachments"

First of all, thank you for providing me with the cut-off time for emailed submissions (that being 4 pm Feb, 28th).

I'm sorry but I am in a quandary.

As part of my submission, I had planned to draw up my charts on voting behaviour but I am using the Excel 2000 spreadsheet (yes, the one from the year 2000!) to create my charts and then I copy and paste them to the word processor Apache Open Office (even if it was MS Word 2000 I think I would have the same problems.

One of the problems is when I test this process and email the charts as part of the body of the submission to another of my email addresses, the statistics in the charts in the receiving email are not lined up properly and the charts are a bit of a mess. To be honest, I don't think one is supposed to copy and paste an .xls file directly to a word processor.

If my submission is going to be posted on your web page for public consumption, I would be embarrassed if my charts were a scrambled up mess.

Also, I can put protection on my charts portion of my submission in Excel but if I copy and paste the charts to a word processor, the protection of data in my submission when the charts were in Excel is now gone. If I email my charts as attachments, the protection is still working

I haven't had any problems when I send my charts as .xls attachments. One possible problem with this is whether your office will or can open an xls. files when they're's attachments. Apparently MS Office and Apache Open Office both open xls. files

I realize that some companies or individuals won't open an attachment for security reasons. If that is the case at your office, I guess I am out of luck when it comes to including attachment files along with my text portion of my submission.

Assuming whoever is handling my submission is able to open my attachment with the title, let's call it "Voting Differential.xls"; when my submission, at your end, is put on the web; should I direct the reader to open this attachment entitled, "Voting Differential.xls" while I am discussing "voting differential"?

Will the attachment be available? I don't want to inform, in my submission, the reader that he/she that he/she should open this attachment and your office didn't, for whatever reason, include my attachments.

The best scenario would be if I could have the charts (to be received at your office as attachments) included in the text part of my submission (possibly these charts could be an appendage after the text part of my submission).

I don't know if that might be considered tampering with a submission but it was just a thought on my part.

If you can answer any of the questions in this email, it would be greatly appreciated. I apologize for my letter being somewhat confusing but that's because I have worked all day on the "cut and paste" and "attachment" issue and it has left me somewhat confused and tired!

Yours respectfully,
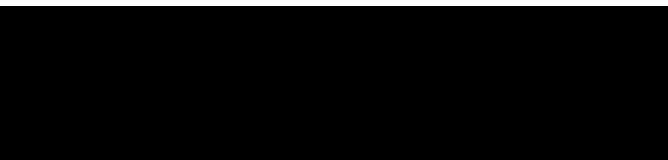
From:

Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 5:03 AM

To:

Subject:

a quickest ps: thinking further, i rather do hope you'll move "Popular Proportional Representation" to stakeholders. i do appreciate you need to deal with the tinfoil hats, and i've admitted i don't speak for millions -- but maybe for tens or anyway several. i hope we actively seek to stir ideas and i've tried to keep PPR brief. :)

now to leave you to your tasks,

From:
To:
Sent: Saturday, February 24, 2018 4:40:32 PM
Subject:

dear AG staff and also engagement team,

thanks AG persons for this sort of followup. in these ways, and also in the effort the engagement team makes, you contribute to engaged BC citizenry. congrats!

to the query below from AG office, yes i did complete questionnaire AND make a personal written response some time ago. again thanks for your follow-up.

to the engagement team, i give more thought to your posting under "stakeholders". i now wonder -- and leave this to your best judgement -- if we might nclude a stakeholder item "Popular Proportional Representation". a question may be if this comes from a single person (me!) or some manner of "organization". to answer honestly, it's from me although with consultations and supporting nods from "several". does that make me/us "stakeholders"?

now i've made a best-yet latest writeup (attached "PopPR180216"). the good news is it is short, barely 2 1/2 pages; i hope clearly written. could you let me know if you decide to promote this to your "stakeholders" listings? THANKS (for really!)

From:
To:
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2018 3:08:47 PM
Subject:

Thank you for your email of November 21, 2017. Your suggestions will be considered as part of the current public engagement process on matters respecting this fall's referendum on changing to a proportional representation voting system.
If you have not done so, I would also encourage you to visit:

https://engage.gov.bc.ca/howwevote/

You can express your views by responding to the questionnaire at the same website before the close of the engagement period on February 28, 2018. All submissions made through this public engagement process will be reviewed and considered before these decisions respecting the referendum are made.
Thank you again for writing.
Yours truly,

From:
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 12:59 PM
To:
Subject: Proposal for a fair and easy to understand PR model

Here is the correct link for my email below !

Sorry about that.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From:
Date: Wed, Feb 28, 2018, 12:06
Subject: Proposal for a fair and easy to understand PR model
To:

Please consider the proposal at *http://commonground.ca/freevote-2-0/* with the following changes:

1. increase the number of MLA's by 13 for a total of 100 to make the math easier for people to understand re: % of seats compared to % of votes

2. Keep the ballot EXACTLY the same as it is today

3. The extra 13 seats are allocated to the candidates who are the "top losers" in each party across the province and are used to top up party seats to make their seat count closely match their % of the vote (doesn't have to be exact). This approach worked for the past 5 elections in BC (I did the math).

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I would think most people would hope or expect that once a new voting system is in place, everything will work fine. However, it seems that is not always the case generally when something new is being installed or their has been an upgrade. I would expect their will be one or more problems even if the new voting system chosen is being used elsewhere without any problems because there are processes or factors involved that are not detectable or that are underestimated. My suggestion is to have a review of the new voting system by gathering feedback from the general public and reviewing other analyses from other scholars or academics with high credibility with election systems. This review process could be done in years where there is no provincial, federal or municipal elections. The review process can focus on what is the worst problem the new voting system has and having public discussions on possible solutions much like or exactly like what is being done now for electoral reform. The advantage of doing it in a year without a election is that there is nothing else politically happening to distract or give information overload to the general public and the media from the electoral reform review process. Once a solution is decided upon, then a referendum can be held for the solution in time for the next election exactly as the plan for the electoral reform referendum in 2018. Voters should have enough time to examine a solution to a given problem with new voting system and thereby decide where they stand before the referendum. This way no real advertising or campaigning will be needed and not have any conflicts with campaigning efforts of candidates during the election time.

Thank you for considering my personal feedback as you pursue improvements to democracy in BC.

The Problem?

If I start by being cynical about the origins and rationale for proposing PR systems I would say that it reflects smaller Political Parties whose candidates can never convince enough electors to support them attempting an end run into influencing or controlling the government.

More objectively (or at least without cynicism) lets instead believe and accept that voters do not like the idea that the winning candidates are those with a plurality of support instead of a majority of support from their community of electors.

The Solution;

We must of course ignore the cynical view of the problem because if true then there isn't really a problem with the electoral system but only with those parties and their candidates and "do nothing" is the correct solution for this Government. So instead we focus on the Plurality success model as the problem and find the fix.

Absurdly the fix to plurality electoral success is the simplicity of changing it to a majority electoral success model. Of course it is not that simple, but it is simple with a Multiple Equal Vote Expression system.

Under M.E.V.E., the legal independence of each community election is maintained and electors are simply allowed to identify and vote equally for as many candidates on the ballot as they choose.

The candidate with the most votes above 50% of the number of eligible electors is declared the winner.

> If none, hold a by-election excluding the previous candidates.
> If a tie, flip a coin, use rock paper scissors, or whatever.

> optionally; add "any" and "none" to the ballot

If the Problem is instead that the current legal democratic framework in which each community returns one member with one (full and equal) voice is no longer functional, then of course the solution is a very complex Constitutional amendment process in BC and perhaps also Nationally, and to that I can offer only best wishes and good luck with that crazy can of worms.

Thanks,

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From: ████████████████████████████████

Sent: Friday, February 23, 2018 1:19 PM

To: ██████████████████████████

Cc: ██████████████████

Subject: Input about electoral reform referendum process

Attachments: ccpa-bc_dec2017_electoral-reform-submission.pdf

Hello,

I agree with the recommendations made by the BC Centre for Policy Alternatives (attached).

Please implement them as described in the attached and below:

Indeed, our core recommendation is that British Columbians themselves be given the opportunity to decide which model they prefer. It is our strong contention that the public must see the final decision as stemming from the choices of British Columbians themselves, and not the result of politicians or political parties privileging a particular alternative.

RECOMMENDATION 1: THE BALLOT STRUCTURE

We recommend that a two-question ballot be put before British Columbians in fall 2018.

The first question should be simple and straightforward, asking people if they would like to maintain BC's current FPTP electoral process or change to a form of PR.

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The second question should ask, if a majority vote to change the electoral system to proportional representation, which form of PR would you prefer?

This second question should offer a list of PR models and ask people to rank their choices. Then a ranked-ballot transferable vote calculation can be used to select the most-preferred option. In this manner, all British Columbians can have a say on their preferred PR choice (including those who may have voted in favour of FPTP on the first question). This approach will also ensure that people can have confidence that citizens are choosing the preferred alternative, rather than politicians.

The benefit of this two-question ballot approach is that the first question will provide clarity on whether people want a change to PR from FPTP, without confusing the matter by splitting the choices between more than two options. This also means that those who want PR are not forced to vote in favour of a particular PR model that is not their preference; for example, in the 2005 and 2009 BC referenda, PR advocates who favored Mixed Member Proportional but were not keen on the Single Transferable Vote were not given this option.

RECOMMENDATION 2: PUBLIC EDUCATION

British Columbians will require clear and impartial information and education on the various electoral models. Given this, we recommend the government provide Elections BC with a clear mandate and additional funding to undertake this educational work. Also, Elections BC should consult with academics with varying views on electoral reform, to ensure the materials produced are impartial. The final materials must be clear to a lay audience.

RECOMMENDATION 3: A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

The electoral reform campaign and debates must occur on a level playing field. In order to

accomplish this, we recommend:
☐ The government provide a modest level of public funding to one proponent group
(in favour of PR) and one opponent group (in favour of FPTP). This funding can be
used as the groups see fit (for staffing, advertising or vote mobilization).
☐ Beyond this public funding, third party referendum-related advertising be capped at
$100,000 over a three-month period leading up to the referendum's closing date.
Importantly, however, third parties should only be required to register once they
spend $5,000 on province-wide advertising or $1,500 within a single constituency.
Limits on third party advertising can help create a more level democratic playing
field, but need to effectively target big spenders. Groups and individuals should be

able to expend modest sums on referendum advertising without having to register,
given that such modest sums are unlikely to distort the public debate and
deliberation process. The imposition of a "register first, speak second" rule
unnecessarily complicates and constrains the free speech rights of small spenders
(precisely the opposite impact such rules ought to have). This recommendation is
consistent with past research on the impacts of BC's third party election advertising
rules conducted by the CCPA-BC, the Freedom of Information and Privacy
Association and the BC Civil Liberties Association.1

RECOMMENDATION 4: PR OPTIONS ON THE BALLOT
Regarding the PR options put before British Columbians: assuming that a second question
on the ballot lists different PR options to be ranked, it is important that a representative but
manageable sample of models be offered.
We note that in the government's current questionnaire, the following PR options are listed:
☐ List Proportional Representation
☐ Single Transferable Vote (STV)
☐ Mixed Member Proportional (MMP)
☐ Mixed Member Majoritarian
The "List Proportional Representation" model and the "Mixed Member Proportional" model
in the survey amalgamate both "closed-list" and "open-list" options. We believe this is a
mistake. Open and closed lists are quite different, and voters may have strong preferences
for one or the other. In particular, we suspect many voters who wish for more decisionmaking
for citizens rather than for parties will have a strong preference for an open list.
Therefore, we recommend that only "open list" options be put before voters.
We also recommend dropping the "List Proportional Representation" model from the list of
options. We are not aware of any group that has called for this option, as virtually all PR
advocates support some form of combining local or regional representation under PR.
Including this option is therefore distracting and makes the list of models needlessly
complicated.
Similarly, we note that Mixed Member Majoritarian does not belong among the options.
While this model produces results that are more proportional than FPTP, it may or may not
1 For more see: https://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/reports/election-chill-effect

produce results that are truly proportional and may continue to produce false majorities.
Given that too many options on the ballot can cause unnecessary confusion and distraction,
we recommend this option also be excluded.
On the other hand, there are some PR models not included in the government's survey that
likely do merit inclusion on a ranked ballot question. In particular, both "Local PR" (a
system that, like STV, would see larger multi-member electoral districts, but where each
existing riding still emerges with a representative), and "Rural-Urban PR" (a hybrid model of

MMP and STV with multi-member ridings in urban areas, single-member ridings in rural areas, and a smaller number of regional top-up seats to ensure a proportional outcome) options merit inclusion.

Thus, we recommend the second question on the ballot include four PR options:

☐ Mixed Member Proportional – Open List
☐ Single Transferable Vote
☐ Local PR
☐ Rural-Urban PR

The ballot packages mailed to voters should include an info card with short descriptions of these four options.

RECOMMENDATION 5: USE OF A "CITIZENS' JURY"

In order for British Columbians to have maximum confidence that political parties are not biasing the referendum process, we recommend that Elections BC assemble a "Citizens' Jury" or "Citizen Panel", made up of volunteers randomly selected from across the province, and empower this group to make some key final decisions.

Specifically, this citizen group should:

☐ Have final sign off on the system choices and wording of the ballot.
☐ After the referendum, and if PR is chosen by BC voters, this group would be reconvened to oversee implementation of the option chosen and to decide on the number and allocation of new seats in the BC legislature (see Recommendation 6).

Citizens' juries[2] and similar deliberative democracy models have been used in a wide range

[2] For more on citizens' juries and how they operate, see: https://participedia.net/en/methods/citizens-jury, http://www.rachel.org/files/document/Citizens_Jury_Handbook.pdf, and

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of countries including Canada, the United States, Britain and Australia, and they have weighed in on a wide variety of important public policy issues, including how we vote. For example, the City of Edmonton convened a citizens' jury to consider whether it should implement a system of online voting.[3] The citizens' jury was widely seen as successful and reached a high level of agreement, although city council declined to implement their recommendation in favour of online voting.

RECOMMENDATION 6: NUMBER OF SEATS IN THE LEGISLATURE

A complicating factor in the referendum, with the potential to alter the outcome and choices, is the matter of the number of seats in a new Legislature. Voters' opinions about a switch to PR, and their views on which PR alternative is preferable, may be impacted by their desire to see a mixed model in which sufficient local representation is maintained. The capacity for local representation may, in turn, be limited by the number of seats in the next legislature. For example, under an MMP model, without an increase in the number of seats, local ridings would have to be made substantially larger. On the other hand, if the lists are made regional, this may help to alleviate some people's concerns.

If this matter is not addressed prior to the referendum, people will be asked to make a decision under too much uncertainty, and those who oppose PR will campaign on a claim that PR will erode or eliminate local representation, when this may not be true.

Given this, we recommend the government do the following:

1. Indicate ahead of the referendum that PR will likely necessitate the establishment of additional seats.
2. Indicate ahead of the referendum that if PR is chosen, any list-based seats will be regionally composed, thereby maintaining regional representation.
3. Commit that, if PR is chosen, the government will reconvene and empower a citizen panel after the referendum to determine if additional seats are needed in the legislature, and if so, how many, and that the independent Electoral Boundaries Commission will be tasked with allocating such seats.

3

http://www.civicus.org/documents/toolkits/PGX_B_Citizens%20JuryFinalWeb.pdf. Notably, there are political scientists in BC who have studied how to conduct citizen juries.

3 For more see: http://www.revparl.ca/36/2/36n2_13e_Kamenova-Goodman.pdf

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RECOMMENDATION 7: CONFIRMATION REFERENDUM

In order to allay concerns that some may have about a change to the electoral system, we recommend that the government commit prior to the fall 2018 referendum that, if a change is instituted, a follow-up referendum will be held after two election cycles. This will give the public a chance to revisit the switch to PR having seen it in practice, and provide them with an opportunity to switch back to FPTP if that is the public's will. This will allow people to say "yes" to change with less risk, and then test the new system.

**

Thank you again for your consideration of our views on this important subject.

Thank you for your work on this matter of critical importance to the health of British Columbia's democracy.

Sincerely,

Asking British Columbians about Electoral Reform

██████████████████████████

Submitted to: ████████████████

██

December 2017

Thank you for this opportunity to share our recommendations regarding the electoral reform process in British Columbia. We hope our contributions are useful for your deliberations.

In the interest of full disclosure: we support electoral reform and believe the province and good public policy-making would benefit from a move to proportional representation (PR). We are very pleased that the government is holding a public referendum in fall 2018, and we are agnostic on the question of which form of PR should replace First Past The Post (FPTP). Indeed, **our core recommendation is that British Columbians themselves be given the opportunity to decide which model they prefer.** It is our strong contention that the public must see the final decision as stemming from the choices of British Columbians themselves, and not the result of politicians or political parties privileging a particular alternative.

RECOMMENDATION 1: THE BALLOT STRUCTURE

We recommend that a two-question ballot be put before British Columbians in fall 2018.

The first question should be simple and straightforward, asking people if they would like to maintain BC's current FPTP electoral process or change to a form of PR.

The second question should ask, if a majority vote to change the electoral system to proportional representation, which form of PR would you prefer?

This second question should offer a list of PR models and ask people to rank their choices. Then a ranked-ballot transferable vote calculation can be used to select the most-preferred option. In this manner, all British Columbians can have a say on their preferred PR choice (including those who may have voted in favour of FPTP on the first question). This approach will also ensure that people can have confidence that citizens are choosing the preferred alternative, rather than politicians.

The benefit of this two-question ballot approach is that the first question will provide clarity on whether people want a change to PR from FPTP, without confusing the matter by splitting the choices between more than two options. This also means that those who want PR are not forced to vote in favour of a particular PR model that is not their preference; for example, in the 2005 and 2009 BC referenda, PR advocates who favored Mixed Member Proportional but were not keen on the Single Transferable Vote were not given this option.

RECOMMENDATION 2: PUBLIC EDUCATION

British Columbians will require clear and impartial information and education on the various electoral models. Given this, we recommend the government provide Elections BC with a clear mandate and additional funding to undertake this educational work. Also, Elections BC should consult with academics with varying views on electoral reform, to ensure the materials produced are impartial. The final materials must be clear to a lay audience.

RECOMMENDATION 3: A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

The electoral reform campaign and debates must occur on a level playing field. In order to accomplish this, we recommend:

- The government provide a modest level of public funding to one proponent group (in favour of PR) and one opponent group (in favour of FPTP). This funding can be used as the groups see fit (for staffing, advertising or vote mobilization).

- Beyond this public funding, third party referendum-related advertising be capped at $100,000 over a three-month period leading up to the referendum's closing date. Importantly, however, third parties should only be required to register once they spend $5,000 on province-wide advertising or $1,500 within a single constituency. Limits on third party advertising can help create a more level democratic playing field, but need to effectively target big spenders. Groups and individuals should be

able to expend modest sums on referendum advertising without having to register, given that such modest sums are unlikely to distort the public debate and deliberation process. The imposition of a "register first, speak second" rule unnecessarily complicates and constrains the free speech rights of small spenders (precisely the opposite impact such rules ought to have). This recommendation is consistent with past research on the impacts of BC's third party election advertising rules conducted by the CCPA-BC, the Freedom of Information and Privacy Association and the BC Civil Liberties Association.[1]

RECOMMENDATION 4: PR OPTIONS ON THE BALLOT

Regarding the PR options put before British Columbians: assuming that a second question on the ballot lists different PR options to be ranked, it is important that a representative but manageable sample of models be offered.

We note that in the government's current questionnaire, the following PR options are listed:

- List Proportional Representation

- Single Transferable Vote (STV)

- Mixed Member Proportional (MMP)

- Mixed Member Majoritarian

The "List Proportional Representation" model and the "Mixed Member Proportional" model in the survey amalgamate both "closed-list" and "open-list" options. We believe this is a mistake. Open and closed lists are quite different, and voters may have strong preferences for one or the other. In particular, we suspect many voters who wish for more decision-making for citizens rather than for parties will have a strong preference for an open list. Therefore, we recommend that only "open list" options be put before voters.

We also recommend dropping the "List Proportional Representation" model from the list of options. We are not aware of any group that has called for this option, as virtually all PR advocates support some form of combining local or regional representation under PR. Including this option is therefore distracting and makes the list of models needlessly complicated.

Similarly, we note that Mixed Member Majoritarian does not belong among the options. While this model produces results that are more proportional than FPTP, it may or may not

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[1] For more see: https://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/reports/election-chill-effect

produce results that are truly proportional and may continue to produce false majorities. Given that too many options on the ballot can cause unnecessary confusion and distraction, we recommend this option also be excluded.

On the other hand, there are some PR models not included in the government's survey that likely do merit inclusion on a ranked ballot question. In particular, both "Local PR" (a system that, like STV, would see larger multi-member electoral districts, but where each existing riding still emerges with a representative), and "Rural-Urban PR" (a hybrid model of MMP and STV with multi-member ridings in urban areas, single-member ridings in rural areas, and a smaller number of regional top-up seats to ensure a proportional outcome) options merit inclusion.

Thus, we recommend the second question on the ballot include four PR options:

- Mixed Member Proportional – Open List

- Single Transferable Vote

- Local PR

- Rural-Urban PR

The ballot packages mailed to voters should include an info card with short descriptions of these four options.

RECOMMENDATION 5: USE OF A "CITIZENS' JURY"

In order for British Columbians to have maximum confidence that political parties are not biasing the referendum process, we recommend that Elections BC assemble a "Citizens' Jury" or "Citizen Panel", made up of volunteers randomly selected from across the province, and empower this group to make some key final decisions.

Specifically, this citizen group should:

- Have final sign off on the system choices and wording of the ballot.

- After the referendum, and if PR is chosen by BC voters, this group would be re-convened to oversee implementation of the option chosen and to decide on the number and allocation of new seats in the BC legislature (see Recommendation 6).

Citizens' juries[2] and similar deliberative democracy models have been used in a wide range

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[2] For more on citizens' juries and how they operate, see: https://participedia.net/en/methods/citizens-jury, http://www.rachel.org/files/document/Citizens_Jury_Handbook.pdf, and

of countries including Canada, the United States, Britain and Australia, and they have weighed in on a wide variety of important public policy issues, including how we vote.

For example, the City of Edmonton convened a citizens' jury to consider whether it should implement a system of online voting.[3] The citizens' jury was widely seen as successful and reached a high level of agreement, although city council declined to implement their recommendation in favour of online voting.

RECOMMENDATION 6: NUMBER OF SEATS IN THE LEGISLATURE

A complicating factor in the referendum, with the potential to alter the outcome and choices, is the matter of the number of seats in a new Legislature. Voters' opinions about a switch to PR, and their views on which PR alternative is preferable, may be impacted by their desire to see a mixed model in which sufficient local representation is maintained. The capacity for local representation may, in turn, be limited by the number of seats in the next legislature. For example, under an MMP model, without an increase in the number of seats, local ridings would have to be made substantially larger. On the other hand, if the lists are made regional, this may help to alleviate some people's concerns.

If this matter is not addressed prior to the referendum, people will be asked to make a decision under too much uncertainty, and those who oppose PR will campaign on a claim that PR will erode or eliminate local representation, when this may not be true.

Given this, we recommend the government do the following:

1. Indicate ahead of the referendum that PR will likely necessitate the establishment of additional seats.

2. Indicate ahead of the referendum that if PR is chosen, any list-based seats will be regionally composed, thereby maintaining regional representation.

3. Commit that, if PR is chosen, the government will reconvene and empower a citizen panel after the referendum to determine if additional seats are needed in the legislature, and if so, how many, and that the independent Electoral Boundaries Commission will be tasked with allocating such seats.

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http://www.civicus.org/documents/toolkits/PGX_B_Citizens%20JuryFinalWeb.pdf. Notably, there are political scientists in BC who have studied how to conduct citizen juries.

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**

Thank you again for your consideration of our views on this important subject.

Dear Sisr,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on a new electoral system in BC.
Here are a few thoughts I'd like to share.

FPTP

I believe that FPTP is a dangerously flawed system, and that we can thank one of our former Prime Ministers for making that so abundantly clear.

If we fail to change the our electoral system, British Columbians will be subjected to the trauma of another round of strategic voting, wasted votes and the possibility of a false majority government.
The Legislature will once again fail to accurately reflect voter preferences and will remain a place where Parties are rewarded for obstructionism rather than cooperation and compromise.
BC will continue to suffer as successive governments spend their first months in office undoing the worst excesses of their predecessors, and right or left wing ideologues will be encouraged by the possibility of gaining a false majority and imposing their agenda on an unwilling electorate.

Its time for a change, and fortunately, many European nations have already led the way.

GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN THE REFERENDUM

Government has an important role to play in the referendum; reminding people why it is that FPTP needs to be changed, that electoral reform is nothing to fear, as well as in providing clear options for that change. I think there is a risk in government restricting itself to a neutral role.

Electoral reform is never going to be cast in stone; it can be changed any time that the people of BC wish to do so.
The Liberals or any other Party will always be free to campaign on a promise to return to FPTP or some other system if they choose to do so.

Every future election will, in effect, be a referendum on electoral reform and every election will always afford Parties the option of campaigning on a promise to return to FPTP or some other system.

I feel quite certain however that once British Columbians have had a taste of some sort of PR system, they will never again be interested in a return to FPTP.

ELECTORAL REFORM; WE HAVE ALREADY SAID 'YES'.

personally, I think it's a mistake to offer people a choice between FFTP and electoral change.
A majority of British Columbians (60%) have already voted 'Yes" to electoral reform by electing an NDP/Green coalition government.
Now it's time to simply say, 'We were elected on a promise of electoral reform; which of these new electoral models most appeals to you?' rather than to revisit the question by asking, 'Do you want to change the electoral system or not?" Asking voters once again will only give the Liberals a great opportunity to create fear in people's minds in order to defeat the proposition.

1

It makes no sense for a Party to be elected on the basis of bold promises, only to get cold feet and ask, "Do you really want us to fulfill this promise, or not?'

Be bold, have the courage of your convictions, don't be overly concerned with what the media has to say; just get on with the job that you promised to do.

HOW WE VOTE; THE WEBSITE

I think the website - How We Vote- does an excellent job of presenting some options for electoral reform, but that the survey questions could have been better worded.
Some questions seemed too long and too complex, leaving me wondering what you were trying to get at.
In other cases, I found myself thinking that I agreed with a statement some of the time, but not in every situation. Yet there was no place to outline my concerns. The 1000 character limit on comments prevented me from discussing all of the issues that the survey raised.

I feel a greater number of clearer questions and choices would have been given your government better information on which to proceed.

THE PURPOSE OF ELECTORAL CHANGE; OPEN AND CLOSED LISTS

I think that those who support electoral change are basically looking for two things; they want the composition of the legislature to accurately reflect voter preferences (ie. 40% of the popular vote, translates into 40% of the seats), and they want to have some say over who sits in government.

All of the proposed options satisfy the former to some extent, but 'closed' lists, whereby the Party rather than the voters decides who will sit in the Legislature, is inconsistent with the latter.

Under closed list PR or closed list MMP, an MLA's loyalty would have to be to the Party leader rather than the electorate, for it is the Party leader alone who would decide whether or not his name would be on the candidates list this election and the next.

This seems a terrible opportunity for abuse and conflict of interest; who can image the list of cronies, oil and gas CEO's, real estate tycoons and business friends that some of our previous Premiers might have included in the Legislature if they had had the power to do so?
For this reason, I don't think closed lists should even be an option with either List PR or with MMP.
Only 'open' lists should be considered.

PR OPTIONS; 'YES' TO OPEN LIST PR AND OPEN LIST MMP

Personally, I would be happy to give Open List PR or Open List MMP, a try.

Mixed member proportional (MMP) is a good option so long as 50% of the seats are set aside as Open List PR seats to ensure that there will always be enough seats available to counterbalance any discrepancy between the popular vote and the FPTP seat count.

In a worst case scenario, one Party might win every FPTP seat by a single vote.
This would give them every one of the FPTP seats with just 50% of the popular vote. Therefore, we would need the same number of Open List PR seats held in reserve to ensure that the other Parties could share the remaining 50% of the seats in the Legislature to restore proportionality.

Open List seats could be filled by defeated candidates, starting with those who obtained the greatest percentage of the popular vote in their riding.
It would be a little less fair to fill the List PR seats based purely on the number of votes that defeated candidates received since electoral districts do not have exactly the same numbers of voters.

Still, either option - number of votes or percentage of the votes cast in a riding - would be better than a closed, Party selected list.

I like the idea of a preferential ballot (STV), ranking the candidates in order of preference, however I think people would find it very difficult to understand how the candidates had been selected for the Legislature. Also, as I understand it, this option would require the use of computers to tally the votes, and I think that is problematic.
Computers are subject to hacking and manipulation as we have witnessed over and over again in the US.
I have much more confidence in the hand counting of ballots.
Therefore, my preference is for either Open List PR or Open List MMP, including the hand counting of ballots.

For various reasons, I would also drop MMM from the list of options.

THE REFERENDUM

I am pleased to see that the threshold for success is 50% plus one of the returned ballots, and that there is no artificial threshold in every region of the province. This is vital for the referendum to have much chance of succeeding.

As I said before, I think it's best to limit the fall referendum to the simple question, 'We were elected on a promise of electoral reform; which of these new electoral models most appeals to you?" and then to list the options.

FPTP and MMM should not be among them, nor should closed list options.
Nor would I include any option that requires the use of computers to tally the vote count.

If however you do decide to ask voters whether or not they support electoral reform, then the referendum must include two separate questions;

Are you in favour of a change in the electoral system; yes or no.
If you answered 'yes' above, which of the following PR systems most appeals to you?

I feel certain that the referendum cannot succeed if you ask a single question; 'yes' or 'no' to the question of electoral reform, and then allow the 'yes' vote to be split between different options. Almost certainly, the "No" to electoral reform category would have more votes than any of the individual PR options presented.

In any case, it is important to keep the wording of the referendum as simple as possible.

WHO MAKES THE DECISION?

I think it is important to allow interested British Columbians to choose between the various forms of PR, rather than to allow a Legislative committee to make the decision and to hand it down.

In summary, let's get this done and give British Columbians a fairer electoral system.
We can always revert back to the old system at a later date if that's what a majority of voters wish to do.

For now, most British Columbians have expressed a desire for change, and the drawbacks of FPTP have never been more clear.
Let's seize this opportunity.

Respectfully,

From: █████████████████████████
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 2:22 PM
To: █████████████████████████
Subject: How We Vote

I am writing to say that I endorse FVC-BC's submission, with some caveats:
* Item 7 - A robust public education campaign. I would add that it is critical to the success of the referendum that British Columbians be informed via a variety of media, about the referendum, well in advance.

* item 10 - Allowance for each group to raise funds from individuals to a maximum of $1200. The $1200 seems excessive to me. I would reduce that to $500.

I would also ask that very little weight be applied to the survey. You have no doubt received concerns regarding many of the questions. I have a further concern regarding access. Because only one response is allowed per IP address, not all members from a household with more than one voter are able complete the survey. This also applies to public access at libraries and such. On the other side of that is the ability to easily hack this problem, just by deleting a 'cookie'. Therefore the results from the survey aren't particularly credible.

Thank you for this opportunity to voice my concerns.

Sincerely,
████████████

████████████████████████

Submission to the BC Public Consultations
for a
Referendum on Proportional Representation

28 February 2018

Electoral System Background: Philosophy

Considerable efforts have been expended, both provincially and federally, to assess the public's opinions and preferences regarding the way we Canadians and British Columbians elect our government representatives. These efforts have included academics researching the intersection of our culture and ballot box alternatives, and consequently proposing voting systems that are uniquely suited to our preferences. Citizen groups have coalesced around a need to educate colleagues, neighbors, and others; and to debate those with differing perspectives. The diversity of interested parties stretches from high school students who have never voted to mature individuals who may very well remember the change in our voting in British Columbia in the early 1950's. In the context of previous incarnations of our provincial voting system, the current referendum is an opportunity for another step in the evolution of democracy.

Analysis of the results of a recent, local, private survey of 2000+ participants indicates that the concepts of 'local representation' and 'accountability' are prime factors for the people of British Columbia when considering the evolution of our Provincial voting system. Building upon the information gained by this survey, and gained by the research and modelling by academics, this author has produced an example of a regional grouping of provincial ridings: 87 riding grouped into 15 regions. This example of a regional grouping of 4-7 ridings can be employed by multiple alternate voting systems. The regional groupings are detailed in an Appendix on page 5. Potential systems, in which it can be employed, are listed in the subsequent section title <u>Question Options: Choices of Systems for the Referendum</u>.

Question Structure

A critical analysis of recent and relevant information, including the results of a private survey of 2000+ participants, indicates that maximum fairness and minimum bias will be achieved by presenting a Two-Part Question in the Referendum on Proportional Representation.

The first part of the Two-Part Question is a single question with two choices.

> State your general preference by selecting one option:
> [ ] British Columbia should use a proportional voting system
> [ ] British Columbia should use a single member plurality voting system

Refraining from referencing the existing voting system as 'the current system,' removes the incumbent bias (bias in favour of the status quo). Refraining from referencing the existing voting system by the moniker: 'first past the post' removes bias against the current system due to an unfavourable caricature.

Both choices are on a comparable foundation because they both use neutral, descriptive language. Both use the phrase 'voting system,' and both use descriptor(s) for that same phrase. Both use words with commonly understood meanings; except for possibly two words (one in each choice): 'proportional' and 'plurality.' Brief definitions of these two terms can supplement this first part of the Two-Part Question.

The second part of the Two-Part Question consists of a list of proportional options.

> State your specific preference for a proportional voting system:
> [ ] Proportional Representation Option #1
> [ ] Proportional Representation Option #2
> [ ] Proportional Representation Option #3
> [ ] Proportional Representation Option #4

The current system is not listed in the second part of the Two-Part Question because it is already listed in the first part. Listing every option only once is a fair and unbiased presentation of options.

Allowing every one to participate in the second part is fair, regardless of their selection in the first part, because all voices are then heard. Restricted participation in the second part is biased because it could provide an undue incentive for selecting the 'proportional voting system' choice in the first part. Therefore potential bias is removed by allowing unrestricted participation in the second part of the Two-Part Question.

Question Options: Choices of Systems for the Referendum

Four voting systems are identified and individually described. They each meet the requirement of possessing the features of 'local' and 'accountability.' Two are 'Top-Up' systems. One is a 'Multi-Member' system, and the fourth is a hybrid of 'Top-Up' and 'Multi-Member.'

The FIRST proposed system is a Regional Top-Up system where the top-up representatives are <u>selected by the voters</u>. The Top-Up individuals are the 2nd place finishers in their respective riding, and who are members of the Party that receives the most votes in the Local Regional Party List, which is given in a parallel list on the same ballot. The regional feature is created by using a grouping such as is found in

the Appendix. The purpose of the regional grouping is to apply the features of 'local' and 'accountability' to a list of representatives who are not bound to a specific riding.

> [ ] Local Regional Top-Up, Voter-Selected 2nd Place Finisher

Although this option proposes a ballot which contains a list of party names, the phrase 'Party List' is **not** used because that phrase is sufficiently well-known to the extent that it's use creates bias. Neutral language is used to describe the system, and this wording eliminates this bias. The Question contains a neutral, and unbiased, description using ordinary definitions of common words.

This choice of terminology for the option title is preferred because this terminology is unbiased, and is in contrast to the procedure of using a well-known name (which carries bias) accompanied by a separate description, which is systematically deemphasized by the referendum voter resulting in the aforementioned incidental bias.

The SECOND proposed system is a Regional Top-Up system where the top-up representatives are <u>selected by the voters</u>. Top-Up candidates are listed in a parallel list on the same ballot. The Top-Up individuals are the winners of a parallel tally on this same ballot. The regional feature is created by using a grouping such as is found in the Appendix. The purpose of the regional grouping is the same as in the first option.

> [ ] Local Regional Top-Up, Voter-Selected Parallel Tally Winner

This option uses a description in the title rather than the term 'Open List' for the same reasons that the first option uses a description.

The THIRD proposed system is a Multi-Member system that groups ridings into regions for the purpose of applying the features of 'local' and 'accountability' to a system where the elected representatives have accountabilities to citizens outside of the representative's 'home' riding. This option significantly increases voter choice while applying the features of 'local' and 'accountability.'

> [ ] Local Regional Multi-Member

This option is an amalgamation of three voting systems: single member plurality, alternative vote, and single transferable vote. The amalgamation, or versatility of this system, permits the voter to use this option, at the poll, as if it were any of these three systems. All of the four to seven elected representatives in a region are accountable to every voter in the region.

The FOURTH option is a combination of one of the Local Regional Top-Up systems and the Local Regional Multi-Member system. The former is used where the geography is sparsely populated, and the latter is used in more heavily populated areas. This distinction results in a system where

- Top-Up ballots are used in regions in the Interior and in the North
- Multi-Member ballots are used in Metro Vancouver and on Vancouver Island

> [ ] Geographically Distinct Combination of
>   Top-Up and Multi-Member ballots

Thus, the second part of the Two-Part Question becomes:

> State your specific preference for a proportional voting system:
> [ ] Local Regional Top-Up, Voter-Selected 2nd Place Finisher
> [ ] Local Regional Top-Up, Voter-Selected Parallel Tally Winner
> [ ] Local Regional Multi-Member
> [ ] Geographically Distinct Combination of
>   Top-Up and Multi-Member ballots

Summary
- Having only a single general question squelches the voter's voice.
- Having a two-part question increases the voter's voice.
- The current system, single member plurality, only occurs in the first question because to include it in the second question introduces 'multiple occurrence' bias.
- The primary features are 'local representation' and 'accountability.'
- Making the second Question available to the referendum voter regardless of the voter's answer to the first question removes bias in answering the first question.
- Use descriptions in the title of the options in the referendum questions.
- Use descriptions that are composed of common words with everyday meanings.
- Avoid using monikers such as 'First Past The Post', 'Made-in-BC,' 'Open List,' and 'Closed List' because their use creates 'reaction' bias.
- Systemic bias occurs when jargon is used in the question and then accompanied with descriptions because the reader/voter deemphasizes the descriptions and 'reacts' to the jargon contained in the question.

Appendix:
An example of a regional grouping of ridings that could be used in a few different systems choices to be presented on the Referendum on Proportional Representation
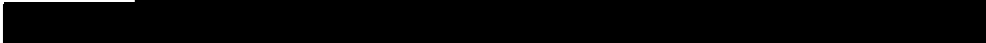
Region	Riding	Region	Riding
Eastern Mainland (5)	Abbotsford Mission	Richmond (4)	Richmond-North Centre
	Abbotsford South		Richmond-Queensborough
	Abbotsford West		Richmond South Centre
	Chilliwack		Richmond-Steveston
	Chilliwack Kent	Surrey (7)	Surrey-Cloverdale
Mountain Valley (7)	Fraser-Nicola		Surrey-Fleetwood
	Kamloops-North Thompson		Surrey-Green Timbers
	Kamloops-South Thompson		Surrey-Guildford
	Kelowna-Lake Country		Surrey-Newton
	Kelowna-Mission		Surrey-Panorama
	Kelowna-West		Surrey-Walley
	Penticton	South Vancouver (6)	Vancouver-Fairview
Western North Rockies (6)	Nechako Lakes		Vancouver-False Creek
	Stikine		Vancouver-Langara
	North Coast		Vancouver-Point Grey
	Skeena		Vancouver-Quilchena
	Cariboo-Chilcotin		Vancouver-West End
	Cariboo North	Burnaby (5)	Burnaby-Deer Lake
Coastal Mountain Foothills (5)	North Vancouver-Lonsdale		Burnaby-Edmonds
	North Vancouver-Seymour		Burnaby-Loughheed
	West Vancouver-Capilano		Burnaby North
	West Vancouver-Sea to Sky		New Westminster
	Powell River-Sunshine Coast	East Vancouver (5)	Vancouver-Fraserview
Eastern North Rockies (5)	Peace River North		Vancouver-Hastings
	Peace River South		Vancouver-Kensington
	Prince George-Mackenzie		Vancouver-Kingway
	Prince George-Valemount		Vancouver-Mount Pleasant
Southern Rockies (7)	Boundary-Similkameen	Coast Mountain Valley (6)	Coquitlam-Burke Mountain
	Shuwap		Coquitlam-Maillardville
	Vernon-Monshee		Maple Ridge-Mission
	Columbia River-Revelstoke		Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows
	Kootenay East		Port Coquitlam
	Kootenay West		Port Moody-Coquitlam
	Nelson-Creston		

Region	Riding
Western Mainland (6)	Delta North
	Delta South
	Langley
	Langley East
	Surrey South
	Surrey-White Rock
Upper Vancouver Island (7)	Courtney-Comox
	Mid Island-Pacific Rim
	North Island
	Cowichan Valley
	Nanaimo
	Nanaimo-North Cowichan
	Parksville-Qualicum
Capital Region (7)	Esquilamt-Metchosin
	Langford-Juan de Fuca
	Oak Bay-Gordon Head
	Saanich North and the Islands
	Saanich South
	Victoria-Beacon Hill
	Victoria-Swan Lake

February 28, 2018

Dear How We Vote:

My name is ██ I wanted
to take this opportunity to provide my input on the electoral reform process underway in British
Columbia.

I will keep my comments brief. I support a number of the points from other submissions, namely:

- There should be a two-stage ballot, with the first question a Yes/No regarding changing the
  current system, and second a list of possible alternative options, with the opportunity for
  everyone – even those who do not support change – to have a say on the alternative system
- Stage two should have a choice from amongst multiple, thoughtfully chosen PR options
  (more on this below)
- There should be financial regulations around campaign spending
- The threshold for success should be a simple 50% +1 vote, the same as referenda on every
  other issue that has ever been brought forward to British Columbians

In addition, and most importantly, I feel that the list of alternative voting systems offered on the
ballot should **not** be the ones currently on the How We Vote website. I believe the options presented
on the ballot should be able to meet a few key criteria that the previous referenda and general public
sentiment make clear are important to British Columbians, namely a system that is:

- Clear and simple
- Fair and transparent, and
- Preserves a reasonable degree of regional representation

With these criteria in mind, I would argue against any option being offered that involves an overly
complex ballot, a closed list of candidates chosen by parties, or a single (or very small number) of
voting districts. For me, the system that avoids these pitfalls and meets all the key criteria in a
balanced manner is a Dual Member Proportional or DMP system. This system also has the significant
added benefit of having been designed by a Canadian – a true made-in-Canada system for the 21st
Century (and one that was well-received in the recent vote in PEI). I therefore sincerely hope that
this option will be on the table for this referendum.

Sincerely,

████████████

From: ███████████████████████

Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2018 9:33 AM

To: ███████████████████████

Subject: How We Vote

First, I am a supporter of a change to a Proportional Representation system in BC. I have spent some time looking at the various systems used in PR countries and have come to the conclusion that what system we chose, if we indeed do chose to change, should be made by nonpartisan experts rather than the general public. It is compiles and needs people who have studied it from all angles. I do think it is important that whatever is chosen reflects the needs of both the small in size urban ridings as well as the needs of the large rural ridings. The Urban/Rural Proportional suggested by Fair Vote Canada looks good to me, an amateur. Some sort of hybrid designed to meet BC's issues probably needs to be developed. Perhaps a country like Norway which is relatively large, has big under populated areas as well as heavily populated urban areas could supply the expertise needed to best make those decisions. ███████████████████

From: ███████████████████████████

Sent: Sunday, February 25, 2018 7:28 AM

To: ██████████████████

Subject: How We Vote

To whomever created the survey:

I would like to know why the four particular types of Proportional Representation were chosen? Why would they be considered when two of the four don't represent the values of British Columbians; values such as regional representation, local representation and maximum voter choice?

I await your reply.

████████████████

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From:

Sent: Sunday, February 25, 2018 6:57 PM

To:

Subject: How We Vote

I offer the following comments regarding the upcoming referendum on British Columbia's voting system:

I feel that a vote of 50 % +1 is not sufficient to enact change. This is an extremely important issue and should require a very clear and resounding majority vote before a change in the voting system is undertaken.

The referendum questions/choices must be clear, few, and easy to understand.

Regardless of which voting system the British Columbia voters select, I would like to see fewer MLAs in government, not more.

From:

Sent: Sunday, February 25, 2018 9:10 PM

To:

Subject: how we vote

It would be helpful if we had a breakdown of the last election if a proportional system was used, ie how many MLA from each party would be elected by the percent votes for the ridings, and how the districts would be established , ie lower mainland – 15,, Vancouver island – 10 okanagan -10 etc, or would number of seats be based on population of the districts that are drawn up.
I think this would help people have a better understanding of the options, the present info is pretty complex and lacks that type of description, regional variation and population sizes. Urban districts get more seats based on population, making rural areas less represented.

From: ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮

Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 1:59 PM

To: ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮

Subject: How we vote

Hello,

I looked at the other types of voting systems proposed beside FPTP by first reading them, then making a chart of them and I still can't really get a clear picture of how these would effect us here in B.C. and maybe across Canada. I then asked my friends and neighbours what they thought. They had all briefly looked at it, and either threw it out or ignored it, maybe because it was too complex with too little information on the proposals. This is a big deal and should not be taken lightly.

For me, there were several red flags. One, is that this appears to increase government as if we need to be governed more because the average citizen needs to be governed and cannot be trusted. Never mind that the 'government' is just other people with power and don't particularly exhibit skills of representation for all the other citizens. I don't see skilled communicators, negotiators, good listening system emphasized to be able to speak for 6,000,000 in province and 35,000,000 in the country.

2. Trust has been sooooo badly broken by our federal system, that we can have such an inept prime minister and not be able to call him to task, borders so much on totally broken, archaic, dictatorial system, that I have little faith in benefits of a government on many levels including provincial level. So, to me, FPTP system is almost alarming at this point in our history. Thank you for starting the talks on the alternatives. It shows no qualifications to be in charge, just a popularity contest. Thank you for starting the talks on the alternatives. It doesn't appear that individual constituents matter, or provinces either. The recent pipeline issue is an example. People living on the coast in and around the 3rd largest city in Canada don't want even the possibility of a tampering with their environment (and the huge increase in tanker traffic also). A lot have spoken thus. Yet, this whole government system, who are suppose to serve the people, become the enemy, possibly imposing " Alberta's" will on them and the Prime Minister gets involved in this too! This isn't suppose to be a dynasty!. I am proud of the BC premier and Green party leader, who I'm assuming has the backing of the MLA's. How come it has to come to this point of power struggles? Power struggles don't appear to be for the good of the people, but for artificial monetary gains. How do any of the proposed voting systems go back to individual rights and freedoms, peace, informed choices rather than adversary power mongering?

3. It looks like this is going to take a huge amount of energy to put any of these alternatives into practice and it is premature time to do so. Is this a bandaid solution for an industrial age of the past? Apparently, we are in a technological age- requiring a lot more study of possibilities reflecting citizens needs of today and the future - a holistic approach. Have you looked into new systems such as anarchism as seen in Norway (54%) or Iceland (52%) where Norway is seen as a most peaceful country around and Iceland pulled itself out of financial disaster within a short period of time? Maybe it's time for a Grass Roots Think Tank movement to discuss where 'we' want to go in the future.

4. Can there be a more engaging process to involve a greater variety of citizens? Wouldn't it be beneficial to have broader scope and understanding of democratic alternatives? Maybe if we had more community presentations, there would be greater involvement in something so important in BC and Canada's future, instead of throwing the notices of Proportional Representation out because we don't understand what is the rationale behind How We Vote means.

Hoping to hear from you on these thought .

Sincerely yours,

▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮

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From: ██████████████

Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 10:00 AM

To: ██████████████

Subject: How We Vote

Hi,

I recently took your questionnaire on How We Vote but I would like to mention something else that I feel strongly about. Once MLAs (and MPs etc the world over) are appointed, the ruling Government usually tells its supporters how to vote via a whips office or similar. I think that this is totally unacceptable and that every vote should be completely free. If I have selected my representative on the basis of their opinions on specific matters, how dare the Government tell them how to vote? If the Government cannot convince MLAs purely by the strength of its case, then it should lose the debate and the measure should fail. The corollary of this must be that if the Government loses such a vote, that is all that should happen and its status as a government should not be called into question. This would be democracy in action and would mean that citizens would have real influence on the process of government, via their MLA. This would rekindle their interest in the political system and I'm sure that voting turnout would increase dramatically. At the moment, many people feel that whoever they vote for, the same group of vested interests will still be in charge, just through a different bunch of nest-featherers, so there is no point in voting at all. In addition, the Legislative Assembly should be in almost permanent session, apart from short holidays and the then Government should have no say in when this is. There should be strict limits on the measures that a Government should be able to take without putting the matter before the Assembly, which should have ultimate authority. I also want to see the end of omnibus bills; everything should be properly debated before becoming law. Better a slow bill than a bad one.

I am convinced that some form of PR would be a great improvement on the present system, both as regards the selection of representatives and the ratios of parties in the Assembly and will therefore increase the level of voter interest in the system. At the moment, many people feel that their views are never represented.

██ It does very nicely, thank-you, with no political parties at all!

I very much doubt if anyone will take any notice of this letter but at least I have submitted my point of view.

To anyone who takes the trouble to read this far, thank you very much & all the best!

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It ain't broke so don't try to fix it.

The difference between FTPT and a proportional system basically boils down to just two questions:

1. Do you as a voter prefer a Majority or a Minority/Coalition government?

2. Do you as a voter prefer MLAs to represent a constituency (i.e. local voters) or a political philosophy (i.e. a party).

Majority vs Minority/Coalition Government

The first election in BC in which candidates were affiliated with political parties was 1903. From 1903 to 2017, there have been 32 provincial elections in BC. Of those, the FPTP system resulted in 28 Majorities and 4 Minority/Coalitions. Using the votes as actually cast, a strictly proportional system would have resulted in 25 Minority/Coalitions and only 7 Majorities. That is an enormous swing with huge implications for how the province is governed. (See attached spreadsheets for analysis.)

A Majority government makes it perfectly clear which party is responsible for decisions and actions taken during its term. At the next provincial election, voters have a clear opportunity to reward or punish the governing party for the perceived results of those decisions and actions.

A Minority government typically makes the governing party more cognizant of the opinions of the non-governing parties. The non-governing parties have the option to punish the governing party for its decisions and actions by bringing down the government. Normally, this results in the issue being referred to the voters in a new election. To the best of my knowledge, 2017 is the only time in BC that the fall of a minority government resulted in a different party becoming government without an election.

A Coalition government is essentially a Minority with the addition of a formal agreement between one major party and one or more minor parties to form a joint government. Normally the minor members of the coalition are given at least one seat in Cabinet. This gives the minor party far more say in decisions and actions of the government than the minor parties in a Minority government. And generally more than their vote count would justify.

A Coalition has the illusion of stability since the non-governing parties are not likely to bring down the government on a whim. But it has the side effect of allowing the minor members to hold the major party to ransom. If they don't get their way, the minor party has the option to desert the Coalition, join with the Opposition and bring down the government. While it may be a noble objective to have minor opinions heard in government, it is quite a different thing for them to be able to force acceptance of their opinions.

Representation of Constituency vs Party

The concept that each MLA represents a specific local constituency creates a linkage between the individual MLA and the people s/he represents. The MLA has an office in the constituency where they and their staff can be contacted and consulted. Every constituent knows exactly who to turn to if they need help in dealing with the provincial government or agencies. Every MLA has a defined set of constituents that can be consulted when an opinion is needed. Candidates must raise a significant portion of their campaign funding from the constituents they represent.

FPTP allows the voters of a local constituency to elect the person they prefer to have represent their needs and desires in the Legislature. At each election, the voters have the opportunity to reward or punish an incumbent for how effectively those needs and desires were represented. This should make the candidates responsible to and beholden to the voters who elected them. Of course, this is a rather idealistic view. Most candidates receive funding and support from their party. So they have divided loyalty in being beholden both to their constituents and to their party. But the candidate knows that s/he will have to face the same constituency at the next election. Strategic voting may cause a voter to vote against one candidate more so than for the chosen candidate. But the constituent knows who was elected to represent that local constituency.

Concepts of Proportional Representation are aimed at ensuring that political parties receive representation in the legislature commensurate with the total popular vote received province-wide. List candidates are elected exclusively or predominantly on the party they belong to rather than which voters actually voted for them. This often means that small parties will receive more representatives under proportional systems. However, they will still not form government. So while more opinions will be expressed in debate, they will not necessarily be represented in legislation passed unless the minor party forms a coalition as discussed above. Depending on the system, proportionate representatives may be entirely beholden to their party with no direct connection to any local voting constituency. Where does an MLA have their office? Who does a voter go to if they want to confer with an MLA? Who decides which names will be on "the List"?

One particularly bizarre potential consequence is the minor parties forming a coalition to take control from the major parties. This situation would actually have occurred in the 1924 BC election under proportional representation. (See attached spreadsheets.) Based on percentage of popular vote, PR would have given the Provincial Party 12 seats and the Canadian Labour Party 5 seats. They could have formed a coalition that could override either the Liberal Party (15 seats) or the Conservative Party (14 seats). In Parliamentary tradition, the party that wins the most seats should form government. If they are unable to do so (e.g. BC 2017) then the party with the second most seats is given a chance. In 1924, under proportional representation, the third and fourth place parties could have formed a coalition and the government.

Other Considerations

Simplicity

Simplicity is critical in two areas of a voting system 1) the voter understanding how to vote and 2) accurate counting of the ballots.

1) One of the beauties of the Canadian system of voting is that the voter makes one X beside the name of the one candidate s/he prefers. Any system that requires multiple votes or preferential voting is less easily understood and will cause confusion in the minds of some voters. The one X system seems like the ultimate in simplicity but even that can be confusing. I once worked as a pole captain in a riding where two candidates had the same last name. One candidate was popular and well known but his name was listed after a little known candidate. it was clear from the results that the little known candidate had received more votes than expected and the well known candidate less. If some voters can be confused by our current system, any additional complication should be avoided.

2) In two of the BC elections I have worked, we have been kept at the polling place past midnight because one of the poles was unable to reconcile its vote count. The procedure is simple and clearly documented. A form is provided where required information is recorded. All pole captains and pole clerks receive paid training on how to count and reconcile ballots. But even at that, some people cannot get it right. Additional complication, such as calculating proportions of votes, reallocating votes, recounting ballots for second choices, etc will require an electronic counting system. That is a large expense that is not justified by BC election requirements. And electronic systems do the counting inside mysterious black boxes that people trust just because they are computers. Having spent over 40 years in the software industry, I can tell you computers are not infallible and would be easier to tamper with than our current manual counting system.

Provincial Proportionality

Small parties can have two kinds of appeal 1) wide and shallow or 2) narrow and deep.

1) The Green Party is an example of wide and shallow appeal. In 2001, 2005 and 2009 the Green Party received 8 - 12% of all votes province-wide but did not have enough support in any riding to elect a candidate. Because proportionality is based on provincial (or large regions) votes, it specifically favors small parties with wide but shallow support.

2) Interestingly, the Green Party is also an example of narrow and shallow support. The Greens received a lower percentage vote total in 2013 than in 2009 but because of the deep support for Elizabeth May in her riding, the party finally elected an MLA. Independent candidates run in only one riding so they automatically require narrow support. If an independent candidate requires a percentage of the provincial vote, none

can ever be elected. There have also been examples of political parties that had one popular candidate who got elected but which did not have province-wide support. A specific example of this is Labour who elected an MLA in 1928, 1945, 1949,1952,1953 and 1956 despite receiving less than 0.5% of the provincial votes.

Threshold

The Engage website discusses a threshold (perhaps 2% or 5%) before a party would be allocated any proportional seats. The objective being to prevent the legislature from being full of tiny splinter parties. The issue of a threshold is especially critical in regard to narrow and deep support discussed above. There have been MLAs elected in BC where the party they represent received less than 2% of the province-wide vote. These individuals (and virtually all independents) would be eliminated by a threshold of even 2%. Interestingly, a threshold of 5% would have eliminated almost no more actual FPTP winners than a 2% threshold. (See spreadsheets below.)

My Opinion, FWIW

I strongly prefer a system where the individual MLA is more answerable to the constituency that elected them than to the party the belong to. Party lists violate this principle.

I prefer a system that maintains a relationship between individual voters and an individual MLA. This requires one member ridings with each MLA representing a riding first and a party second.

I prefer a system where a minor party is only given a formal part in government after the major parties are unable to form government. BC was in this situation after the 2017 election.

I prefer a system that is easy to understand both by the voters and the people who have to administer the voting and count the votes. Single X ballots meet this requirement without possibilities like "hanging chad".

Our current electoral system meets all these requirements beautifully. So please don't try to fix what isn't broken.

Parties That Won Seats in Multiple Elections

	Totals	Average	2017	2013	2009	2005	2001	1996	1991	1986	1983	1979	1975	1972	1969	1966	1963	1960
Total Seats	1817	56.8	87	85	85	79	79	75	75	69	57	57	55	55	55	55	52	52
Liberal																		
Actual Seats	566	20.2	43	49	49	46	77	33	17	0	0		1	5	5	6	5	4
Percentage of Vote		30.88%	40.36%	44.14%	45.82%	45.80%	57.62%	41.82%	33.25%	6.74%	2.69%		7.24%	16.40%	19.03%	20.24%	19.98%	20.90%
Proportional Seats	532	18.3	35	38	39	36	46	31	25	5	2		4	9	10	11	10	11
Net Change	-34	-1.2	-8	-11	-10	-10	-31	-2	8	5	2		3	4	5	5	5	7
NDP/CCF																		
Actual Seats	506	21.1	41	34	35	33	2	39	51	22	22	26	18	38	12	16	14	16
Percentage of Vote		35.85%	40.28%	39.71%	42.15%	41.52%	21.56%	39.45%	40.71%	42.60%	44.94%	45.99%	39.16%	39.59%	33.92%	33.62%	27.80%	32.73%
Proportional Seats	533	22.2	35	34	36	33	17	30	31	29	26	26	22	22	19	18	14	17
Net Change	27	1.1	-6	0	1	0	15	-9	-20	7	4	0	4	-16	7	2	0	1
Green																		
Actual Seats	4	0.6	3	1	0	0	0	0	0									
Percentage of Vote		8.23%	16.84%	8.13%	8.21%	9.18%	12.39%	1.99%	0.86%									
Proportional Seats	48	6.9	15	7	7	7	10	1	1									
Net Change	44	6.3	12	6	7	7	10	1	1									
Social Credit																		
Actual Seats	387	24.2							7	47	35	31	35	10	38	33	33	32
Percentage of Vote		34.14%							24.05%	49.32%	49.76%	48.23%	49.25%	31.16%	46.79%	45.59%	40.83%	38.83%
Proportional Seats	305	19.1							18	34	28	27	27	17	26	25	21	20
Net Change	-82	-5.1							11	-13	-7	-4	-8	7	-12	-8	-12	-12
Conservative																		
Actual Seats	229	10.0	0	0	0	0					0	0	1	2			0	0
Percentage of Vote		21.34%	0.53%	4.76%	2.10%	0.55%					1.16%	5.06%	3.86%	12.67%			11.27%	6.72%
Proportional Seats	229	10.0	0	4	2	0					1	3	2	7			6	3
Net Change	0	0.0	0	4	2	0					1	3	1	5			6	3
Labour																		
Actual Seats	10	0.9																
Percentage of Vote		3.23%																
Proportional Seats	7	0.7																
Net Change	-3	-0.3																
Coalition (Lib. & PC)																		
Actual Seats	76	38.0																
Percentage of Vote		58.59%																
Proportional Seats	56	28.0																
Net Change	-20	-10.0																
Socialist																		
Actual Seats	8	1.1																
Percentage of Vote		6.48%																
Proportional Seats	21	3.0																
Net Change	13	1.9																
Independents																		
Actual Seats	10	1.4		1	1													
Percentage of Vote		2.33%	1.06%	2.36%	1.05%	1.00%	0.92%	0.64%	0.70%									
Proportional Seats	20	1.3	1	2	1	1	1	0	1									
Net Change	10	0.6	1	1	0	1	1	0	1									

	Totals	Average	1956	1953	1952	1949	1945	1941	1937	1933	1928	1924	1920	1916	1912	1909	1907	1903
Total Seats	1817	56.8	52	48	48	48	48	48	48	47	48	48	47	47	42	42	42	42
Liberal																		
Actual Seats	566	20.2	2	4	6			21	31	34	12	23	25	36		2	13	17
Percentage of Vote		30.88%	21.77%	23.36%	23.46%			32.94%	37.34%	41.74%	40.04%	31.34%	37.89%	50.00%	25.37%	33.21%	37.15%	37.78%
Proportional Seats	532	18.3	11	11	11			16	18	20	19	15	18	24	11	14	16	16
Net Change	-34	-1.2	9	7	5			-5	-13	-14	7	-8	-7	-12	11	12	3	-1
NDP/CCF																		
Actual Seats	506	21.1	10	14	18	7	10	14	7	7								
Percentage of Vote		35.85%	28.32%	29.48%	30.78%	35.10%	37.62%	33.36%	28.57%	31.53%								
Proportional Seats	533	22.2	15	14	15	17	18	16	14	15								
Net Change	27	1.1	5	0	-3	10	8	2	7	8								
Green																		
Actual Seats	4	0.6																
Percentage of Vote		8.23%																
Proportional Seats	48	6.9																
Net Change	44	6.3																
Social Credit																		
Actual Seats	387	24.2	39	28	19	0	0		0									
Percentage of Vote		34.14%	45.84%	45.54%	27.20%	1.21%	1.42%		1.15%									
Proportional Seats	305	19.1	24	22	13	1	1		1									
Net Change	-82	-5.1	-15	-6	-6	1	1		1									
Conservative																		
Actual Seats	229	10.0	0	1	4			12	8		35	17	15	9	39	38	26	22
Percentage of Vote		21.34%	3.11%	1.11%	16.84%			30.91%	28.60%		53.30%	29.45%	31.20%	40.52%	59.65%	52.33%	48.70%	46.43%
Proportional Seats	229	10.0	2	1	8			15	14		26	14	15	19	25	22	20	20
Net Change	0	0.0	2	0	4			3	6		-9	-3	0	10	-14	-16	-6	-2
Labour																		
Actual Seats	10	0.9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			0				1
Percentage of Vote		3.23%						1.57%		0.62%	4.95%		1.66%					7.36%
Proportional Seats	7	0.7	0	0	0	0	0	1		0	2		1					3
Net Change	-3	-0.3	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	0	-1	-1	1		1					2
Coalition (Lib. & PC)																		
Actual Seats	76	38.0				39	37											
Percentage of Vote		58.59%				61.35%	55.83%											
Proportional Seats	56	28.0				29	27											
Net Change	-20	-10.0				-10	-10											
Socialist																		
Actual Seats	8	1.1										0	0	0	1	2	3	2
Percentage of Vote		6.48%										1.26%	3.50%	1.17%	11.08%	11.50%	8.87%	7.96%
Proportional Seats	21	3.0										1	2	1	5	5	4	3
Net Change	13	1.9										1	2	1	4	3	1	1
Independents																		
Actual Seats	10	1.4				1			1	2			3	1				
Percentage of Vote		2.33%				0.74%		1.76%	7.74%	1.01%	0.73%	10.37%	2.74%	1.79%	2.59%			
Proportional Seats	20	1.3				0			1	4	0	0	5	1	1	1		
Net Change	10	0.6				-1			0	2	0	0	2	0	1	1		

	Total Seats	Average Seats	Elections Seated	2017	2013	2009	2005	2001	1996	1991	1986	1983	1979	1975	1972	1969	1966	1963	1960
Total Seats	1817	56.8	32	87	85	85	79	79	75	75	69	57	57	55	55	55	55	52	52
Seats Proportioned	1809			86	85	85	79	80	73	76	68	57	56	55	55	55	54	51	51
Seats to be apportioned	8	0.3		1	0	0	0	-1	2	-1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
Seats for Majority				44	43	43	40	40	38	38	35	29	29	28	28	28	28	27	27
Greatest Proportional Seats				35	38	39	36	46	31	31	34	28	27	27	22	26	25	21	20
Minority Government			25	yes	yes	yes	yes		yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Liberal	532	18.3	29	35	38	39	36	46	31	25	5	2		4	9	10	11	10	11
NDP / CCF	533	22.2	24	35	34	36	33	17	30	31	29	26	26	22	22	19	18	14	17
Green	48	6.9	7	15	7	7	7	10	1	1									
Social Credit	305	19.1	16							18	34	28	27	27	17	26	25	21	20
Conservative	229	10.0	21	0	4	2	0					1	3	2	7			6	3
Labour	7	1.4	4																
Coalition (Lib. & PC)	56	28.0	2																
Socialist	21	3.0	7																
Independent	20	1.3	12	1	2	1	1	1	0	1									
One Election Wonders	0		0																
Reform	7	7.0	1						7										
Progressive Democrat	4	4.0	1						4										
Non-Partisan Ind. Group	5	5.0	1																
Unionist	2	2.0	1																
Provincial	12	12.0	1																
Canadian Labour	7	3.5	2																
Independent Liberal	0	0.0	0																
Federated Labour	4	4.0	1																
People's CCF	0	0.0	0																
Independent Socialist	0	0.0	0																
Independent Conservative	3	0.8	3																
Social Democrat	0	0.0	0																
Splinter Parties	0		0																
Soldier-Farmer/Soldier Labour	1	1.0	1																
Grand Army of United Veterans	1	1.0	1																
United Farmers	0	0.0	0																
United Front Party	1	1.0	1																
Ind. Co-Op Commonwealth	0	0.0	0																
Social Constructive	1	1.0	1																
Labour Progressive	2	2.0	1																
Christian Democrat	0	0.0	0																
Communist	0	0.0	0																0
Western Canada Concept	0	0.0	0										0						
Unity	3	3.0	1					3											
Marijuana	4	2.0	2				1	3											
Democratic Reform	1	1.0	1					1											
Sum parties < 0.5%	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Minority Government:
- White box indicates FPTP Majority would remain Proportional Majority.
- Grey box indicates FPTP Minority would remain Proportional Minority.
- Green box indicates that Plurality party WOULD achieve Majority if unapportioned seats distributed by percentage of popular vote.
- Yellow box indicates that Plurality party COULD achieve Majority depending on how the unapportioned seats were apportioned.
- Red box indicates proportional representation would change an FPTP Majority to a Proportional Minority.

	Total Seats	Average Seats	Elections Seated	1956	1953	1952	1949	1945	1941	1937	1933	1928	1924	1920	1916	1912	1909	1907	1903
Total Seats	1817	56.8	32	52	48	48	48	48	48	48	47	48	48	47	47	42	42	42	42
Seats Proportioned	1809			52	48	47	47	48	48	49	48	47	47	46	47	43	42	42	42
Seats to be apporitoned	8	0.3		0	0	1	1	0	0	-1	-1	1	1	1	0	-1	0	0	0
Seats for Majority				27	25	25	25	25	25	25	24	25	25	24	24	22	22	22	22
Greatest Proportional Seats				24	22	15	29	27	16	18	20	26	15	18	24	25	22	20	20
Minority Government			25	yes	yes	yes			yes	yes	yes		yes	yes				yes	yes
Liberal	532	18.3	29	11	11	11			16	18	20	19	15	18	24	11	14	16	16
NDP / CCF	533	22.2	24	15	14	15	17	18	16	14	15								
Green	48	6.9	7																
Social Credit	305	19.1	16	24	22	13	1	1		1									
Conservative	229	10.0	21	2	1	8			15	14		26	14	15	19	25	22	20	20
Labour	7	1.4	4						1		0	2			1				3
Coalition (Lib. & PC)	56	28.0	2				29	27											
Socialist	21	3.0	7										1	2	1	5	5	4	3
Independent	20	1.3	12					0		1	4	0	0	5	1	1	1		
One Election Wonders	0		0																
Reform	7	7.0	1																
Progressive Democrat	4	4.0	1																
Non-Partisan Ind. Group	5	5.0	1							5									
Unionist	2	2.0	1							2									
Provincial	12	12.0	1										12						
Canadian Labour	7	3.5	2										5					2	
Independent Liberal	0	0.0	0										0	0	0			0	
Federated Labour	4	4.0	1											4					
People's CCF	0	0.0	0					0											
Independent Socialist	0	0.0	0												0				
Independent Conservative	3	0.8	3								1		0		1	1			
Social Democrat	0	0.0	0												0	0			
Splinter Parties	0		0																
Soldier-Farmer/Soldier Labour	1	1.0	1											1					
Grand Army of United Veterans	1	1.0	1											1					
United Farmers	0	0.0	0											0					
United Front Party	1	1.0	1								1								
Ind. Co-Op Commonwealth	0	0.0	0								0								
Social Constructive	1	1.0	1							1									
Labour Progressive	2	2.0	1					2											
Christian Democrat	0	0.0	0				0												
Communist	0	0.0	0																
Western Canada Concept	0	0.0	0																
Unity	3	3.0	1																
Marijuana	4	2.0	2																
Democratic Reform	1	1.0	1																
Sum parties < 0.5%	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0

From:

Sent: \text{Tuesday, February 27, 2018 3:44 PM}

To:

Subject: Fwd: Proportional Representation

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:**
> **Date:** February 4, 2018 at 1:44:40 PM PST
> **To:**
>
> **Subject: Proportional Representation**
>
> There's no doubt, that most people, whether you live in Hope, Merritt, Ashcroft/Cache Creek, Lillooet or abroad, that you've have been hearing a lot about Proportional Representation(PR), in regards to changing our electoral system.
> There will be a referendum ballot on this topic during the upcoming civic elections in November of this year. So what is PR, and why do we need to change our electoral system, you may ask?
> For those of you who may not be aware, our current electoral system is referred to as First Past The Post(FPTP). FPTP is a very simple voting system, where candidates, whether Party supported or Independent, run against each other, the candidate with the most votes, wins the Riding, and controls all the power and decision making, regardless of the fact that the total votes they received may be, and usually is less than 50% of the popular vote.
> This generally causes false majority governments, where one Party, though having less than 50% of the vote, has all of the power, and all of the government decision making.
> In the last Federal election the Liberals won 100% of the power with 39% of the vote. While the 61% of the electorate that never voted for them receive no representation whatsoever.
> In PR not only are candidates elected using FPTP, but the final amount of seats determined is by the overall popular vote. So, if a Party receives 39% of the vote, they control 39% of the seats in the Legislative Assembly.
> We believe this is a much fairer way of distributing power throughout the constituencies, and eliminates confrontational partisan politics, as it forces governments to operate in a more consensual manner.
> Most democracies throughout the world today, are represented proportionally, including many Westminster democracies, such as ours.
> North America being one of the last strongholds for FPTP, where long established political parties are reluctant to give away their control of power.
> The proponents who advocate for keeping our traditional electoral system, have begun a negative campaign strategy, which includes many false claims and misinformation.
> Some of this misinformation includes:
> I.) Rural communities will be under represented. This is untrue, every Party in every region will be represented by its vote.
> ii.) PR is too complicated. Not true, every constituent will have one vote as they do now and will

elect a candidate using FPTP. The proportionally elected candidates will be from open lists of candidates with the highest vote percentages that were not elected in the FPTP round.

iii.) Fringe and radical parties could win seats in government. Not true, most PR systems have a threshold amount of votes a political party must receive before they're eligible, usually around 5%.

iv.) It will increase the size of government. Only marginally, depending on the number of top up seats required to make the Government proportional.

v.) Without a majority government, nothing will ever get done. Not true, Governments will have to work cooperatively, so a majority of MLA's across party lines must come to a consensus on policy that best represents the majority of voter's.

On the contrary, here are some of the advantages of a PR voting system, these include:

i.) Every vote counts and is represented. With a PR system, strategic voting is no longer necessary. Voter's will no longer have to hold their noses and vote for who they dislike the least. They can vote for the Party or candidate they think will serve them the best, and their vote will be represented, regardless of the outcome.

ii.) Voter participation will increase dramatically. Our current system of FPTP has led to increasingly high levels of voter apathy, as many constituents have given up voting as they believe their vote doesn't count. Their votes will count in a PR system, and their votes will be represented.

iii.) There will be no longer any wasted votes. Every vote will count as it adds to the overall percentage of party votes, which will determine the overall number of seats each party receives.

iv.) Parties of all stripes will be forced to work across party lines which will make Governments much more collaborative and lessen the power of special interest groups in determining government policy.

v.) Constituents will now have the opportunity to vote for the candidate who they believe would make the best representative for their Ridings, without fear of wasting their vote because that particular candidate doesn't belong to a projected winning party.

So these are some of the arguments, both pro and con, that constituents will be hearing over the coming months. We encourage you to listen and learn. There are many successful European democracies that are Proportionally Represented, and information on their voting systems is readily available.

For any of you who may be interested, the Fraser/Nicola Green Party Association is holding its inaugural meeting on Saturday, Feb. 10th, at the Silver Chalice Pub, from 1-3pm. Our strategy for promoting a PR system will be discussed, as we begin our plan to strategize for the upcoming referendum. Everyone welcome.
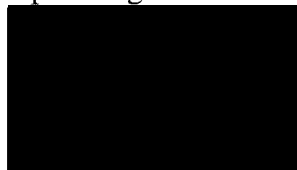
Changing the way we vote in BC

My research on proportional representation voting systems versus the first-past-the-post system we currently use in BC has left me nothing but confused and frustrated. Reading about some of the convoluted prop' rep' voting systems made my eyes glaze over.

Based on that feeling alone I would presently vote against any version of proportional representation as a voting system in BC.

"Too many cooks spoil the broth" seems applicable here. The more opportunity there is for the manipulation of a voter's true choice, I believe there is a very good chance that the people's voice in the selection of those who govern them can be unduly influenced, if not completely adulterated.

Having said that, we all know there are problems with our first-past-the-post system. When majorities are won the people are often left with a form of dictatorship in which the party with majority power in the house, in some cases, does not even need to recall the house for debate on issues. In this case the peoples' right to the checks and balances inherent in a true democracy simply disappear.

Furthermore, if a number of majorities are strung end to end by one party with one solid political ideology guiding their every waking hour, the needs of the people are often pushed to the back burner in favour of the ruling party winning another majority. It seems that a string of majorities allows a ruling party to forget that while politicians campaign for the next election, true states-persons campaign for the next generation.

Often when these long strings of majorities are finally broken, the new majority or minority party is left with a situation that blocks their ability to govern until the mess left to them is cleaned up. Sometimes that clean up is not even possible and the new majority or minority party has to continue on the same path set by the previous majority party that had been voted out because it stopped listening.

If a first-past-the-post vote results in a minority government, there is a tight-rope to be walked by the party forming government and their coalition partner who's house votes keep them in power. Before we turn to a form of proportional representation voting in BC, maybe we could just tweak the existing system so that a government in a minority situation could not fall so easily.

The way I see it, a minority government produced through the close result of a first-past-the-post election, is in itself a form of proportional representation. In such a minority situation, the sometimes fringe party holding the balance of power is having its needs met, and the people sometimes benefit from that.

In tweaking our existing system so that a minority government does not fall easily, does this not give the people a manageable and understandable version of proportional representation?

And finally, as the result of a first-past-the-post election, be it either a majority or minority government, we often find that the losing party wins the popular vote. So when such a result arises, what are the voters trying to say?

Perhaps a "made in BC" version of proportional representation involving a minority government of one ideology, some elements of the ideology of the fringe party who's house votes support the minority party in power, and some elements of the ideology of the defeated party that won the popular vote, could all be brought into the mix.

This highbred version of proportional representation would make our elected leaders more willing to listen to the true will of the people, instead of pursuing their own ideological agenda with an eye towards simply winning the next election.

Is it not time for the people of BC to get a government that will pursue a people's agenda for years to come, instead of an agenda simply aimed at getting a particular government elected next time around?

While there are many problems with our current first-past-the-post system, maybe we don't have to throw the baby out with the bath water, and jump into the deep end of proportional representation right away.

Other reasons that I will vote against any version of proportional representation voting in BC and in Canada are these.

First the right wing think tank, The Fraser Institute, does not support proportional representation, likely because it threatens the status quo, which has served the political parties they support greatly over the years.

Secondly the left wing parties like the BC Greens, the federal NDP, and at least some members of the federal Liberal Party are in favour of proportional representation. My concern here however, is that all of these parties are too willing and too ready to jump in at the deep end.

Every election, be it federal or provincial, Canadians are told how much our electoral process costs us as taxpayers. So here are some statistics that should for all of us be top of mind.

Here is how they do things politically in Italy. The upper house in the Italian political system is the Senate, which has equal legislative rights to the Chamber of Deputies. It has 315 members elected by all Italian citizens older than 25. 309 members are elected by a system of proportional representation, a system based upon party lists for the 20 regions of Italy.

And this from the Reuters News Agency shows how many elections under proportional representation Italians have had to endure since 1945.

FACTBOX: Italy votes for 62nd government since World War Two

Apr 13, 2008 - An early election was called when Romano Prodi resigned as prime minister in January, after the collapse of his centre-left coalition, which had been in power for just 20 months. - Only one Italian government has lasted a full five-year term in the last 50 years, led by conservative Silvio Berlusconi.

Compare Italy's federal election history under proportional representation to the election history of both Canada and the Province of British Columbia since 1945.

Canadian Federal Elections : 23
BC Provincial Elections : 21

Do Canadians anywhere in this country want to see three times the elections they would see under proportional representation, that they have seen under first-past-the-post? If prop' rep' produces three times the elections than our present system does, how soon will Canadians tune out, and our governments have to institute compulsory voting that is the law in Australia?

So for me it is NO to any existing form of proportional representation voting in both BC and Canada.

As for how we vote in BC I would say take our first-past-the-post system, and look at making it better. Find ways to make majorities harder to win, and harder to string together. Find ways of involving ideas from all parties in the house, without the chance of a minority government falling on an issue that could be solved with true debate and input from the public.

When our house in BC is deadlocked on an issue, then what is wrong with a province wide appeal for fresh ideas from the people? Afterall, isn't that what true democracy is about, anyway?

In my opinion if the people of BC decide to jump all in, to the deep end of the proportional representation voting system pool before first taking a very deep breath, future generations of British Columbians will be left to pick up the tab. When it comes to how we vote folks,

███████████████████

██████████

From:

Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 10:27 AM

To:

Subject: FW: Survey time expired early

From:

Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 10:04 AM

To:

Subject: Survey time expired early

Please note the date February 26th, 2018 two days before your deadline. Must be Government calendar

This is the way you conduct your survey???????????

Error

You have already completed this survey.

Please contact ███████████████████████ for further assistance.

1

From:
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 9:51 AM
To:
Subject: FW: Survey On Voting in Provincial Elections

From:
Sent: Sunday, February 25, 2018 9:37 PM
To:
Subject: Survey On Voting in Provincial Elections

While filling out survey was unable to complete it because I answered question 2 as all the time, question 3 then asks
why I did not vote in an election? The available answers did not include not applicable and system would not allow
me to continue until I filled in one of the answers.
Suggest either not applicable be added as additional choice or question 3 be reworded to take in to account voting answers in question 2

1

From:
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2018 12:42 PM
To:
Subject: FW: Questioning Clarity in Purpose of Survey

Hello

The feedback below was sent to the general Webmanager mailbox.
Please forward to the appropriate person(s) for response.

Regards,

-----Original Message-----
From:
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2018 6:01 PM
To:
Subject: Questioning Clarity in Purpose of Survey

Are your survey including a spot where I can tell you of all the many ways the world has tried to have a democratic elections, the simplest is still the best: the first past the post of having a majority rules. Right now many people do not realize that your survey results appear to be designed to use the respondents as "popularity" of what you propose in the fall.

Extremely deceptive maneuver, be honest up front and include a spot in your survey that tallies the voters who are perfectly happy with a proven system for a long time.

1

From: ████████████████

Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 11:10 AM

To: ████████████████████

Subject: FW: Proportional Representation by Lists: NOT

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

From: ████████████████████

Sent: Sunday, February 25, 2018 7:14 PM

Subject: Proportional Representation by Lists: NOT

An article in the Saturday Globe and Mail "*Patrick Brown exposes a weakness in political parties*", shows clearly why selection of MLA's from "party lists" is a really bad idea. I urge you to push for a "riding based" system, preferably via single transferable vote.

It exposes the manipulation(s) that Patric Brown has used to take control of this party and, if elected, the Ontario government.. I illustrates some of the dubious tactics embraced by the Ontario Conservative Party, tactics that are familiar to any insider who has participated in a leadership contest. The article also sets out very clearly the hazard to democracy from the resulting centralization of power. These abuses seem to be more common in this ear of career politicians who have had no other job and do not have a second career to fall back on.

Some examples:

- Stacking votes by financing new members using money from "anonymous sources" [who are buying future influence].

- Stacking party executives with partisan cronies (who have no inclination to push back against abuses)
- Stacked executives bias leadership races and party governance.
- Party leader has a veto over riding candidacies;
- Selecting yes-men instead of representatives elected by ridings;
- Selling candidacies for loyalty, favours or even money.
- Party whips then ensure that the elected MLA's do the leader's (or his anonymous backer's) biding.

In a Prop. Rep. system based on Lists, such abuses would be even more likely and more feasible.

This in turn affects campaigning for election:

- The party leader becomes the brand, as in "the Horgan Government", and siphons off marketing dollars from selling policy initiatives.
- Selling the party leader's personality [electability] overshadows selling of the party policies, whihc should be the primary consideration for voters.
- The nature and skills of riding candidates are largely subsumed by this focus on "The Leader".

Again, this abuse of representative government would be amplified if MLA's owed their position on the List to a party controlled by "The Leader". Essentially a dictatorship.

You may be thinking: "the NDP would never do that". I would probably agree, but would a Liberal-Socred government exploit lists like that? Sure! So plan ahead!!

Please stay away from Lists, and instead, think about ways you can change the rules to enhance the roles of MLAs, who can and should, represent their constituencies.

Regards,

███████████
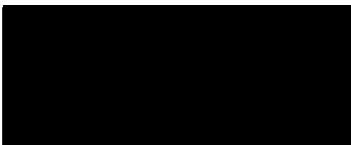
From:

Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 3:01 PM

To:

Subject: FW: Please democratize the election voting system

Over to you

From:

Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 2:32 PM

To:

Cc:

Subject: RE: Please democratize the election voting system

Hello

Thank you for contacting our office. We appreciate you sharing such specific suggestions with us!

As you may know, there is currently a consultation process underway for the upcoming referendum on provincial electoral systems. You can give feedback there at https://engage.gov.bc.ca/howwevote/ before the end of this month.

Thank you again for your political engagement.

Best wishes,

From:

Sent: Saturday, February 24, 2018 7:21 AM

To:

Subject: Please democratize the election voting system

Hello,

I call on all political parties across Canada to make changes to make all election voting processes democratic by enacting the following measures:

1. pass an honesty-in-politics law that allows anyone to complain to an independent watchdog about a broken election promise, with high fines for party leaders and parties that break promises unjustifiably;
2. create a right to refuse to cast a ballot (as Ontario and Alberta voters have) or even better put a "none of the above" on the ballot (with space at the bottom to give 1-2 reasons why), and require the election agency to promote this right as much as every other voting right, and to report how many Canadians do so (so voters can, if they want to, send a clear message that they do not support any of the candidates or political parties in an election);
3. change the election voting system to provide a more accurate representation of the popular vote results in each election in the seats held by each party in the federal House of Commons and in the provincial legislatures (as in many other countries) while ensuring that all elected officials are supported by, and are accountable to, voters in each riding/constituency (with a safeguard to ensure that a party with a low-level, narrow-base of support does not have a disproportionately high level of power in Parliament);
4. change the law to actually fix federal election dates (given that the federal Conservatives' bill passed in May 2007 was not detailed enough to restrict the Prime Minister's power to call snap elections, and the laws in 7 provinces are also not clear enough to restrict premiers);
5. require candidates and parties to disclose before nomination race, party leadership race, election and by-election voting days their list of donors and lenders, and donations and loans of money, property, services and volunteer labour (all of which should be limited to $100 per person with no donations or loans from corporations, unions or other organizations), and also require them to disclose before voting day their spending by campaign category, and whether they have worked or cooperated in any way with a third party interest group in the 6 months leading up to election day;
6. ensure the heads of all election agencies and election law enforcement agencies are appointed only after a public, merit-based search by an independent appointments commission (whose members are approved by at least a majority of leaders whose political party won 10% or more of the vote in the last election) that sends a ranked list of 3 nominees to the government, with the government required to choose from the list;
7. empower election agencies across Canada to make merit-based decisions about the participation of political party leaders in election debates, and require broadcasters to air the debates;
8. ensure politicians represent voters not party leaders by prohibiting party leaders from appointing candidates (with only a few justifiable exceptions, such as when the riding has no riding association), and by prohibiting party headquarters from making large donations or loans to candidates and riding associations (instead give riding associations a fair portion of an annual 50 cents to $1 per vote public financing for parties);
9. empower election agencies across Canada to oversee nomination race and party leadership votes to ensure they are fair and democratic;
10. require all election agencies across Canada to disclose their rulings on complaints that voters file with them during and in-between elections to ensure that election agencies are accountable watchdogs for fair elections, not lapdogs that ignore violations or make biased, unfair, or ineffective rulings;
11. ensure significant mandatory minimum penalties are in place to discourage violations of election laws, and to ensure that election agencies and the courts penalize violators effectively;
12. empower election agencies across Canada to set by-election dates, and require them to take into account fairness for all parties, and maximizing voter turnout, when setting dates;
13. require the media to report equally all survey numbers, especially undecided voters, to end the misleading reporting of polls often seen during election campaigns;
14. reduce voter identification requirements;
15. require all elections, by-elections and referendums to have a 65% voter turnout to be valid, and;
16. pass a law allowing petitions leading to referendums.

Until all of these measures are in place, and political ethics, transparency and waste-prevention rules and enforcement and penalties are strengthened, do not even consider mandatory voting (which violates voters' rights not to vote for any candidate) or online voting (which can be hacked and therefore puts valid election results at risk) or lowering the voting age (as neuroscientists have shown that most people younger than 18 don't have fully developed minds, specifically for making judgments).

Please let me know what you will do to ensure that these changes are made as soon as possible. I will be deciding which political party to vote for in the next election based on the responses I receive from representatives in each party. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

███████

From: ████████████████████

Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 9:51 AM

To: ████████████████████

Subject: FW: Northern bc questionnaire

From: ████████████████████████████████

Sent: Sunday, February 25, 2018 5:23 PM

To: ████████████████

Subject: Northern bc questionnaire

Hi

I started to answer the northern bc questionnaire, question number 2 how often do you vote all the time.
Question 3 what stops you from voting?
I vote all the time as per question 2.
Question 3 You must choosee one of the following!

But I vote all the time. Nothing stops me.

So I stopped the questions!

1

From: ████████████████

Sent: Sunday, February 25, 2018 4:59 PM

To: ████████████████

Subject: FW: govTogetherBC Contact Us Form Submission

Over to you

████████████████████████

From: ████████████████████████████

Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 3:43 PM

To: ████████████████████████

Subject: Fwd: govTogetherBC Contact Us Form Submission

Dear Premier and Attorney General:

Forwarding this message as per your return e-mail instructions from our following e-mail which was copied to each of you.

Regards,

████████████████████████████████

Begin forwarded message:

From: ████████████████████████████

Subject: Re: govTogetherBC Contact Us Form Submission

Date: February 20, 2018 at 3:28:40 PM PST

To: ████████████████████████████████

Cc: ████████████████████████

Hi:

My wife ████████████████ a senior, has asked me to advise that she will not be forwarding her "confidential" survey. She simply feels that the Provincial Government has set up this, as you describe, "on-line engagement" to seek responses from a select group of technically proficient voters which seems to her becoming the norm and leaves many like her out of the loop! The Survey, she thought, is after all, seeking to get a clear and "confidential" picture from ALL voters on their position on the current voting process as is mentioned its design influences how a society if governed.

In the circumstances, she has ask me to send copies of our correspondence to the Attorney General and the Premier for their information to highlight she is not ready, at her cost, to not only package her multi-page "confidential" reply but go to the post office by bus ($3.60) to get the correct postage ($1.00+) and mail the document. Incidentally using the local library is also a bus ride away and then there is the technical side again. Hopefully in the future the Province will show more consideration and compassion to ALL taxpaying voters,

including seniors on fixed incomes and those not technically proficient when designing a survey.

We would add that it appears that "confidentiality" is the root cause for the problem. It seems that there is a technical reasons for her not to being able to simply send her response like I did - surely a solution could have been found - maybe next time?

Thank you for your assistance.

Regards,

██

On Feb 20, 2018, at 1:32 PM, ███████████████████████████████████████ wrote:

Hi ██████

This is an online engagement so postage will not be provided.

If you do not with to spend money on postage then you can do one of the following things to complete the survey online.

████████████████████████████
██
██████████████████████

Thank you,

██████████████████████████

-----Original Message-----
From: ████████████████████████████████████
Sent: Saturday, February 17, 2018 10:19 AM
To: ██████████████████████████████████████
Subject: Re: govTogetherBC Contact Us Form Submission

Hi:
████████████████████████████████ received her multi-page paper copy in the mail as you promised and has completed it. Thank you!

But you did not send her a return postage paid envelope. Please explain? She points out that I had no cost to reply - why should she? - We/She have no scanner! You will appreciate that in addition to the postage and envelope that there is the cost of a return bus fair to attend the post office to have package weighed to ensure adequate postage is affixed.

We would like to think the BC Government want replies on such an important issue from all taxpaying voters and not only from those who are adequately technology equipped to meet reply requirements.

She advises she is waiting for a postage paid envelope to mail in the completed survey. Please let her know if one will be forthcoming at this e-mail address or provide another cost free alternative to submitting the survey.

Thank you.

Regards,

█████████████████████████████████

On Feb 5, 2018, at 4:00 PM, █████████████████████████ wrote:

Hi:

███

Regards,

███████████████████████████████

On Feb 5, 2018, at 3:16 PM, ████████████████████████████████████

Hi ██████████

Great if you could please provide her mailing address that would be appreciated.

Best,

█████████████████████████

-----Original Message-----
From: ██████████████████████████
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2018 9:41 PM
To: ████████████████████████████
Subject: Re: govTogetherBC Contact Us Form Submission

Thank you.

████████████████would appreciate it if you would mail her a paper copy which she can complete and mail back to you.

Regards,

███████████████████████████████

On Feb 2, 2018, at 1:49 PM, █████████████████████████████████

Hi ██████████

Your wife's feedback is most welcome. The online questionnaire tool has a number of preventive measures to block repetitive submissions. We have tried to find a balance between the accessibility of the survey to all British Columbians, such as multiple individuals using the same device in one household, and preventing false

3

completions. For different people using the same device, you can take the questionnaire again a number of ways. You can either:

████████████████████████████

██

• We can email you a PDF of the questionnaire which you can print off, complete, scan and return by email; or
• We can mail you a paper copy which you can complete and mail back to us.

Please let us know if we can help further.

████████████████████

From: ████████████████████████████████
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2018 5:19 PM
To: ████████████████
Subject: govTogetherBC Contact Us Form Submission

First Name

████████████

████████████████

Subject

Voting Questionnaire
Comments

I took the survey but it will not permit my wife to take it? Please explain how this can be done?
Check the below box if you consent to the above terms.

████████████████

4

From: ████████████████

Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 11:21 AM

To: ████████████████

Subject: FW: electoral reform

Attachments: Electoral reform proposal 20180225.docx

Is this something your office can respond to?   If not, please redirect back to ████████████████ Many thanks!

████████

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

From: ████████████████████████

Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 11:10 AM

To: ████████████████

Cc: ████████████████

Subject: FW: electoral reform

Dear ████████

Thank you for writing about electoral reform in British Columbia. We appreciate your taking the time to write.

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

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

From: ████████████████████████

Sent: Sunday, February 25, 2018 2:00 PM

To: ████████████████████████

Subject: electoral reform

Dear Premier Horgan,

I observed the great emotional toll on you, regarding the decision to continue with the Site C hydroelectric development in the face of opposition from your party, friends and most of all your immediate family. You did the right thing, for the good of the province, and it says something about your character in being able to take tough decisions. While you and I are at opposite ends of the political spectrum, I admire your inner strength.

Now, it is time to make another decision that will inevitably attract another firestorm: Abandon your campaign promise (and agreement with the Greens) to reform the electoral system by some type of proportional representation; instead, introduce legislation to enact a run-off election system using first-past-the-post principles. I have described the basic concept in the attachment, along with some observations about the folly of proportional representation generally.

1

Note that Prime Minister Trudeau abandoned his campaign promise to reform our federal electoral system, for reasons I quote in the enclosure...I don't think it hurt his credibility that much.

I have asked ███████████ to consider the run-off scenario as well...if you and he can agree on the premise, the province will be better for it.

Best regards,

███████████
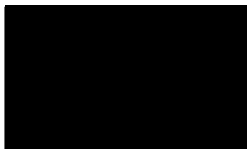
Electoral reform: There is a better way forward

Introduction and Recommendation

It is time to abandon the initiative to change BC's electoral system to one of proportional representation. If change is truly necessary, why not consider a *run-off election using existing first-past-the-post (FPTP) principles*. It is believed to be a constructive solution that forces candidates to actually win their riding, rather that rely upon a re-assignment of votes amongst candidates:

Simply put, those candidates winning a simple majority (50% + 1) in their ridings are duly elected. If no candidate in a given riding attains a simple majority on the first round, conduct a run-off election two weeks later in those ridings only, with the two top candidates from the first round going head-to-head to determine a winner...candidates finishing third or lower in the first round don't deserve a place at the table!

Recent Commentary about Electoral Reform

1. Speaking in Yellowknife on February 10, 2017, Prime Minister Trudeau defended his decision a few days prior to abandon his 2015 campaign promise to "change the way Canadians vote".

A ranked ballot was abandoned because "too many people believed it would be a system that would favour the (federal) Liberals" *[actually, when the numbers are run, it is a fact rather than a belief!]*

As for proportional representation, he stated "If we were to make a change...that would augment extremist voices and activist voices...we'd enter an era of instability and uncertainty...because if you have a party that represents the fringe voices on the periphery of our perspectives and they hold 10, 15, 20 seats in the House, they end up holding the balance of power". *[No argument there.]*

2. On May 29, 2017 Dawna Friesen, Global National News anchor announced the intention of Andrew Weaver and John Horgan to form a minority government, and went on to call Weaver "the most powerful politician in BC". This is the dark side of the ceaseless yammering from proponents of proportional representation to "get a voice in government". *It has nothing to do with having a voice, and everything to do with seizing power.*

Often, the fringe elements complain of the tyranny of governing with only 39% of the popular vote with the FPTP system...our province would be much better served under a NDP (or Liberal) tyranny than by allowing the 16-per-centers (Greens) to act as kingmakers in a minority situation where they can *force the very agenda that makes them unelectable with FPTP.*

3. A series of "motherhood" government initiatives since November have been vehemently opposed by the Greens: eliminating bridge tolls, proceeding with the Site C dam, forging business ties to export LNG, etc. However, they *do not have the integrity to put their words into action by bringing down the government; rather are hypocritically awaiting the day they can seize an enhanced balance of power under a system of proportional representation.* Please don't give them the chance!

4. Finance Minister James, in her February 20, 2018 budget speech commented: "We live in a province rich in people, resources, natural beauty and opportunities". What was not said was that the province anticipates significant income from resource development, via royalties on mineral and petroleum production, forest harvest tenures, leasing bonuses for Crown mineral rights, etc. and a large pool of personal and corporate taxpayers dependent upon a vibrant resource sector for their livelihood. If the rabid anti-development forces of the Green party exercise control in a balance of power situation, these income opportunities are significantly reduced, and balanced budgets become a mere fantasy.

From:

Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 10:56 AM

To:

Subject: Follow up email.

Attachments:

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

From:

Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 9:11 AM

To:

Subject: FW:

Hi

Thanks,

From:

Sent: Saturday, February 24, 2018 4:41 PM

To:

Subject: Re:

dear AG staff and also engagement team,

thanks AG persons for this sort of followup. in these ways, and also in the effort the engagement team makes, you contribute to engaged BC citizenry. congrats!

to the query below from AG office, yes i did complete questionnaire AND make a personal written response some time ago. again thanks for your follow-up.

to the engagement team, i give more thought to your posting under "stakeholders". i now wonder -- and leave this to your best judgement -- if we mght nclude a stakeholder item "Popular Proportional Representation". a question may be if this comes from a single person (me!) or some manner of "organization". to answer honestly, it's from me although with consultations and supporting nods from "several". does that make me/us "stakeholders"?

now i've made a best-yet latest writeup (attached   ). the good news is it is short, barely 2 1/2 pages; i hope clearly written. could you let me know if you decide to promote this to your "stakeholders" listings? THANKS (for really!)

From:

To:

Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2018 3:08:47 PM

Subject:

1

Email: ████████████████

Dear ████████████

Thank you for your email of November 21, 2017. Your suggestions will be considered as part of the current public engagement process on matters respecting this fall's referendum on changing to a proportional representation voting system.

If you have not done so, I would also encourage you to visit:

> https://engage.gov.bc.ca/howwevote/

You can express your views by responding to the questionnaire at the same website before the close of the engagement period on February 28, 2018. All submissions made through this public engagement process will be reviewed and considered before these decisions respecting the referendum are made.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours truly,

David Eby, QC
Attorney General

████████████

Popular Proportional Representation   **Democracy by People for People**

If there is ever a time to rethink democracy, that time is now. But "rethink" wants more than only looking at what's gone before or what's done elsewhere, mixing-and-matching among previous schemes. We can be bold, asking afresh: how could democracy work in the 21st century?

The good news is that courage, freed from tunnel vision, shows a way forward that is simple, inexpensive and profoundly democratic. At core we honour each citizen's vote. No matter which candidate is elected in any riding, we require that each citizen's vote retains it's value, equal to every other vote, on election day and throughout the ensuing Legislative Assembly. This focus on core value simplifies everything.

PopularPR

A simple ballot lists local candidates. A single candidate is chosen. The candidate with most votes is elected. That elected Member then "carries" the number of votes received.

Votes for defeated candidate are not "lost". If a defeated candidate is affiliated with a party, votes for that candidate are added to a sum for that party. Party sums are redistributed to Members elected in other ridings. (The outcome in each riding is decided only by votes within the riding.)

When a standing vote is called, Members stand on behalf of their total votes. A measure passes or fails by sums that reflect numbers of citizens represented. Look and feel in the Legislature are unaffected. Members sit on committees (voting as individuals), raise questions, put and second motions, deal with constituency issues, and carry out their many tasks as at present.

A second ballot question (not a vote) is optional. This allows a citizen to specify how the ballot should be counted if the selected candidate is not elected. The voter may choose an independent but designate a major party if that independent loses. Another voter may select a candidate from party A yet choose party B if the candidate is defeated. A voter may specify that the ballot not be redirected to any party. The point is the voter controls how the ballot counts.

Discussion

Usual methods for voting reform are based on one idea only: seats. How to assign seats, how to add seats. But schemes to achieve proportionality by rearranging the seats is tough are complicated, expensive, often add extra seats, and even then only reduce degree of disproportion.

PopularPR achieves perfect proportionality (each party's vote matching its popular vote) and enhances diversity at no added cost or complication. The key is to follow core principles:

> Citizen's votes, represented by elected Members, are the basis of democracy. Members are valued individuals not party tokens.   (Seats are mere furniture.)

PopularPR as described above is complete. The proposal is to install basic PopularPR and then begin thoughtful legislative review leading to further advances. PopularPR enables democratic opportunities not possible by other means. A reader can stop here. Or further discussion (following) concerns future possibilities and broader questions.

To comment, question or stay in touch, email ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮

Redistricting

PopularPR requires no redrawing of electoral boundaries. There are no "swing" ridings, no "safe" ridings and no gerrymandering. Citizens are equally represented regardless where they live. We are free to address issues with dense urban ridings and sparsely settled rural ridings. Any future boundary changes become simple and worry-free, permitting ridings that are geographically convenient without over- or under-representing anyone.

> Rural residents can feel disadvantaged by some PR schemes. PopularPR allows rural ridings of compact size without over- or under-representing any residents.

Minor-party representation

The simplest level of PopularPR achieves near-perfect PR. But there remain problems.

1) Minor parties can receive significant number of votes but not elect a Member to represent those votes.

2) Small parties may elect few Members despite significant votes counts. Members may carry excessive workload along with large voting weight.

Such issues arise with other voting systems as well. Proposed remedies often include adding Members. But there are practical limits and costs to add-more-Members fixes. PopularPR can address this in an uniquely optimal way. Because citizens' votes count equally regardless of electoral boundaries, one can protect rural representation while consolidating dense urban ridings (without under-representing urban voters), releasing seats to be awarded under explicit rules to create new Members to carry unrepresented votes and/or reduce imbalances of votes carried by different Members. This is done strictly accountably without increasing the number of Members or cost.

Regional representation

Major as well as minor parties may elect numbers of Members yet omit regions with no locally-elected Members. Voters in such regions can feel that local issues are not well appreciated. Here again PopularPR can respond optimally by creating regional Members based on numbers of under-represented voters. This can be done at no cost or additional Members (as described above) while achieving optimally effective representation of numbers of voters.

Questions

Who forms government? The party or cooperation among parties that captures the largest fraction of popular vote has first opportunity to form government.

Elected Members may complain about voting with different weights? Best to ask present Members. Among replies are that Members honour being elected on behalf of people. When standing to reflect a sum of people who voted for them or their party, that's exactly very much the intent.

Who opposes PopularPR?   First, focussed wealth and power opposes anything that would strengthen democracy. Mostly this group doesn't yet know about PopularPR. When they find out, they'll get really mad.   **Second**, there are well-meaning citizens who have invested time and effort promoting seats-based reform methods. PopularPR is so far outside the framework of seats-based schemes that long-time proponents of usual schemes wish to keep PopularPR out of the discussion.

Are resulting governments stable? Mostly yes. The distribution of popular vote can be clear even when counts of Members are not. A tied vote in the Legislature becomes nearly impossible. A Speaker can be elected freely from any party, possibly choosing to release citizens' votes (other than his or her personal vote) to the party sum so those citizens are equally represented with all others.

What happens if a Member, elected with party A, later "crosses the aisle" to join party B? The individual ballot count for the Member crosses over with him or her while shares of party sums for A and B remain with those parties. **By-election results simply replace prior results.**

To whom is a Member accountable? With a single Member elected from each local riding, citizens easily identify their Member who will face all local citizens at next election. As well, votes for defeated candidates add to sums for elected Members who are held to account on party platform issues.

How is voter turnout encouraged? A citizen who holds views different from others in his or her riding will vote anyway so that the vote can be carried by other Members of a chosen party. In a "safe" riding there's incentive to vote so the elected Member will carry more legislative weight. Citizens vote their consciences without pressure to "strategic" voting. Independents and small party candidates are encouraged. Voting is especially transparent as the voter sees the role of each vote cast.

Widely disparate weights among Members can distort parliamentary procedure. For this and other reasons, it's best to limit the range of weights. Previous comments under minor-parties and regional representation limit such disparity. Committee participation is unaffected by PPR.

Isn't PopularPR just an excuse to keep first-past-post with minor tweak! Yes! The amazing thing is this "minor tweak" turns a simple method for expressing citizens' wishes into empowered democracy.

Since year 1265, the only way to count votes in parliaments was to count standing heads. Today we have better, easy, reliable ways to count. But forces of focussed wealth oppose any PR. Campaigning again based on same-old-same-old may fail. PopularPR offers a way that is impressively simple, cost-free, transparent and so clearly based on democratic principle that it will be hard for forces of "no" to deny — **if we only rethink.**

To comment, question or just stay in touch, ███████████████████

February 9, 2018

Re: Electoral Reform in British Columbia

I am a big fan of a Preferential Ballot in Each Riding.

This doesn't appear to be an option in the electoral systems mentioned in your survey. Considering that this system is used extensively – I believe the new Liberal Leader was chosen this way – it is not even mentioned. I have even heard that a Preferential Ballot might be used to choose a new electoral system, I know that there is an element of preference in the Single Transferable Vote system (which would likely be my second preference) but I really don't like giving up the Direct Representation of someone running specifically in my riding and responsible to the voters of that riding. It is possible with STV that your representative in the legislature is someone that you have no knowledge of and who has no particular knowledge of the issues paramount in your area. In a large rural area they might not live within hundreds of miles of where you do. One of the main detraction's for me of a Proportional system is that they all re-enforce party politics at the expense of that relationship between the voter and their representative in the legislature. Our present MLA in our riding is largely there, in my opinion, because of the respect he has in our community which he has been active in. Can you imagine an independent candidate with fewer resources being able to effectively run in the mega ridings we would get with some proposed systems?

 I am opposed to both the first past the post and the proportional systems for opposite reasons. However both reasons have to do with democracy. I do not support the First Past The Post system because it allows a party with a minority of the support in votes to have a complete majority and therefore total control of the Legislature. Federally, both the Conservatives and now the Liberals have had majority governments with around 35% of the 66% of the electorate that actually voted. That is actually the direct support of around 20% of the electorate. This isn't right. It certainly creates wide mood swings in terms of policy, It seems to create an environment where all a political party has to do, and in a sense all that it can do, is pander to it's committed base to get elected at the expense of developing more inclusive policies that reflect the desires of the wider electorate .

The Proportional system apparently produces endless minority governments where the low vote parties have to be accommodated in order for the leading party to form a government at all. Thus ironically giving the parties with the least overall support more power in the legislature than the second place party in the last election. The theory is that Proportional Representation empowers political parties proportionally to their support in the general electorate. In practice it actually appears to do completely the opposite. We have some direct evidence in some countries that this unduly empowers and legitimizes some parties with quite radical ideas. In the BC Legislature we now have a situation where a party with 2 Seats has an enormous influence and can bring down the government any time it deems it in its best interest. While I will admit that personally I am happier with this result than the other present possibility it does seem to be a poorer way to create an effective government and to enshrine in it stone would not be my first choice.

Why I Like Preferential Balloting in each Riding.

1. It eliminates the need for Strategic Voting. You don't have to vote for a party you don't really prefer just to avoid a government you know you will hate and are completely philosophically opposed to. In our present system it is hard to vote for a smaller party that you may indeed support because you know that more often than not the party you are actually opposed to will benefit by a vote being split and once elected will enact policies that the majority of voters really don't want.

 In the system I envisage, funding for parties in the legislature and to fund election expenses would be based on the total number of first place votes that each party received in the last election, even if they get no MLAs.. This way your vote counts in effectively supporting the party you like even if it doesn't get an MLA in your riding. Parties with a certain percentage of votes could even be given a non-voting seat in the legislature and allowed to participate in Question Period and possibly committees as well, even if they won no seats. So there are ways to ensure more democratic debate and representation than the voting system alone.

2. Compromise is built into the ballot in the Preferential System under the control of the each Voter and each member of the legislature will be elected with a majority of votes in their riding, Even the choice of whether to use the Preferential Ballot is in control of the voter. It could be made mandatory to provide a complete preference list to have a valid ballot but I would leave it to each voter whether they wanted to indicate a Second, Third, etc.. choice. At least with this system the candidate with the most overall support in a riding gets chosen as the representative for those voters. It might not even be the candidate that has the most first place votes. To me this is true direct democracy.

3. The individual MLA's elected and the party which wins an election and forms government can see precisely where their votes came from and can use that information in formulating policy which represents the support they received (if only to ensure their support again in the next election), but they cannot be held ransom by that group in the legislature. For example a Conservative party would likely get the 2nd place votes of voters who would prefer a more radical right approach but the more centrist Conservative party would not have to take their influence into account in every vote in the legislature just to avoid a loss of confidence and a new election. Neither can they use the small party as an excuse for doing something they know the general populace doesn't support. A criticism of this system has been that it will usually benefit the more Centrist parties and my reply to that is "That is Good". A "Centrist" party is one that is trying to accommodate the views of the spectrum of the electorate. On the other hand this system could also be seen as enabling the less Centrist parties. Since you don't have to worry about strategic voting you can actually vote for the party you really want, no matter how unlikely their chance of winning your riding. There might even be some surprises.

4. The Preferential System is really simple to understand. We don't want a system that inhibits voters from even showing up because they are not sure how the system works. The counting of the votes and the results are seen in the riding electoral office that evening. I can write an Excel program that would give you the results. I must admit that even though I support some kind of electoral reform I almost voted no in the last referendum just because I really couldn't anticipate what the result was going to be. I actually thought they chose such a system for the referendum just to make sure the referendum would be likely to fail.

5. Even with a Preferential System at the riding level there is still a possibility that the election may result in a minority government. It may make a majority government more likely but it doesn't force one.

6. It is easy to try in a trial. We could use this system in any By-election and get some direct feedback from the voters. We can not do this with any of the proportional systems. By definition they could only apply to a General Election. This actually raises a question I don't know the answere to. "What does happen in a Proportional System when you need to replace an MLA??"

To summarize:

I strongly support some kind of Electoral Reform.
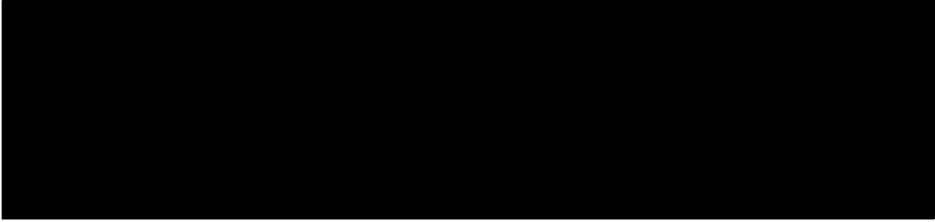
My last preference is to retain the current FPTP .

I believe we should use a Preferential Ballot in Each Individual Riding – obviously my highest preference.

I Very Strongly believe that this option should at least be presented as an option and discussed as part of the consultation process.

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to thank those people who made it possible for me to present my submission concerning the electoral system in British Columbia.

I notice on the website https://engage.gov.bc.ca/howwevote/system/list-proportional-representation-list-pr/ , it provides the perceived pros and cons of four voting systems.

It would be redundant for me to rehash all the pros and cons for each voting system. Yet, one or two cons of these systems have defects so glaring, they must be mentioned

Because I am strongly opposed to the FPTP system, I will begin my submission explaining exactly why I am against maintaining the FPTP. Besides, if FPTP wins the referendum, I am afraid, having had electoral reform referendums in 2005, 2009 and now in 2018, with the FPTP the victor in all these recent referendums; it would be many years before B.C. would hold another referendum on electoral reform.

After briefly discussing the FPTP system, I will then present, in detail, the electoral system I propose British Columbia should adopt. No electoral system is perfect, but I contend I have designed a system that comes very close to true proportional representation on a province-wide basis. I have named this system, " Pure Proportional Representation" (the acronym being "PPR").

Before I go any conclude my submission, I will state the obvious. I

notice there are several submissions by large organizations. These organizations not only have the means, a large staff, but also have the attention of the media to promote their side in this referendum.

Being a sole individual with no political backing, I realize I am David vs. Goliath(s). Also, I am promoting a a unique, new and virtually 100% proportional representation electoral system and for those who desire a mixed system, this may detrimental to my proposal. But I have explained Pure Proportional Representation to a number of my politically-keen friends (each occupying a different spots on the political spectrum (varying from conservatives to social democrats) and they were quite impressed. Especially when I demonstrated how well it works when comparing PPR results to previous B.C. elections and the manner in which Proportional Representative MLA's would obtain a seat in the legislature utilizing the PPR electoral system.

Despite it being a steep, uphill climb for me; no matter what electoral system is chosen for British Columbia, I know all sides have put a great deal of time and effort into their work and I congratulate all who have taken part in this exercise. We are very fortunate to live a society in which we can present our beliefs without fear of retribution.

FPTP

Since this referendum is strictly to determine how B.C. will elect it's provincial governments in the future, one should learn from the past! I examined the last 12 B.C. provincial elections (from 1972 to 2017). The results clearly demonstrate the upside down world of FPTP.

In 12 election , only once (2001) did a party actually receive a majority of votes but in 11 of these 12 elections we ended up with 11 majority governments. In other words, in 11 out of these 12 elections, the party that formed the government was rejected at the voting booth by the majority of voters....and this is called "democracy"? I think

not!

When the BC Liberals won a majority of the vote in 2001, winning 77 out the 79, one might surmise the BC Liberals received a vast majority of the vote. Actually, they didn't. The BC Liberals received 57.6% of the vote yet received a whopping 97.5% of the seats in the legislature. The differential between the number of seats won by the BC Liberals and the number of the seats they should have received in proportion to the votes they received was greater than 40%! The NDP, while receiving 21.6% of the popular vote, elected only 2 members to the legislature and the Green Party received 12.4% of the vote and received zero seats.

Is the 2001 election an anomaly that I cherry-picked? No! Granted, while it's the most outrageous case of the FPTP distorting the number of seats a party received, it's not the only time such a distortion has happened. In the 1972 election, the NDP formed a majority government by electing 38 members to the 55 seat legislature. Thus, with only 39.6 of the vote, the NDP elected 69% of the MLA's, almost 30% higher than the percentage of the total votes the party received.

On the constituency level, under FPTP, there are many wasted votes. If a the Purple party candidate receives over 50% of the vote, any of his votes over 50% + 1 vote are wasted since he is elected and doesn't need the additional votes. All of the votes of the losing Gray Party and Yellow party candidates are wasted votes since they lost the constituency election and FPTP makes no allowance for these votes on the constituency or provincial level.

To show how unpopular the FPTP is throughout the western, industrialized world; of the 28 members of the European Union and 35 members of the OECD, only Canada, United States (for congressional elections) and the United Kingdom use FPTP in their country's national elections. It is an electoral system that is gradually disappearing.

It's clear FPTP does not distribute seats in a democratic, proportional manner; thus it is clearly an undemocratic electoral system of which B.C. must rid itself!

Pure Proportional Representation (PPR)

After months of reviewing various electoral systems, I decided there must be a system that is purely, on the provincial level, a proportional system giving each political party the number of elected candidates closely equaling the percentage of their party's provincial vote

Voter Friendly

Not only must this electoral system provide proportional representation, it must be "voter-friendly". By "voter-friendly", I am referring to a system that doesn't send the voter into near-panic when he/she reaches the polling station. The last thing B.C. needs is an electoral system that reduces the number of people who vote. Having a voting system that confuses many voters, would, in all likelihood, dissuade such voters from partaking in the next provincial election. (Full disclosure: in the last two referendums concerning electoral reform, I voted against the STV for a number of reasons but one of the main reasons I did so was that it is a convoluted, confusing voting system. It would be a challenge for too many voters to grasp proper knowledge of the actual voting procedure and to understand why and how multiple candidates are elected in super-sized constituencies. Also, I voted against it because it's not a PR system and I hoped, in the future, there would have another referendum where I would have more of a choice other than FPTP or STV.

The first time I was viewed a video explaining how the STV works, I had to watch it for a second time to make sure I fully understood the mechanics of the STV system (and I have a degree in political science; (albeit, obtained way back in 1974) and, in one university course, I spent part of the term, studying various voting

systems...funny thing though, I don't recall studying the STV). I have no doubt whatsoever, many British Columbians voted to maintain FPTP, not because they liked FPTP but were very confused by the STV system!

PPR: At the polling stations on election day

As a result of realizing the FPTP system must be discarded; for some time I have racked my brain to create a method of voting that would be easy for the average Joe/ Joan to understand. I came to the following conclusion; what is easier for one to understand than something one already knows?

The answer is simple. Change not a thing for the voter when he/she is at the polling station. Voters will vote with an "X" for the candidate of their choice in the current 87 constituencies. This would be exactly the same routine as the 2017 election. When the polls close, the election officials will count the ballots and provide the results to the district returning office. These polling station workers, (of whom many have had only a few hours of training) will be pleased they will only have to count the ballots once (or possibly twice to ensure they have a proper count of the ballots) rather than the several times eliminating candidates and allocating ballots from one candidate to another candidate during each round of ballots counting and eliminating a candidate after each round of counting ballots, etc.. Obviously the more rounds of counting ballots that must be done, the risk of errors by the poll workers increases significantly. Having been a polling station captain for 5 polling stations in a federal election, I know how rookie polling clerks can be easily confused

OK, I know die-hard PR people are thinking of ways to hang me (not literally, of course) when I state the public will vote in the same manner as 2017 but please bear with me.) It's at the district returning offices throughout B.C. that FPTP results would be transformed into PR results by the DRO workers and their computers.

<u>PPR: After all the votes throughout the province have been counted.</u>

There will be two types of MLA's in the legislature after a PPR election. The first group of MLA's would be comprised of the 87 elected in their constituency in exactly the same manner as they currently are under the FPTP. They will be referred to as constituency MLA's. The second group of MLA's will be known as PR MLA's (PR naturally standing for Proportional Representative). These PR MLA's are necessary in order to top up the number of a MLA's for a political party whose number of elected constituency MLA's is exceeded by it's percentage of the the popular vote. In other word, this is done to ensure the percentage of seats a party has in the legislature is in close proportion to the percentage of the popular vote the party received in the general election.

Now I realize the following rule under PPR will have some people not initially understand as to why PPR includes this rule:

THE PARTY WITH THE MOST CONSTITUENCY SEATS WILL NOT RECEIVE ANY PR MLA'S! (the only exceptions would be if the two parties with the most Constituency seats are tied, both having the same number of seats; or, during a session of the legislature, an opposition PR MLA crosses the floor and joins the party that won one the most constituency seats. This would be allowed but she/he would still be considered as a PR MLA.)

I will now provide an example of how PPR works after all the votes, province-wide, have been counted and why the party with the most constituency seats will not receive any PR seats.

I am utilizing the 2013 election actual statistics and I have also adjusted the results to reflect the results of an election under the PPR system in order to show the difference in seats under the PPR system vs. FPTP.

In this example (the 2013 election), the BC Liberals won the most seats with FPTP being utilized (the party whose candidate has the most votes in a constituency is the constituency MLA and the BC Liberals elected the most constituency MLA's.

The obvious question is; how then do we arrive at proportional representation?

The answer is found in a mathematical formula.

Again, using the 2013 election results chart, I will explain the steps to determine how, under Pure Proportional Representation, each party receives a number of seats equal in proportion to the votes they received. Albeit, due to rounding and truncating numbers, it won't always be 100% accurate but within a percent or so of true proportional representation. Regardless, PPR is much, much closer to PR when compared to the FPTP, Mixed Member Proportional, Alternative Vote, STV, etc.

First the candidates are to be elected in each of the 85 constituencies (as in 2013). These 85 winning candidates are referred to as "constituency MLA's".The candidates who will enter the legislature through Proportional Representation are referred to as "PR MLA's"".

Once the 85 constituency MLA's have been elected, Elections BC determines which candidates are elected as PR MLA's. As I stated earlier in my submission, the party winning the most constituency seats, does not receive any PR MLA's. Once you read the next few paragraphs, as to how PR MLA's are elected, you will have a better understanding as to why the party with the most constituency seats, does not receive any PR MLA's.

The equation is quite basic. To begin, we will determine how many PR MLA's the NDP will elect.

The first step in setting up the math equation is to make the total votes

of the party with the most candidates elected in the constituency elections the denominator in the equation. As so happened, the BC Liberal Party elected 49 candidates in constituencies and the BC Liberal's total vote was 794,946. This 794,946 votes becomes the denominator. The second step is for the party electing the second highest number of MLA's in constituencies (the BC NDP) to have its total votes (715,999) placed as the numerator in the same equation (actually the BC Elections computers will determining how many PR seats each eligible party will be awarded simultaneously and in a nano second but I am explaining the procedure one party at a time). We can now determine what the BC NDP's total vote is as a percentage of the BC Liberal's total vote by completing the equation. Ergo, the answer is (715,999 / 794,946) x 100 = 90.0 %.

As was done immediately above, we now use the total BC NDP vote compared, as a percentage, to the total BC Liberal vote. This is done in order to keep the vote differential in proper proportion to the seat differential between the two parties. Since the BC Liberals elected 49 constituency candidates, the number of seats the BC NDP would be entitled to elect, including both constituency and PR seats, would be equal to 90% of the 49 constituency seats won by the BC Liberals. Thus, in order to maintain true proportional representation, the BC NDP would have elected 90% of 49 = 44 seats under Pure Proportional Representation. A quicker formula is simply (715,999 / 794,946) x 49 = 44 elected.

We know the BC NDP elected 34 constituency MLA's; as a result, the number of PR MLA's the NDP elected would be 44 elected – 34 Constituency MLA's = 10 PR MLA's (as shown on the 2013 election chart). In total, the BC NDP elected 44 MLA's

Next we will use the same formula for the BC Green Party. Again we use the BC Liberal's total popular vote and the 49 constituency elected BC Liberals in our calculations. The BC Greens total vote was 146,607. I could use the quicker formula but I want to show the BC

Green vote as a percentage of the BC Liberal's total vote. Again, the BC Liberal's total vote is the denominator and this time, the numerator is the BC Green total vote. The BC Green total vote as a percentage of the BC Liberal's total vote is (146,607 / 794,946) x 100 = 18.4%

In order to make the seat ratio of the two parties equal to their vote ratio, thus maintaining proportional representation, the BC Greens would be entitled to a seat total that equals 18.4% of the 49 constituency elected BC Liberal MLA's Thus, 18.4% of 49 = 9 seats.

Using the quicker formula (146,607 / 794,946) x 49 = 9.0 seats.

We know the BC Greens elected one constituency MLA; therefore the number of PR MLA's they elected would be 9 seats – 1 constituency MLA = 8 PR MLA's elected (as shown on the 2013 election chart). In total the BC Greens elected 9 MLA's.

Of course the Independent candidate who won her constituency seat is not eligible to elect any PR MLA's for 2 obvious reasons. A: she ran as an independent and B: her total vote was less than 4%.

The actual election under FPTP gave the BC Liberals 49 seats; the BC NDP 34 seats; the BC Greens and the Independent 1 seat each. Under PPR, the results would have been; the BC Liberals 49 seats; the BC NDP 44 seats; the BC Greens 9 seats and the Independent 1 seat.

To see if the seats are allocated proportionately and fairly; one compares the differential between two parties percentages of total votes to the same two parties differential in percentages of seats. The closer the two differentials are to being the same, the closer the seats have been properly proportioned to the votes received. In column F, the vote differential between the BC Liberals (44.1%) and the BC NDP (39.7%) is 4.4% and in column H, under a PPR system the seat differential would be BC Liberals (47.6%) and the BC NDP (42.7%) is 4.9%. The difference is only .5% (4.9% - 4.4%), an excellent result

with very little difference between the differentials!

Under FPTP, column F, the vote differential remains the same as it was under PPR, between the BC Liberals (44.1%) and the BC NDP (39.7%) at 4.4% but in column G, under the current FPTP system the seat differential would be the BC Liberals (57.6%) and the BC NDP (40.0%) = 17.6%. The difference between the vote differential and seat differential is 13.2% (17.6% - 4.4%), a far too large a differential to be considered even remotely proportional.

Now I finally will explain how the PPR MLA's are elected.

Thankfully, under PPR, no open lists nor closed lists will be supplied by the political parties since such lists will not be used. No doubt, often the drawing up of such lists would be in the hands of the senior party leadership of each party, not usually the rank and file members and definitely, not the public at large. Whether an individual is placed on an open list or on a closed list no doubt will be influenced by whether he/she is on the good side of the party power-brokers or is being rewarded for long service to the party with, unfortunately, less thought given to how the electorate views the individual.

At the voting booth, when open lists are utilized, it's a given that a certain number of independent, non-partisan voters will be in a quandary trying to sort out for whom they should vote for on the open list ballot. A number of so-called PR systems are in favour of mega size constituencies. If say, five candidates are to be elected in one these large constituencies, there are those who could spend quite some time making their choices with so many candidates from whom to choose. Meanwhile the line up of people waiting to vote will grow and grow. I would imagine, due to their long, tedious first encounter with such a voting system, a considerable number may not bother to exercise their franchise in the next election.

Of course, if it's a an open list, it's proponents state if you don't like

having to spend the time choosing several candidates, you can simply put an "X" in the box on the ballot for the political party of your choice. Unfortunately, you will then be accepting the candidates chosen, once again, by the elites of the party. It doesn't matter if you don't like two of the candidates of the party for which you voted. They would be part of the "package deal" and you must accept the fact you voted for two candidates that you perceive as undesirable!

PPR, avoids the use of lists due to the fact that lists having very little in the way of pros and too many cons.

PPR not only requires proportional representation but also, for all MLA's to be elected to the legislature by the voters of B.C. I have already stated while PPR utilizes FPTP on the constituency level, it is only a step to have virtually 100% proportional representation on a province-wide basis; something that none of the other systems can profess to achieve.

PPR allows the voters to assist in electing their PR MLA's. They are elected on the same, general election night as the Constituency MLA's.

As I stated in the 2013 election example, the BC NDP "elected" 10 PR MLA's and the Greens elected 8 PR MLA's. The obvious question is how they were elected?

The NDP had 51 candidates and the BC Greens had 60 candidates who lost in the local constituency elections. BC elections' computers keep track not only of winning candidates but also keeps track of all of the candidates. Once the 85 constituency candidates are elected, then the computers will be able to provide a list of the 51 New Democrats and 60 Greens losing candidates and the percentage of the vote each received in their constituency elections. The 10 New Democrats who lost their constituency election but received the highest percentage of all 51 NDP candidates who didn't win their

constituency would be considered "elected" as the NDP Proportional Representative MLA's. The same holds true for the BC Greens. The 8 BC Greens who lost in their constituency race but received the highest percentage of the vote among the 60 losing BC Green candidates , will too become PR MLA's.. Of course, if the BC Liberals hadn't elected the most Constituency MLA's, the criteria for determining who would have been their PR MLA's would be the same as the other political parties.

Some may argue, these people didn't win their constituency races and, as a result, don't deserve a seat in the legislature. I refute this statement. A number of candidates may have come second in their constituency but received a higher percentage of the vote than some winning constituency candidates. In 2013, a number of BC New Democrats had a higher percentage of the vote than several of the 85 candidates who won their constituencies.

Because the BC NDP is an established political party, the results for their 10 PR MLA's, if there had been a PPR electoral system in place, definitely proves they should not be considered losers. The actual range of percentage of votes these potential ten NDP PR MLA's received was from 44.57% obtained by the top PR MLA to the 10th place PR MLA at 39.62% . This method of determining who will become PR MLA's is far superior to lists (open or closed). At least, these PR MLA's faced the voters!

The situation, at the present, is somewhat different for the BC Green Party. They are relatively newcomers to the legislature. After running candidates in several general elections, the BC Greens elected their first MLA in 2013 and elected 3 MLA's in 2017. So it is only natural their PR MLA 's will have obtained a lower percentage of the popular vote compared to the established parties. It would be unfair to reject the PPR method of "electing" PR MLA's simply because those BC Greens who lost their constituency election vote and received votes primarily in only the 20% to 30% range yet are eligible to be come PR

MLA's. Some may say that is too low a percentage of the vote to have any type of seat in the legislatures. One should remember that it wasn't until 2013, under FPTP, the BC Greens elected their first MLA! Under PPR, after 2013 the BC Greens would have 9 MLA's in the legislature. This increase in numbers would give the BC Green party more exposure and if they performed reasonably well, there is a reasonable possibility, in the next election their candidates would receive a higher percentage of the vote. In contrast to the BC Greens, one only has to examine the votes received by BC Liberal and BC NDP candidates who were second place candidates in the constituencies in past elections and would have been elected as PR MLA's under the PPR system. Most of these candidates had a very significant a portion of the vote in their constituency races, generally ranging from between usually 44% and 38%. One must remember that only the losing candidates with the highest vote percentage of their parties' losing candidates would become PR MLA's.

What I propose, regarding selection of PR MLA's, is superior for a very important reason. I contend anyone who enters the legislature, whether it be a constituency MLA or a PR MLA, must face the electorate in a general election. Becoming a PR MLA's should be determined via the percentage of the vote a candidate received from the electorate and not as a result of being selected by party bosses.

Another benefit derived from the PPR method is that it could prompt potential voters to actually vote. In a number of constituencies where there are closely fought two candidate races, by utilizing the PPR method of electing PR MLA's to the legislature , this may induce more people to vote. The voter may think to himself/herself that even if my Blue Party candidate loses to the Yellow Party candidate, if my Blue Party candidate obtains a relatively high percentage of the popular vote, he may not be elected as a constituency MLA but he could very well be elected as a PR MLA (of course, this is working on the assumption that the Blue Party doesn't win the most constituency seats. As I stated earlier in my submission, the party

electing the most constituency candidates is ineligible to have any PR MLA's).

In 2013, under PPR, we would have had a minority government with the BC Liberals (due to being the government in the previous session of the legislature) having the first opportunity to form the government. Obviously both parties would attempt to have all or enough BC Greens side with then to form a coalition or an accord government (as we currently have between the BC NDP and the BC Greens). If the BC Liberals failed to woo the BC Greens, the BC NDP would have their opportunity. If in the unlikely event neither party is successful, the Lieutenant Governor would, in all likelihood, call for another election.

Coalition governments are the norm in western Europe and in Scandinavia and those countries are not in dire straits but rather, most are doing quite well politically and economically. Coalition parties in those countries' governments are usually able to cooperate with each other long enough to keep their citizens from constantly having to go to the polls.

In FPTP, opposing anything the government proposes; no matter how innocuous the proposal is, seems to be the main priority of the Opposition. In coalition countries, political parties have learned they should concentrate on what they agree on as opposed to dwelling on their disagreements.

FPTP, tends to consolidate electoral power in one or two major parties since the lesser amount of election night votes for smaller parties quite often results in such parties receiving zero seats. Then FPTP can literally create a one-party state; at least on a temporary basis. This actually occurred in 1987 in Canada!

In 1987, the New Brunswick Liberal party, with slightly over 60% of the popular vote won all of the 58 seats in the New Brunswick legislature, wiping out every party! There were no opposition

members! Until the next election, the New Brunswick Liberals could pass any legislation they wished (as long as it didn't violate the Constitution of Canada) without a peep of opposition in the legislature since there were no opposition members!

If they had been using PPR in 1987 in New Brunswick, instead of the 58 seats, the N.B. Liberal party would have had 58 seats; the N.B. Progressive Conservatives 27 seats; the N.B. NDP 10 seats.

Under FPTP, the actual results were N.B. Liberal Party 58 seats; N.B. Progressive Conservatives 0 seats; N.B. NDP 0 seats.

Note: If you look at columns E and F in Table 4 concerning the 1987 New Brunswick election, PPR has made the % of the vote for each party almost identical to the % of the seats. This is true proportional representation!

Before I close my submission, I would like to make a few suggestions as to certain regulations under a PPR system. These suggestions are not written in stone. I realize it would be up to the legislature to determine such regulations, but I thought I would put my two cents worth in as suggestions for the legislature.

1)   In order to "elect" a PR MLA to the legislature, a political party must either: A) Elect, at a minimum, one (1) constituency MLA or B) Obtain 4% or greater of the total provincial vote.

2) A political party can't have more PR MLA's than the number of candidates it ran in the general election (e.g. the Blue Party only ran 5 candidates but the election night results show they potentially earned 7 PR MLA's. Unfortunately, due to running only five candidates in the general election, the Blue Party would only be entitled to 5 MLA's. For example, let's assume two Blue party candidates have been elected as constituency MLA's, allowing only the remaining 3 candidates to become PR MLA's.) This in keeping with all members

of the legislature having to face the electorate and none are to be appointed as PR MLA's.

3) When there is a tie for the most seats, the party with the most votes has its vote total as the numerator and the other party has its vote total as the denominator.

Example: The Blue party and the Yellow Party both obtain 40 seats but the Blue party's total vote is 330,000 and the Yellow party's is 300,000.
The equation would be (330,000 / 300,000) x 40 seats = 44. The Blue party will receive four PR MLA seats; thus the Blue party will now have 40 + 4 = 44 seats.

4)   There will always be more seats after an election. For example in 2013, we started with 85 seats (the constituency seats) but, with the addition of the PR MLA's, the new legislature would have had 103 MLA's. I found that generally the legislature will have between 95 and 105 MLA's. The major exception would have been the 2001 election when the BC Liberals won 77 of the 79 constituencies This created the need for a large number of PR MLA's. After that election, there were 123 MLA's entering the legislature. That was a rare situation that would rarely crop up under a PPR system.

Before I conclude my submission, I will state the obvious. I notice there are several submissions by large organizations. These organizations not only have the means, a large staff, but also have the attention of the media to promote their side in this referendum.

Being a sole individual with no political backing, I realize I am David vs. Goliath(s). Also, I am promoting a a unique, new and virtually 100% proportional representation electoral system and for those who desire a mixed system, this may detrimental to my proposal. But I have explained Pure Proportional Representation to a number of my politically-keen friends (each occupying a different spots on the political spectrum (varying from conservatives to social democrats)

and they were quite impressed. Especially when I demonstrated how well it works when comparing PPR results to previous B.C. elections and the manner in which Proportional Representative MLA's would obtain a seat in the legislature utilizing the PPR electoral system.

Despite it being a steep, uphill climb for me; no matter what electoral system is chosen for British Columbia, I know all sides have put a great deal of time and effort into their work and I congratulate all who have taken part in this exercise. We are very fortunate to live a society in which we can present our beliefs without fear of retribution.

Your respectfully,
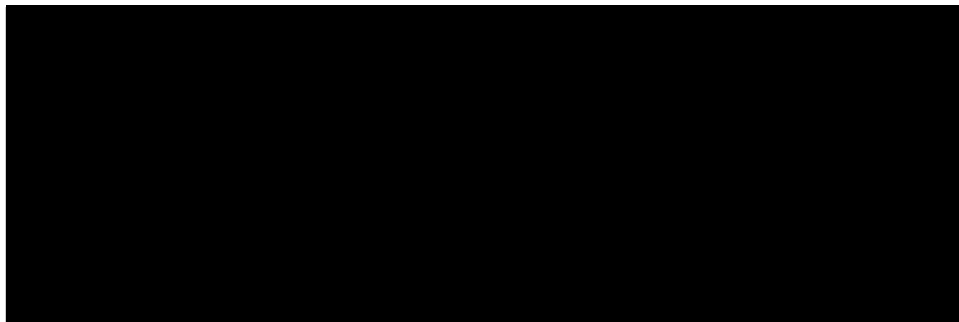
Political Party	# of candidates	A Constituency Elected MLA's	B PR Elected MLA'a	C Total MLA's	D Total Votes	F % of Total Votes	G % of Seats (Under FPTP)	H % of Seats (Under PPR)
BC Liberals	85	49	0 (not eligible)	49	794,946	44.1%	57.6%	47.6%
BC NDP	85	34	10	44	715,999	39.7%	40.0%	42.7%
Green Party	61	1	8	9	146,607	8.1%	1.2%	8.7%
Independent	1	1	0	1	42,565	2.4%	1.2%	1.00%
Totals		85	18	103			100.0%	100.0%
Sub - Total Votes					1,700,700	94.3%		
Other Votes					102,351	5.70%		
Total Votes					1,803,051	100.00%		

In order to "elect" a PR MLA to the legislature, a political party must:

A) Elect a Constituency MLA

OR

B) Obtain 4% or greater of the total provincial vote.

Note: 1) The political party that elects the most constituency MLA's will not receive any PR MLA's.

2) A political party can't have more PR MLA's than the number of candidates it ran in the general election (e.g. the Blue Party only ran 5 candidates but the election night results show they earned 7 PR. MLA's. Unfortunately, due to running only five candidates in the general election, the Blue Party would only be entitled to 5 MLA's. Two could have been elected as constituency MLA's, allowing only the remaining 3 candidates to become PR MLA's.) This in keeping with all members of the legislature having to face the electorate and none are to be appointed as PR MLA's.

Political Party	A Constituency Elected MLA's # of candidates	B PR Elected MLA's	C Total MLA's	D Total Votes	E % of Total Votes	F % of Seats (Under PPR)
NB Liberals	58	0 (not eligible)	58	246,702	60.40%	61.00%
NB Conservatives	Unknown	27	27	116,795	28.60%	28.40%
NB NDP	Unknown	10	10	43,033	10.50%	10.50%
Totals Seats	58	37	95			
Sub Total of Votes				406,530	99.50%	99.90%
Other Votes				1,933	0.50%	0%
Total Votes				408,463	100.00%	99.90%

Table #4 New Brunswick 1987 Election
(Using PPR)

Why the Dual Member Proportional (DMP) electoral system should be included as a choice on the upcoming referendum in British Columbia

-Submitted by: ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮
February 27, 2018

Introduction

My name is ██████████████████████████████████
███████████████ As a citizen with an avid interest in democratic renewal and electoral reform, I spoke at one of the public hearings of the federal government's Special Committee on Electoral Reform in 2016 and the following written submission reflects my desire to make a meaningful contribution to the public consultation on electoral reform in British Columbia. In the following paragraphs, I intend to underscore the importance of adopting a 2-question ballot for the referendum and also to establish the merit of Dual Member Proportional as an electoral system which should be one of the choices on the referendum ballot.

A) The Referendum Ballot

Regarding the ballot structure and question, I strongly believe that a two-question ballot is the best format for the referendum. The first question should ask voters whether they wish to keep the current electoral system or change it to some form of proportional representation. The second question should ask all voters (including those who voted to keep the current system) which proportional electoral system they would prefer in the event that a majority of voters vote for change in the first question. In the words of YES PR BC, from their stakeholder submission,

> "This two-question approach would allow voters to endorse a move away from FPTP (first-past-the-post) without restricting them to a single alternative system, as was the case with previous B.C. electoral reform referenda in 2005 and 2009. Having a ranked list of options to choose from could help build consensus around a form of proportional representation that is acceptable to a majority of voters, including those who would have preferred maintaining FPTP."[1]

Furthermore, in the PEI referendum on electoral reform in 2016, anecdotal accounts suggest that having a 2-question ballot and a short list of electoral systems to choose from elevated the tone of the conversation in the province such that people were generally engaging in productive, intelligent discussions about the various electoral systems on offer and building consensus even from divergent perspectives. In the interest of democratic fairness and effective engagement of the public, British Columbia should adopt a 2-question referendum ballot that allows the voices of all voters to be heard.

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[1] https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/271/2018/01/YES-PR-BC-Submission-on-the-BC-Electoral-Reform-Process.pdf

B) Dual Member Proportional

Dual Member Proportional, or DMP, is a proportional representation electoral system specifically designed for use in Canada and its provinces. In 2016, DMP was a front runner in PEI's plebiscite on electoral reform and attracted support from all sides of the political spectrum. Even though it was almost unheard of initially, DMP fetched 40% of the vote for change, more second choice votes than any other system (including SMP and MMP), and more first and and second choice votes than first-past-the-post (or SMP).[2] These results indicate not only that DMP is a credible proportional alternative to our current system, but that it would be a worthy system for BC to consider on account of its ability to garner broad partisan and public support.

I strongly believe that DMP should be included as a choice on the referendum ballot because it retains the best features of our current system (namely simplicity of the ballot design and voting process, a high degree of local representation, and accountability of MLAs to their constituents) while fully achieving proportionality and eliminating the following downsides of MMP and STV:

In MMP:
- party lists, although open lists, burden voters with the need to research dozens of candidates instead of just a few
- having a second tier of 'regional' representatives diminishes local representation and accountability
- in both MMP and STV, allowing voters to rank candidates from the same party would promote competition within parties, which is unproductive in an effective party-based democracy

In STV:
- voter equality cannot be realized if one individual is able to elect their first choice while another is only able to elect their third
- centrist parties are given a systematic advantage over all other parties since they are likely to be the second choice of both right-leaning and left-leaning voters
- at least 5 MLAs per riding would be required for the system to function optimally, reducing local representation and accountability
- proportionality cannot be ensured, since the provincial (regional) popular vote is not actually factored into STV's electoral formula

In a nutshell, DMP utilizes 2-member ridings where the first seat goes to the candidate with the most votes in that riding (to ensure that the candidate with the most votes always wins a seat) and the second seat in each riding is assigned in a manner which brings the provincial seat count to proportionality. Note that although there would be 2 MLAs per riding, the ridings would be twice as large so as to retain the level of local representation we currently have (the MLA-to-constituent ratio would remain unchanged) and to prevent any increase to the number of MLAs in the provincial legislature.

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[2] This data, and more details about DMP found at: https://dmpforcanada.com

Most importantly, DMP's mechanism to ensure proportionality is as democratic as possible because all the remaining seats that a party deserves (after the winners of the first seats are accounted for) go to the ridings where that party enjoyed the highest percentage of the vote for their candidate relative to the percentages of the vote that their candidates earned in all the other ridings. In other words, it's the individual riding results that determines **where** each party will win its seats. In the way that it respects the democratic intent of voters, this feature of DMP is a tremendous advantage over both MMP and STV and it warrants repetition: *the selection of winning candidates in DMP is based on actual votes earned rather than ranked party lists (even if ranked by the electorate) or transfers of votes (from second choice to first choice, etc.).* On a similar note, this is a core strength of the DMP system: that the mandate of all elected MLAs is based on both the provincial vote and the vote at the riding level.

Under DMP most ridings would be represented by MLAs from two different parties, which would allow more people than previously possible to have their views represented in the legislature and to have direct access to an MLA from a party they support. Conceptually, this is arguably the most democratic and effective means of representation at the local level out of all the proportional systems. This feature also means that the regional diversity of each party's caucus increases significantly - all parties will have MLAs in more areas of the province than ever before possible. Furthermore, the ballot design would be almost exactly the same as the current one with voters marking one 'X' beside the party of their choice (only with DMP, parties can run teams of 2 candidates in each riding to anticipate the possibility that they may win both seats in the riding). Because the way people vote would not have to change, it would be extremely easy for the public to adapt to the new system.

In conclusion, DMP would allow BC to retain and even strengthen local representation, achieve proportionality, promote collaboration between parties, and preserve the voting experience of our current system.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission, and thank you for considering Dual Member Proportional (DMP) to be one of the choices on British Columbia's referendum for electoral reform.

To read more about DMP, please visit: https://dmpforcanada.com

I read about the five voting systems and think none of them will work to a satisfying level for most voters. I do agree with all the weaknesses that have been mentioned on the website but one problem with all of them is trying to get proportional representation. It is worth trying to enhance it but a close match or an exact match is not possible. The reason is legislative seat distribution and political party voting vary on different variables so much so they will rarely or never really correlate. Seats are based on population distribution and each seat is to represent a specific number of people based on a geographic boundary. Political party voting patterns can vary on much more variables such as age, gender, education, values, interest in politics or lack of, personal biases, information they receive, the party leaders, the candidates and the party's performance when in power. These can change to varying amounts over time since some people can change their voting preferences. They may choose a different party, choose to not vote or may change their location thereby changing the choice of candidates they have at election time. Many, if not all of these variables that affect a person's voting preference have no geographic constraints and thus their distribution can vary widely. Sometimes it can be difficult even to measure voting preferences accurately. The 2013 provincial election showed how faulty surveys and polls can be. Another factor that makes proportional representation impossible to achieve at a satisfying level is political voting preferences vary in each electoral district that a seat is to represent. Some districts are have a majority preference for one party be it Liberal, NDP or Green. Others it can be a two way rivalry or sometimes three parties. For some districts, voting participation rates can vary and that too can change.

Another problem with the five voting systems and also with the perception of electoral reform is proportional representation does not mean proportional authority. However close any system gets to proportional representation, the party or coalition that has the most seats will get ALL of the authority to make executive decisions. The ruling party or coalition will get all of the cabinet posts, choose all of the ministers and thus make all of the decisions to carry out policies within those ministries even if they have a minority share of the popular vote. Some of their decisions and policies may face much criticism or objectives from other politicians, media people and voters but they can still carry out their decisions. MLAs of other parties have no authority or means to stop or force the ruling party to change their decisions or policies they carry out. I am sure that many NDP MLAs who were in the Legislature when the Liberals were in power between 2001 and 2017 knows what that felt like.

As for specific systems, the main fault with the STV system is that is was seen as too complicated for most people to understand. A system that is too complicated makes it more susceptible to fraud and the STV system failed to make a lasting impression on voters. It failed twice in electoral reform referendums, once in 2005 and once in 2009.

One fault that the SMP system has is it wastes many votes. The waste rate can get around 40%. To calculate this, just have to use the following formula:

Wasted vote % = ((Total vote count - total vote count of all candidates winning a seat)/total vote count) x 100%

Another problem with the SMP system is it has a very distorted correlation between a party's popular vote count and its chances of being in power. Under the SMP system with three parties competing, it is possible to win an election with a little over 17% of the popular vote and for another party in the same election to lose

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with close to 66% of the popular vote. This is an extreme case but it shows the distortion of the SMP system. To explain, imagine that in each electoral district, Party X gets 33% of the vote, Party Y gets 33% and Party Z gets 34% in a given election. Party Z would win but according to the rules of the SMP system, a majority win needs only one seat over the halfway point of all the seats. For this example, suppose this number is 0.51 of all the seats. So in 0.51 of all the seats, Party Z would still win but its popular vote percent would be the percent of votes in each district times the percent of all the seats it has won. Thus the math comes to 34% x 0.51 = 17.34%. Now suppose in the remaining districts, which is 0.49 of the total, all of the votes go to Party X. The math to calculate their percentage of the popular vote would be
33% x 0.51 + 100% x 0.49 = 16.83% + 49% = 65.83%. When one considers the distortion of popular vote with winning the election and the portion of wasted votes, it can leave many voters feeling very frustrated and the effort to make an informed choice very wasteful. With these two faults of the SMP system and others mentioned on the website for citizen engagement, it is no surprise to me why the majority of people tend to be apathetic to politics and voting in general.

To make voting more productive and fair for voters, I would propose another voting system of my own. I have no website or Facebook page for it since I never think it would get sufficient reviews or approval to make it worthwhile but I will try here. The system I propose I call the PAV system. PAV stands for Proportional Authority Voting and is design to distribute political authority as best possible according to a party's popular vote. It basically adds a second stage of vote processing to the SMP system. How it works it uses the SMP system to determine who wins the seats. Once that is done, each party can select the number of ministries they want according to how many votes they have. To select a ministry, they need a ministry vote quota. The quota is determined by the total vote count divided by the number of ministries. The more votes a party has, the more ministries they can select. The choosing process would go in order of each party's popular vote. When it comes to the last ministry to be selected, it is most likely all parties will have remainder of votes that are below the ministry vote quota since it is very unlikely that the popular vote count will divide evenly by the number of ministries. To decide which party gets the last ministry, there can be two ways I think of. One is it goes to the party with the highest remainder of votes or goes to the party that comes closest to the minimum popular vote percentage to be eligible in the Legislature. I would guess this amount would be somewhere between 2 − 5 % . If there are other ways, those too could be considered and resolved in the Legislature, by a referendum or by BC Election officials.

An advantage of the PAV system is it is easier to understand than the other systems, focuses on proportional authority which no other system does and it would discourage coalitions. I would think that most, if not all political parties would prefer to work independently of other parties to gain political status amongst voters and find out for themselves what kind of policies and what does not. The PAV system would allow voters to know what they are getting since there would be less chances of surprising coalitions and it allows marginal parties to gain popularity in a more feasible way. Marginal parties often have different ideas than the mainstream parties like the NDP and the Liberals so it is hard for them to gain voter acceptance. Many voters are reluctant to vote for parties whose ideas are not accepted by the majority since they are unsure of how they work and do not want to be part of some grand political experiment. With the PAV system, a marginal party can gain a small foothold in the Legislature since there are a minority of voters who are willing to try out different parties. If they do well, the marginal party can gain confidence in managing a ministry and gain popularity with voters. If they fail, they will remain marginal. The PAV system would put more accountability on parties. If a ruling party does poorly in their term, they will lose votes and when voters switch, they will see the difference it makes it how a party loses some of its ability to select ministries. Another advantage to the PAV system is if a party loses an election, they are not completely out of action. With enough votes, they can still select ministries and still exercise some political authority to regain or keep their status amongst voters. Another advantage the PAV system has over other voting systems is it can be implemented gradually so everyone involved with politics and voting can adapt to a new voting system. For example, a rule can be set that for every provincial election, four new ministries must be selected with the PAV system. This would allow

the PAV system to be phased in over a period of several years. If there are any problems, there is time to fix them in between elections.

A Proposed System for Proportional Representation

The following ideas are meant to offer a simple but viable alternative to the 'first past the post' system of elections that are the norm in Canada both federally and provincially.

The critical elements of this approach address two main issues:

A. The outcomes will be a very close representation of the percentages of the popular vote for both parties and independents.
B. The outcomes will hopefully force politicians to focus more on what is best for the province or country and focus on how to work together using the combined ideas of more than one political philosophy.

The following proposal is focused on the Province of BC.

1. Use 43 electoral districts as in federal elections for BC
2. Those 43 winners get the MLA seats automatically
3. If any party gets close to their total percentage votes received (or exceeded already), they get nothing more. This is to reduce the chance of one party getting such a high percentage of the seats that they can force their own agendas without the input of other points of view. The goal is working together and not behaving like selfish little children and bullies. It is time for our politicians to model to our population the ideas of team work and caring for everyone and not just the majority of that particular election.

4. Fill the remaining seats to satisfy a proportional representation formula by allocating seats in the following manner: Note, the order of these choices is important to keep in mind as you read this. The additional seats are allocated starting with a) then b) then c) etc.

   a) Any party that gets over 1% of the overall votes will get a corresponding number of MLA seats from #2 positions in the 43 ridings. For example: If a party got 10 % of the total provincial vote, then they will choose from those in their party who got 2nd place in their riding until they reach 10% of the 83 provincial seats. Therefore, those in their party with the highest percentage vote in their riding will be first chosen and then the person with the second highest percentage in their riding would be chosen next and so on until they have reached their 10% of the total of 83 ridings.
   b) if any independent candidate(s) get second place in any riding and there is a need to fill MLS's to 83, he/she gets elected
   c) if any major party needs extra MLA's because they received more overall percentage of votes than they got from those 43 automatically allocated, they get extra seats not exceeding the overall percentage of votes their party received

d) if rounding up the percentage requires a small number of extra MLA's (1-3), let the Chief Electoral Officer decide it as he/she is the only one who cannot vote and is probably the most independent referee available.

The above mentioned proposal combines aspects of a voting system and ridings people are familiar with and can rely on.
Also, it guarantees close to proportional representation and the results are readily available hours after the elections, it provides public confidence in fairness of this system.

Regarding low interest and non-participation of voters:

1.This system gives voters a real choice instead of frequent voting for the lesser of two evils or not voting at all. Voters have a good chance to get a small party or an independent candidate elected.

2.To motivate all, including those who usually do not bother, why don't we encourage voters with a lottery style reward, let say, $100,000 for a winner and $50,000 for a second and a third place? We use a 'bribery system' anyway, calling it a political contribution or a campaign donation. Some countries use a compulsory voting system that forces people to vote but this proposal is closer to a democratic process than forcing people to vote.

P.S.: Over the years, an alarming number of Canadians or BC residents refused to vote because they felt or were locked out and thus not heard. Maybe a fair system will bring them out and make them a deciding factor in most of the provincial, federal or even municipal elections.