[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 2:17 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: About How We Vote

To whom it may concern,

I am looking forward to the opportunity to vote in the upcoming referendum on democratic reform. Citizens deserve a fair and simple question, a robust citizen-driven process, an early voting day, and no big money interference.

I ask you to consider the following recommendations when designing the referendum process and question.

Question: voters should be offered a simple, clear choice, e.g. a single question asking whether they would like to move to a more proportional representation system

Process: following a successful vote, an Elections BC-led, citizen-driven process should determine a specific system.

Timeline: the voting date should occur no later than end of June 2018, so as not to interfere with the municipal elections in October 2018, and to allow sufficient time for Elections BC to determine and implement the new voting system in advance of the next provincial election

Money: big money should be banned from the referendum; official proponent and opponent groups should be recognized and provided funding.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

BC Electoral Reform: Local Representation. A Simple Preferential Ballot. Proportional representation. Cost control. No Wasted Votes. No Vote-splitting.

Following the BC Spring Election of 2017, I was asked to participate on a committee whose goal was to give BC voters one more chance for Electoral Reform. This loose committee met several times via email exchanges and videoconferences. Many strategic thoughts were put forth re. list-votes, STV, full PR, etc. My goal was to be sure that we get a system that is the most democratic system possible AND that frees voter-citizens from voting out of fear.

I was not entirely satisfied with any of the proposals I heard. The predominant focus was on "mixed-member proportional representation". Even with PR, voters would still face agonizing choices about "vote-splitting" and in many cases would have to choose between local representation and supporting a party they like.

I am proposing system that is a blend of preferential balloting and proportional representation. I'll lay it out below but the formula rests on the assumption that all citizens would like to be able to vote for their own local representative and that—if they were spared the fear of a "wasted vote"—they would be much more likely to put their first choice first. The ballot would be simple—just like the one they use now but inserting numbers beside the names instead of a single X. Voters would vote for the person (and his or her party/ policies) that they most like. Their 2nd choice would be for the person (and party / policies) that they would accept as 2nd-best.

Ultimately, regardless of who is elected in their local district, every citizen's #1 choice would be counted to achieve province-wide PR.

Background: It's estimated that by allocating 1/3 of the existing seats 87 MLA seats in BC by % of the vote achieved by party candidates, that would be sufficient to achieve true proportionality. Therefore 2/3 of the seats could remain locally-elected. If those 2/3 districts are expanded by ½ their geographic area, every citizen would have one locally-elected MLA and one PR-elected MLA serving the combined area of two newly-expanded districts. In other words, for every three current electoral districts, under my "preferential / proportional" system, voters would elect two members directly and one by province-wide proportionality.

Desirable goals of any new electoral system:

- **local election of members / accountability to local voters**
- **the closest approximation of PR possible**
- **keeping the cost of gov't the same (ie. no additional MLA seats added)**
- **people voting their true convictions, not their poll- and press- driven assumptions about what other voters might do...**

My proposed "Preferential / Proportional" system.

1. **Reduce the number of BC ridings by 1/3 (creating 58 new ridings, each of them 50% larger than previously (land area and population). Each of these 58 ridings will elect their own MLA .The remaining 1/3 of seats (29) will be allocated by PR.**
2. **A preferential ballot in each new riding (2/3 of 87=58 elected seats) for the local candidate and the party he/she represents...58 MLAs each representing new districts larger-by-half.**
3. **All 58 ridings are combined in twin combinations=29 doubles. Their combined area would be the exact equivalent size of 3 ridings today. To assist the two riding-elected MLAs, one PR-elected MLA will be assigned to each double riding. End result=3 MLAs serving an area equal to 3 of today's constituencies.**

4. **Ballot choices get sorted out for all 58 districts by going to second and third choice—if necessary—etc. until one candidate has over 50%...that candidate is elected for that electoral district**
5. **Proportional seats are awarded as a % of the #1 choice of all BC ballots (eg. let's say the Greens elected 3 riding seats by preferential ballot but achieved 16.84% of #1 ballot choice overall...16.84% of 87 total seats=14.65 seats...round up to 15 seats...3 are already elected so the Greens would qualify for 12 additional PR seats...out of potential 29 PR seats). Let's say the Liberals elected 35 MLAs . their #1 vote % (40.36%) entitles them to 35.11 MLAs. They would get NO additional PR seats...etc. as they would already have their proportionality. If they had elected only 32 in the ridings, they would be entitled to an additional 3...etc.**
6. **Candidates chosen to fill PR seats are those candidates who ranked highest of their party by #1 vote %. The qualifying PR MLA becomes a floater who assists the 2 other MLAs in his /her 2-district combination. Any constituent in either district has a choice to approach the elected MLA or the PR-allocated MLA for assistance.**
7. **All MLAs would have equal standing in the Legislature.**

Something like that. That way, although there may be a few districts uncomfortable with their PR MLA (let's say the highest % candidate for a small party only achieved 10% of the local vote but the party qualified for one MLA), the person so chosen would at least have the highest approval rating of any candidate within his / her party in the province (dispelling the 'party-list' complaint) and the highest % of votes for that party would have come from the general area where that candidate was running. Parties failing to muster at least 1.15% of the overall vote would automatically be out of the running, since you can't have an MLA = to less than 1 person. (1.15% of 87 =1 seat). In reality, the threshold would be much higher but it would be determined by the voters at the polls, not by an arbitrary threshhold.

This keeps local accountability and representation and gives the fairest chance to all parties to achieve some representation in the Legislature while keeping costs down (other than the one-time cost of holding the referendum and the redistribution which would be required to make this work).

Selling points:

- local election and accountability
- simple ballot
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices still count for local candidate
- all 1st choices count for % of MLAs allocated by PR
- no additional cost to taxpayers
- more voters voting their true convictions

[redacted]
[redacted]BC
[redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 9:50 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: FW: referendum survey

For inclusion in written submissions.

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 9:22 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: referendum survey

Dear [redacted]

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.

(*) 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,

--

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, December 7, 2017 12:24 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: AG Draft Email to [redacted] email of December 6, 2017 please referral created to CCU and submitted - Many thanks ... FW: Proportional Representation - Another "pipe dream" or a Solution?

To Be Noted: [redacted] did not write to the AG on October 7, 2017. [redacted] has included the AG on his email of December 6, 2017 and we are requesting an AG draft email response please.

Many thanks [redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2017 2:46 PM
To: Minister, AG AG:EX
Subject: FW: Proportional Representation - Another "pipe dream" or a Solution?

From: [redacted]
Sent: December 6, 2017 12:14 PM
To: 'bob.deith.mla@leg.bc.ca'; 'premier@gov.bc.ca'; 'carole.james.mla@leg.bc.ca'; 'adrian.dix.mla@leg.bc.ca'; 'david.eby.mla@leg.bc.ca'; 'mike.farnworth.mla@leg.bc.ca'; 'george.heyman.mla@leg.bc.ca'; 'andrew.weaver.mla@leg.bc.ca'
Subject: Proportional Representation - Another "pipe dream" or a Solution?

Hello,

Just a follow-up concerning discussion on changing the voting system to possible variation of Proportional Representation. Have you moved to address my issues yet?

[redacted] have not heard back from you about proposed lunch on December 21st?

Regards,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: October 7, 2017 5:04 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Proportional Representation - Another "pipe dream" or a Solution?

First past the post is a proven means to elect Politicians to office. The Electoral College concept in the US is flawed, subject to abuse and may Americans are looking at a more Democratic means, notably "First past the post". We witnessed Clinton win the popular vote by approx. 3 million votes, so might the US have forestalled the chaos and ineptness of a child in the White House with First past the post?

Some argue proportional representation may garner more representation by other parties. such as Green Party, maybe Conservatives, which could be a reality but does that guarantee greater voter turnout, better Governance in parliament or does it just appease various political parties who seek self-gains. Indeed, as with certain other Countries with "pizza politics" improved governance has not been the successful objective, rather another form of chaos and difficulty passing legislation.

Indeed, the current NDFP and Green coalition type of governance has not produced overwhelming success, it has posed too many public debates and opposition, with the NDP always on the edge of being threatened with defeat, except for the agreement in place per se but aside from the major issues embraced, potential for opposing dialogue is ever present and often subject to mind control of Leaders under anger management guidance seemingly.

So, how do Constituents seek to gain more fully and witness not only Democratic governance and political system and does proportional representation give any assurances accordingly?

How do we get more voters to turn out to exercise their right to vote and might doing so impact more upon the final outcome?

If we took the last Provincial election and superimposed a Proportional Representation model over, how would that impact the outcome and thus what would our current Government look like?

While some are very assertive trying to force a change to proportional representation and like to bully opposition into submission, they have, to date, failed to make a strong, clear unequivocal case to support a move Provincially let alone Federally to proportional representation system. Explanation have been sullied by rhetoric, fear, promises and too much bafflegab, that the average Citizen does not have complete confidence in voting to change the system. It is perceived while initially supportive of making a change, Prime Minister Trudeau has taken a cautious second look and seems uncertain or in need of more factual evidence prior to make a promised change. While he undoubtedly attracts the partisan backlash of others, he is right to shrug off criticisms and demand more proof prior to taking Canada, or Premier Horgan British Columbia down a path wrought with too many pitfall, just because a vocal group are demanding a change, something Canadians ought to wisely take with a "grain of salt or at face value" until unequivocal proof point the direction to take that will achieve most needs of a Democratic Society.

While this process unfolds, the need to overcome such Voter apathy and indifference, let alone far too rigid partisan politics, that will inspire a pride in all Canadians, to recognize what has happen over history to bring all to the state now existing, a right to vote. The utter shame exuded by partisan politics in the US, notably Republican Party failure to do what is right for Citizens', to overcome their sheer desperation at retaining power, that, for example they would repeatedly flog a dead horse to repeal and replace so-called Obama care, they you still claim Canada one payer system is socialist medicine and such sheer ignorance is tolerated. So, all Canadians can rejoice in the fact we have seeming in most case, Adults governing Canada and Provinces, whereby the US is governed by a narcissistic 7 year old, so be thankful for our system even though some find fault but sadly, some will find fault whichever voting system we engage, so best we deliberate long and carefully before we make changes that may not achieve the best overall plan and only enhance some people's political agendas & aspirations, while harming others.

In conclusion, if we are to proceed with a change to our voting system Federally or Provincially, just like we drastically need Municipal Recall Legislation, make it the right choice, for the right reasons and make vehemently clear to all, exactly what the new system rules, regulations and objectives are. To encompass political party funding. To embrace means that will increase voter turnout. Lastly, raise the bar to attract a more impartial, competent and truly public servant inspired mindset who wants to improve our Communities, Province and Country for all non-partisan. While I was once more supportive I have had time to reflect, to pause and look at other jurisdictions, to carefully examine what is happening in the US, to listen to various viewpoints and have come to the conclusion inadequate thorough investigation has not be undertaken by Government, thus Citizens' are not adequately informed of facts and potential outcome pro or con, that a proportional representation system will produce and last, I am not impressed nor convinced by vocal proponents nor opponents, so my demand is "back to the drawing board under the auspices of Federal or

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vincial informed bodies to produce a final effective plan for Citizens' to vote upon and stop the bafflegab and
rtisan gibberish".

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: Minister, AG AG:EX
Subject: FW: Electoral Reforms - Suggestion

From: [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, November 25, 2017 10:16 AM
To: Minister, AG AG:EX
Subject: Electoral Reforms - Suggestion

Mr. David Eby
Hon. Attorney General
Government of British Columbia
Victoria (BC)

Dear Mr. Eby,

Greetings!

In view of the proposed referendum slated for 2018, and the extensive debate on BC's Electoral Reforms, I would like to put forth my suggestion. At the outset, I feel that there is no need to overhaul BC's electoral system completely. Many of the suggestions proposed seem to be complex, as the number of seats each party gets will have to be calibrated after the election process is over. This calibration can never be accurate because when "percentages" are involved, there are always "basis points", needless to mention the time consuming process.

Therefore, I have an out-of-the-box suggestion which is Fair, Simple and Cost-effective instead of the present
First-Past-the-Post system.

Suggestion:
First scenario: If a candidate gets 50% + 1 vote of the total votes cast, then he/she should be declared an outright winner.
Next scenario: If a candidate does not get 50% + 1 vote of the total votes cast, then both the 1st and 2nd placed candidates should be declared duly elected, but with a rider. The first placed candidate will serve for the 1st half term, and the "runner-up" will serve out the remainder of the term. The runner-up will be entitled to his/her salary/perquisites when he/she takes office only. So also, the retirement benefits of both will be half their entitlements. This will not put a burden on the exchequer. In the event of any one such MLAs winning out-rightly (50% + 1

vote) in the subsequent general elections, then they should get their full entitlements at that time.

I understand that my above proposal/system may result in a change of the composition of the House in the mid-term, so be it. We all know that in most of the sports/games, the "runner-up" too is rewarded, irrespective of the score! The above suggestion will make the elections more competitive because the candidates will strive hard to reach out to all the constituents in the riding, to cross the 50% mark, thereby increasing the voter turnout.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: Minister, AG AG:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 7, 2017 12:01 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: AG Draft Email please with a referral created to CCU and submitted please - Many thanks! FW: Electoral reform

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2017 3:41 PM
To: Minister, AG AG:EX
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Electoral reform

Dear Mr. Eby,

As the government moves towards a referendum to consider selecting a new electoral system I have the following comments and requests. Choosing a new electoral decision is the most fundamental decision your government will make during your mandate. Democracy requires time, patience and informed decision making for all decisions but for our most fundamental democratic right, " How we elect the who will govern," needs to be a fair, informed and impartial decision. To change our current parliamentary democracy that has served Canada and BC since our inception (Canada and by extension BC) is consistently ranked as one of if not the top, places to live in the world requires more than 50% plus one to be changed. There must be a significant % of BC residents who believe that the current system needs changing. I believe that 60% would truly reflect the need to change our current system. Less than 60% will be a very disruptive to the democratic harmony we have enjoyed since 1871. 60% may be a high standard but changing our most significant democratic right needs to reflect high standards.

The UK is now living with a less than definitive referendum result (Brexit (approx. 52% Yes to 48% No) that has resulted in a truly divisive country. With the Brexit result the UK isfacing arguably its greatest change since WWII. The result may lead to Scotland voting to leave the UK. The vote result simply was not definitive enough to change their Euro membership.

Secondly, with the proposed 50% plus 1 referendum rural BC (basically all electoral districts beyond Hope), no pun intended, are simply being dismissed. Again Canada & BC has been well serviced by carefully balancing population for electoral ridings to provide all regions with "equal' representation. I believe that 50% of the BC electoral decisions must be in favour of electoral reform to truly reflect the views of the entire province. By allowing a simple 50% plus one referendum without this provision, the lower mainland with its population will simply be the result that all of BC lives with. As a [redacted] & [redacted] the BC education system was consistently directed by only few large lower mainland school districts. In a country & province as large as we are protecting the smaller & rural areas representation is essential to a healthy democracy. If the rural areas feel 'shut out" of the decision making process it will lead to significant challenges going forward for any future government.

Historically, rural BC has contributed significantly to BC's economy and will continue to so. Rural BC deserves to continue to have true voice in Victoria. This proposed referendum does not reflect that.

Our current electoral system definitely has its pros and cons but given our successful economic and social systems (health, education etc) with the current electoral system I believe you need to reconsider the present 50% plus 1 referendum. At the very least allow for 50% of the districts to support the change.

Finally I believe there should be multiple options for selection, including the present, "First Last the Post," system. It is simply unconscionable to make a electoral change without including the system we currently have. Without providing this choice you have made a decision without truly considering voters intention. I understand it was an election promise and I applaud and respect you will go to a referendum but the concerns listed need to be taken into consideration.

By my comments it should be quite clear that I favour the current electoral system, including its flaws. However, having travelled significantly and observed and listed to those who live in countries that consistently have minority governments they are forever hampered to get anything done. Think Italy, Israel and now the mess that is happening in Germany to name few. These countries continue to have short lived governments or make foolish comprises (legislation & policy) with small parties, to stay in power. They are in constant election mode not governing mode.

I have been blessed with living in BC (Canada) that has provided me with the world's best standard of living and allows for my children to experience the same. All of this occurred with the present electoral system. If the system is to be changed it must truly reflect the will of a significant majority of citizens across the province as I have recommended. I can very easily live with that decision. because that is what a healthy democracy is. The current proposed referendum is not fair nor impartial. It favours the larger population base of the lower mainland at the expense of rural BC.

Sincerely

[redacted]
[redacted] B.C.

[redacted]

From: Minister, AG AG:EX
Subject: FW: One scenario for Proportional Representation in B.C.

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Sent: Friday, December 8, 2017 11:55 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc: Minister, AG AG:EX
Subject: RE: One scenario for Proportional Representation in B.C.

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for writing about Proportional Representation 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

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2017 12:01 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: One scenario for Proportional Representation in B.C.

To:
[redacted]

Copy: [redacted]

In the B.C. provincial government's online survey on "How We Vote", the range of choices regarding the 'most important values to us voters' is somewhat confusing. In particular, Proportional Representation scenarios seem complex and potentially more costly.

That said, my preference is for Proportional Representation, but to be more cost-effective than creating a bunch of new MLAs to match the share of votes cast province-wide in an election, why not this scenario...

Let's say that Greens get 20% of the province-wide vote, but only have 2 elected MLAs sitting in the legislature. Those 2 Green MLA seats/votes should have the weight of, and count for, 20% of the electorate on any piece of legislation. They should also get 20% of time allotted to speak on these bills. Correspondingly, if the party that gets 40% of the province-wide vote receives, say, 80% of the seats, their MLAs should be allowed only one-half of a vote each.

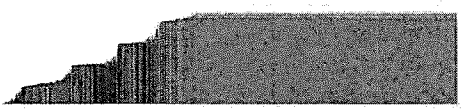
In the case where Greens may get 20% of the vote but don't win any seat, then the Green Party itself should appoint one member of its party to represent them in the legislature and that MLA's vote would count for 20%. Maybe a good cut off point for party status could be 10 or 15% of a province-wide vote.

All votes should be free votes to ensure that all sides' views are acknowledged, including individual ridings' views. This would encourage more cooperation and compromise, which is something unheard of in 'First Past the Post' systems. Hopefully this would result in less political posturing and theatrics, and a more thoughtful, policy-focused way of governing that better represents the will of the people.

And while we're at it, this is the 21st century and I don't understand why everyone has to be physically present in the House on important issues where the government might fall. There is no reason why a vote can't be cast securely online to represent the MLA's voting intention. We have the capability of putting MLAs on Skype so they can be seen on a screen in the legislature to ensure their voice and vote can literally be heard. That way if someone is sick in the hospital or dealing with an emergency, it doesn't put our existing government in peril of falling, triggering unneeded and unwanted elections.

Sincerely,

[redacted]
[redacted]BC[redacted]



[redacted]

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
NOV 27 2017
REFER TO MAIL REGISTRY
OTHER
DRAFT REPLY REPLY DIRECT
ATTN. FILE FILE INFORM.

Honourable David Eby
Attorney General of B.C.
Parliament Building, room 232
P.O. Box 9044, Victoria B.C. V8W 9E2

Nov 22nd / 17

Greetings;

I presume you recently received from [redacted] a copy of my Regional Seats voting system applied to the most recent general election in your province, together with an item proclaiming it 'Perfect for P·E·I', which it is. Having a minimum of six sitting in opposition would be a welcome improvement there. In BC the number of Regions would be about seventeen, so that would be the minimum number sitting in opposition to the gov't of the day – no 2001 debacle possible.

The RS system is identical to current practice for any voter <u>while voting</u>, since the determination of Regional Members occurs after the ballots are all counted. It is improvement of election outcomes with no change in voting procedure. That is the beauty of it. Including the name of the Region on the ballot is the sole difference.

I most likely will <u>not</u> make any presentation during your consultation process. I take the position that the RS system should be included in background material used in that process, this voting system on an equal footing with the others. Why, then, should I need to bring it to their attention through a presentation?

Regarding the referendum question, I presume it will be in two parts like New Zealand used. However, rather than being "change or no change" in part A, it should be 'first·past·the·post with regional seats' versus 'proportional voting'. Part B could then be: "If proportional voting is to be used, I would prefer ..." then list two or three. Everybody marks both A and B parts, so even those who don't favour proportional voting get a say in what form it would take should the majority go for it.

If the *status quo* appears as a choice, those who are anti ND will vote for it: for they welcome outcomes that reduce the opposition to a handful. Don't be so foolish as to let that happen. Improving the outcomes of first·past·the·post is long overdue. (And no, I don't expect BC voters will go the proportional route.)

I designed the RS system specifically to ensure a workable opposition would always exist. The example of Alberta in past decades, nearly a one·party state, was in mind. (And the potential for it to revert to old ways now seems possible.)

The other objective was to break up wide areas being dominated by one party election after election. This is a general result of such voting, as witness federal elections in Canada, and UK elections as well, not to mention MB over the last few decades. So I designed each Region to have but a few ridings, with each Region being represented by members of at least two parties.

Should anyone want an updated version of this RS system, I could supply same. Not that it is different in its essentials, just more fully explained with recent examples.

Enough said on that. Now on a completely different matter .....

cc (this page only): Keith Archer, Chief Electoral Officer.

[redacted] [redacted] BC [redacted]

[redacted]

December 8, 2017

Honourable David Eby
Ministry of Attorney General

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
DEC 19 2017
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SUBJECT ELECTORAL REFORM

Dear Honourable Minister:

This is about a Process to use to evaluate different voting systems. The process is used by engineers and social scientists. A number of potential systems (ideas) are generated/considered against a series of criteria. Not only does this approach allow comparing different systems it also facilitates how rankings change when different criteria are added or taken away as well accommodates assessing something different quickly, by simply seeing how a new concept compares using the established criteria.

Exhibit A (attachment) shows a sample matrix developed ten years comparing nine Voting Systems against nine criteria. What this chart also shows is the inclusion of a weighting factor (red values near the top). The thing to note is the weighting does not change the ordering of the systems but just the distance between the various possibilities. Another thing to note is that First Past the Post falls in about the middle of the pack based on the criteria used.

If you would like I could send you the spreadsheet so you might try out your own ratings and rankings.

Exhibit B was a matrix developed four years ago with input from executive members of a Federal Constituency Association Riding. I facilitated the sessions. We started with hundreds of variations of electoral systems and reduced them down to eight. Attached as Exhibit C is short four page summary of some of the systems. Let me know if you would like the 51 page or 181 page versions.

Exhibit D shows the 52 criteria we started out considering and reduced it to the six used in Exhibit B. Exhibit E shows how objective ranking might be achieved. Lastly I have included as Exhibit F a summary of the process utilized.

On the next page I provide a summary of the assessment of Exhibit B. You may note using the six criteria and just looking at eight electoral voting systems First Past the Post ranks second. Only Candidate Based List (CBL) rates higher. CBL is similar to what I have read being proposed in one variation of Proportional Representation where top vote earners in rural areas become representatives.

This chart does not include the notion of giving different weight to urban vs rural constituencies. However it could easily be included as a criterion to determine how that might change the ranking. If you have any questions or would like further information I would be pleased to be of assistance. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

[redacted]

Summary of Matrix and Process on Alternative Voting Systems

This is to present a matrix and process on selecting an alternative voting system. It started with looking at a multitude of systems and some fifty criteria. We narrowed the criteria down to eight - then six. Included is the chart for six to help illustrate the process. The main systems looked at were: First Past the Post (to compare against); World Cup Style (candidates go against each other before the winner going against the incumbent); Top Two get elected (used to be that way in BC); extra seats chose from those that ran and did the best (now called Candidate Based List (CBL)); MMP with list in advance; MMP with party choosing representatives; STV; Knock off Ballot (where have a series of run offs - like we discussed at the Schubert Centre); and Priority Voting (known as preferential ballot). Each has its pros and cons for instance Preferential Ballot may go nowhere if equal numbers chose A:B:C or B:C:A or C:B:A or C:A:B or A:C:B or B:A:C.

An evaluation need not use the criteria agreed on. They were: Cost and Ease of Holding an Election; Understandability; Encourages Voting*, it had to be fair (proportional); Offered competition: had to run to be elected; leads to consensus building**; and cost to the candidate (not to be excessive).

Encourages voting is tough to gauge - some places found it worked at first but either the novelty wore off or voters found out their party had to make deals with parties they found disagreeable.
** How to measure "**Consensus building**"?

The other items could be measured objectively (although the components had yet to be agreed upon). Here are examples of how to rate those criteria:

a) **Cost of holding an election** (5 if the same as FTP; 4 if 25% more, 3 if 50% more, 2 if 75% more, 1 if 100% more) or could be something like (5 if same, 4 if 10% more, 3 if 20% more, 2 if 30% more, 1 if more than 40%)

b) **Understandability** (5 if can be explained in one line, 4 if explained in two-three sentences, 3 if explainable in 4-5 sentences; 2 if it takes 6-7 sentences to explain, 1 if eight lines to explain (e.g. STV))

c) **Fair to voters** (Proportional) 5 if 96-100% proportional, 4 if 91-95% proportional, 3 if 86-90% proportional, 2 if 81-85% proportional, a 1 if less than 80% proportional. Trouble is FPTP varies in how close it comes to be proportional and STV claims it could be but in reality would likely generate same proportions as FPTP (given Canadians tend to vote along party lines).

d) **Offers competition** (as a measure of number of candidates running)

e) **Having to run to be elected** (FPTP is clear on this as is STV). Forms of MMP can have it so no one has to run for office - the parties (that don't run candidates) just take their 10% (or whatever percentage they get) of reps from their lists. it is a lazy undemocratic option (one of the reasons MMP failed in Ontario).

f) **Cost to candidate to run an election** (5 if same as FPTP, 4 if 20% more, 3 if 40% more, 2 if 60% more, 1 if 80+% more) this might be a function of size of riding. Could also be something like 4 if 30%more, 3 if 60% more, 2 if 90% more, 1 if 120% more - again did not get far enough to discuss which range might be acceptable but gives the idea that it could be gauged objectively.

A spreadsheet attachment is set up so one can put in their own values (where the red numerals are along the top). The rating order of types of systems does not change with the rankings. It just increases the 'distance' among options. Ways of rankings of criteria were not considered.

Using the criteria utilized First Past the Post does not do too badly. It rates better than World Cup Style and better than either forms of MMP and way better than STV, Preferential Balloting or Knock off Balloting. Only "Candidate Based List" does better than FPTP in this analysis and "Top Two Get Elected" comes close.

Dropping "ease of holding an election" and "offers competition" as a criterion indicates only CBL is better. There may be other systems that would do even better and the results may change if different criteria are put in place.

Exhibit A

electoral system chart

System	CRITERIA Encourage running for office	Easy to count	Fair (proportional)	Understan	Encourage voting	Promotes democracy	Lends itself to represe	facilitates good rule	offers competition	Sums
Weighting examples	8	4	9	5	7	6	3	1	2	
First Past the Post	5	5	2	5	3	3	5	4	1	33
with weighting	40	20	18	25	21	18	15	4	2	163
Top Two Get Elected	5	4	4	4	4	4	5	2.5	3.5	36
with weighting	40	16	36	20	28	24	15	2.5	7	188.5
Amalgamation	5	2	4	1	3	5	5	2	4	31
with weighting	40	8	36	5	21	30	15	2	8	165
Knock off Ballot	5	3	3	4	4	5	5	4.5	2	35.5
with weighting	40	12	27	20	28	30	15	4.5	4	180.5
Priority voting	4	2	3	3	3	4	5	4	2	30
with weighting	32	8	27	15	21	24	15	4	4	150
Reward System	5	4	5	4	5	4	2	3	4	36
those that run in line for office	40	16	45	20	35	24	6	3	8	197
List to select from in advance	0	3	4	3	3	2	1	2	3	21
with weighting	0	12	36	15	21	12	3	2	6	107
Party decides after	0	3	4	2	2	1	1	1	3	17
with weighting	0	12	36	10	14	6	3	1	6	88
STV	3	1	4	1	4	5	5	5	4	32
with weighting	24	4	36	5	28	30	15	5	8	155

Exhibit B

ELECTORAL REFORM

CRITERIA* > Rating	Understand -ability Explainable	Cost to Candidate	Easy to Count	Proportional	Encourages Voting	Have to Run Run to be elected	Totals
<u>VOTING SYSTEM</u>							
First Past the Post (FPP)	5	5	5	2	3	5	25
Knock off Ballot (KOF)*	4	2	3	3	4	5	21
Preferential Ballot PB	3	4	3	2	3	5	20
STV	1	1	1	2	2	5	12
Top Two Get Elected (TTGE)	5	2	5	3	4	5	24
Mixed Member (MMP)	2	5	3	4	4	3	21
Candidate Based List (CBL)	4	4	5	5	5	5	28
World Cup Style (WCS)* Winner of contenders against Incumbent	4	2	5	3	4	5	23

**Has to be two or more ballots* *Where 5 is best, 1 is least*

<u>Criteria Rating</u>: Explainability > 5 for one line, 4 for two sentences, 3 for three sentences, 2 for 4-5 sentences, 1 for 6+ sentences
Cost to Candidate > 5 for FPP, 4 for 125% of FPP, 3 for 150% of FPP, 4 for 200% of FPP, 5 for greater than 250% of FPP
Easy to Count > 5 for FPP, 4 for twice as difficult as FPP, 3 for three times FPP, 2 for four times as difficult as FPP, 1 for five times FPP
Proportional > 5 for reflecting distribution of votes by party, 4 for being 80% accurate, 3 for 70% accurate, 2 for being 60%, 1 for 50%
Encourages Voting > 5 for 90% turnout, 4 for 80% turnout, 3 for 70% turnout, 2 for 60% turnout, 1 for 50% or less turnout
Have to run to be elected > 5 for all candidates running, 4 for 90%, 3 for 80%, 2 for 70%, 1 for 60% or less (i.e. party preferred lists score low)

Exhibit C

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Plurality Voting System known as First Past the Post 6
The plurality voting system is a single-winner voting system used to elect members of a legislative assembly known as First Past the Post.

Two Round System also known as Run Off Balloting 6
Voters casts a single vote for their favorite candidate. If no candidate receives an absolute majority, then all candidates, except the two with the most votes, are eliminated, and a second round of voting occurs.

Exhaustive Ballot 7
The exhaustive ballot involves several rounds of voting rather than just two, until one candidate has an absolute majority.

Instant Run-Off (IRV) 7
Like the exhaustive ballot, involves multiple rounds in which the candidate with fewest votes is eliminated each time. Rather than voting for only a single candidate, the voter ranks candidates in order of preference

Contingent Vote 7
Under the Contingent Vote voters rank candidates in order of preference. After the first round all but the two candidates with most votes are eliminated.

Viability Threshold Voting 8
In some types of runoffs, the initial round of voting is used to determine viable candidates, which can possibly total more than two.

Condorcet Winner 10
The Condorcet winner of an election is the candidate who, when compared with every other candidate, is preferred by more voters.

Approval Voting 10
Approval Voting is a system in which the voter can approve of (or vote for) any number of candidates on a ballot.

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Borda Count 11
Borda count is a voting system in which voters rank the candidates in an order of preference. Points are given for the position of a candidate in a voter's rank order. The candidate with the most points wins.

Range Voting 11
Range Voting is where voters give candidates a score on a pre-determined scale. The winner is based on who has the highest average score.

Bucklin Voting 12
Bucklin Voting is a ranked voting that proceeds in rounds, until a majority is reached. Votes are recounted with candidates in both first and second place.

Copeland Method 13
Shows an example where five candidates are ranked.

Plurality 13
Consider where 30% of the voters prefer candidate A and vote for A; 30% prefer C and vote for C; and 40% prefer B to A or C. Candidate B would win even though A would be the Condorcet winner, with 60% to 40%.

Kemeny-Young Method 12
The Kemeny-Young uses preferential ballots, pairwise comparison counts, and sequence scores to identify the most popular choice, the second-most popular choice, and so on

Baldwin Method 15
Candidates are voted for on ranked ballots. Then, the points are tallied in rounds. In each round, the candidate with the fewest points is eliminated.

Schulze Method 15
The Schulze Method (and other preferential single-winner election methods), contains a complete list of candidates and the individual voter ranks this list in order of preference.

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America's Cup style - Incumbent goes up against the winner of the challengers. It would be a two part election. Contenders vie to challenge the Incumbent. Then the winner of the challengers takes on the Incumbent.

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Multiple Winners

Top Two Win 21
Similar to FPP but instead of one winner there are two. This would work best if voters had only one choice. More people would vote and vote for their true candidate (rather than voting against who they don't want to win).

Quota Borda Count 21
Borda count is a voting system in which voters rank the candidates in an order of preference. Points are given for candidates in a voter's rank order. Candidates with the most points wins. It allocates importance to voters lower preferences. It favours candidates supported by a broad consensus.

Proportional representation 22

Proportional Representation is aimed at closely matching the percentage of votes that groups of candidates obtain and the percentage of seats they receive

Party list system in a multi-member constituency 22

The parties each list their candidates according to that party's determination of priorities. In a **closed list**, voters vote for a list, not a candidate. In an **open list**, voters vote: for one person, or for two, or by their order of preference.

Single Tranferable Vote (STV) 23
This method uses preferential voting. A Constituency elects two or more Representatives Voters indicate preferred ranking for some or all candidates. For the second count, a winning candidates surplus vote is transferred to his/her voters' second choices; or, the least popular candidate is eliminated and her/his votes are redistributed according to the second preference

Partial Proportionality 25
The greater the number of seats in a constituency, the more proportional the outcome

Parallel Voting 27
Parallel Voting describes a mixed voting system where voters participate in two separate elections using different systems; the results in one election have little impact on the results of the other.

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Fixed Ratio 27
With two votes per voter for three seats: two seats are assigned to the leading party and one seat to the second-placed party.

Mixed member proportional representation MMP 28
MMP is an 'additional member' voting system intended to mirror the overall proportion of votes received; it includes a set of members elected by geographic constituency that are deducted from party totals. Additional seats top up results.

MMP for Ontario 30
Voters get two votes, one for a candidate, one for a party. The election of 90 local candidates would be done the old way, with an extra group of 39 seats distributed among the parties based, on their share of the votes for parties.

Stephane Dion Proposal P3 34
It seems to be three votes in one. First vote a candidate based on the old way. Second vote for your preferred party. Third vote from a list from your party. There ends up being multiple representatives (up to five) for each riding. To further complicate things Dion recommends using a Preferential Voting process.

Cariboo - Chilcotin Method 38
A number of Candidates run to represent their community. Everyone in the Council area votes who from that community will serve. Winners are likely to look after concerns of the whole territory and be acceptable to the electorate. Such a principle might be used where parties are allocated a set number of seats, and everyone in the population pick from the list.

OTHER 2 39
Reward System – Reward those that run for office, some seats would be by FPP and the remainder through proportional representation from individuals who ran for office and achieved the highest votes of their party candidates. Candidates are vetted locally. A variation could be a smaller proportion as secondary MP's. Those selected would have run somewhere.

 Exhibit D

Electoral Reform^ is about many changes such as Senate Reform, having right of recall, citizen referenda on issues, ensuring minority participation, sharing power & spending limits. Changes in voting systems (how officials are chosen) is part of Electoral Reform. **Alternative Voting Systems** provide different ways to choose someone who may be more acceptable to a larger segment of the population. There is no perfect system but devising criteria may help determine a best fit for Canada.

Criteria that have been suggested:

1 Cost of holding an election (affordability)
2 Easy-to-Count
3 Understandable/explainable
4 Encourages people to run for office
5 Encourages voting and encourages voting for who they really want
(these might be separate criterion but are noted as one)

6 {Fairness – leads to proportional representation
(Promotes democracy)
7 {Lends itself to representation
8 {Maximizes individual voter representation
*Combine 6, 7 &8 as Fairness or **Provides for Proportionality***

9 {Facilitates good rule**
10 Offers competition (choice of representative to take concerns)
11 Having to run to be elected

12 Clarity – Transparency (in how candidates are nominated – put forward)
13 Consistency in selection process of candidates (same process for each party)

14 ~~Secure system (voters trust the balloting~~ – [redacted] says okay to delete)
15 Facilitates a national perspective (representatives must balance local/party preferences with national imperatives) {and not just have a regional bias}
16 Facilitates MP Accountability (answer to constituents not the party)
17 ~~Minimizes coalition governments~~ – ([redacted] says okay to delete)
~~18 Supports having a party system~~ [redacted] says leave off
19 ~~Supports individuals running~~ (opposition to above) [redacted] says leave off

Fair Vote Canada items

20 All Voters are equal and every vote*** must count [principle]
21 Proportional Representation (number six above)
22 Fair Representation for women, minorities & Aboriginals (removes barriers – perhaps by a limit on campaign spending?
23 Accountable government* (stable but responsive, flexible but principled, reflects the will of the majority and respects the rights of all - #16above)
24 Geographic representation (rural and urban voters fairly represented)
{is this not *More of a boundaries or constituency size issue?}*)
25 Real Voter Choice (must promote real competition among candidates and parties – no voter should be compelled to vote strategically).

Law Commission of Canada items

26 Representation of Parties (Proportional Rep as per 6 and 21)
27 Demographic Representation (same/similar as 22?)^
28 Diversity of Ideas (accomplished through 6/7/8 above?)
29 Geographic Representation (24 above)
30 Accountable government* (23 above) (being able to vote out representatives at the next election – Canada scores high with FPtP {*but not for the Senate*}
31 Valuing Votes (similar same as proportional representation#6?)
32 Regional Balance (in FPtP parties can ignore regions and focus on winnable areas and tailor platforms to appeal to sectional blocks)
33 Inclusive Decision Making (a sense of accommodation - akin to collaborative/coalition government outcomes**)
34 Fairness (reflect diversity of opinion – related to proportionality i.e. #6 above)
35 Accessibility (easy to cast a vote – not an issue for Canada?)
36 Meaningfulness (rather than have wasted votes – same as Proportional or Fairness criteria 6/7/8)
37 One person one vote (each vote the same weight) (#20 above)
38 An Effective legislature (power to pass laws and scrutinize government actions – is this an issue for Canada?)
39 Consensus Building (help lessen tensions by rewarding candidates that appeal to more than a narrow constituency) – is this not a benefit of proportionality?
40 Stable and effective government (able to enact electoral reform)(– existing government is "able" but is it willing?)
41 Effective opposition (prevent development of winner-take-all attitude which leaves government blind to other views and needs – covered in Fairness #6?)
42 Ease of Administration (expense - as per #1 above)
43 Ease of Transition (the more different the system the more difficult to implement notion) – *relates to being easy to understand*

From "Can Fair Voting Systems Really Make a Difference?"

44 Closeness or proximity of government & citizen views ??
45 Overall citizen satisfaction with the 'way democracy works**
46 Voter Turnout (#5 above)
47 Political and economic equality among citizens**
48 Percentage of women serving in parliaments**
49 Proliferation of political parties (seems this is a measurement)
50 Effective economic policy management**
51 Effective environmental management**

52 Size of Riding (campaigning to 100,000 is already unwieldy, never mind 700,000. Larger ridings are more conducive to the bigger parties that have big fundraising potential and already tell their candidates how to run campaigns.)

[redacted]

Elaboration/explanation on criteria items

Cost of holding an election may be a consideration in choosing an alternative voting system. For instance a having run off ballots (knocking off one or more candidate each vote) may help decide preference but may be deemed lengthy to undertake (this method is used in conventions to select leaders). Perhaps rate First Past the Post (FPP) as 4 and see if others are less expensive or more expensive and by what degree

Having an Easily Understandable method is important (perhaps second most important after being proportional). Write-ups on why other systems have trouble being chosen notes that they were not easily explainable and/or not understandable - *saleability is critical in achieving change.* The easier a system is to understand the likelier it is be easy-to-count

Ease of Counting a ballot – this may be a subset of cost – (having a separate criteria may be double counting). *However something to be said for it being able to say who won on the night of the election, as that is what people are used to (expect). It may be a criterion but not as important as other considerations.*

Encourages People to Run for Office – Having a system that will lead to proportional representation is likely to have more people run for office, as they have a better chance of being elected. This might be ranked a secondary benefit/criterion.

Encourages People to Vote –with voter turnout around 50% (even low as 20% in Municipal elections) a system that gets more people participating would have merit. There will be better turnout if people think their vote has a better chance to count – such as in Single Transferable Votes and systems that lead to Proportional Representation – e.g. although their vote may not lead to their candidate winning it may lead to someone from the same party winning. The next criterion Fairness will lead to better voter turnout and as such Encouraging Voting becomes a side benefit of a Fairer system.

Encourages people to vote for who they really want (and not be strategic). One write-up stated 18% of voters would vote differently under a proportional representation method.

Combine:

{Fairness – leads to **proportional representation**
{Promotes democracy
{Lends itself to representation

as they are just different ways of saying the same thing:

A system (e.g. that has proportional representation) that is fair (in regards to achieving representation of voters wishes) is going to promote democracy which in turn would be because it lends itself to having better representation from the constituency and overall population wishes (good example is the Greens with 10% of the votes not having had a member in parliament until recently). Perhaps call these combined criterion "Fairness".

[redacted]

Facilitates Good Rule – it is difficult to judge what is good rule - particularly when the other systems have not been tried to assess their worthiness. Some would argue that minority governments (a more likely outcome with proportional representation) are less effective than majority governments – however the counter argument is that decisions are more in keeping with the general population. In a sense 'facilitating good rule' is part of promoting democracy. (Fairness)

Offers Competition – this notion is based on having two or more representatives per riding. Thus if one does not obtain satisfaction from one Rep they can go to another. There is debate about who speaks for the constituency and discussions around cost of multiple representatives that this may be a minor criterion.
Having competition may work against a constituency (particularly if there are more than two) as the Rep may shrug their shoulders and say – not my core constituency ("I don't need their vote" mentality – mind you that happens with just one rep.)

A Person has to be run to be elected – It is better to have people who have been vetted by standing for office, be the ones that would get in, with a proportional representation system. Particularly if there was a party list and chose from off the list – those candidates in cities stand a better chance of being known than rural colleagues. Thus a system where one runs for office means able to focus on campaigning locally and not nationally (hard enough on the provincial level when vying for Senate openings).
(Note: Stefan Dion agreed with this assessment in his speech to the Greens in 2012).
This item may be a subcomponent of 'lends itself to representation'.

Clarity – Transparency on how people are chosen/selected (this becomes an issue for Lists generated by Parties) – a great concern against MMP is that Parties could appoint people (which proponents said they wouldn't, but just the same they could, and any token process that gets people on a list is simply not the same as having people run for office) This might be a lesser criterion.

Consistency in selection process (same process used by each party). In the MMP process, defeated n referendum for Ontario, there was no provision for each Party generating a list to do so the same way. It is important that there be consistency (that each party is doing it the same way). This might also be a lesser criterion

Secure system – This is in regards to balloting (e.g. keeping selection confidential and not losing your vote in an electronic system that may fail)

Facilitates a national perspective (representatives must balance local/party preferences with national imperatives) {not having a party bias but a constituency component} –
Similar to Accountability below?
Facilitates MP Accountability– answering to constituents and not the party

Minimizes coalition governments –proportional representation almost means coalition government (even FPP leads to coalition governments)

Supports having a party system – this is a value system – so suggest not being a criterion – most of the proportional rep systems are contingent on there being a party system

Supports individuals (independents) running (opposition to above)

*How does a voting system itself lead to Accountable (or even Effective) government? A proportional representation system may lead to Effective Government which may then lead to Accountable Government but seems there would need to be an Accountability Act which could be part of a party's platform to implement an Accountability Act. An example of improving accountability would be "for every vote that is overturned (say by referendum^) then a person loses 20% of their pension." That will make MPs more likely to heed wishes of the population.

**kind of after the fact assessments to do (after governments in power/place for a while)

*** "every vote to count" implies every person have their own rep if they don't go with someone else's choice. This might be achievable if there was provision for referendum on motions passed in parliament (like Swiss) that citizens can access decisions

In **Summary**

Major Criteria

- Fairness – provides for proportionality
- Cost Effective
- Understandable
- Encourages Voting
- Encourages Running for Office

Medium Criteria

- Offers competition
- Have to run to be elected/selected
- ~~Secure System~~
- Facilitates National Perspective
- Facilitates MP accountability
- Clarity
- Size of riding

Minor Criteria

- Consistency
- Easy to Count
- ~~Minimizes coalition governments~~
- ~~Supports having a party system~~
- ~~Supports independent candidates~~
- One person one vote

Having just a few criteria makes promoting any alternative easier. Through discussion and feedback criteria can be changed.

^ Having a different Voting System is a subset of Electoral Reform. It is about how voting is done for when candidates are running for office. Electoral Reform covers such things as the Senate, incorporating compulsory aboriginal percentages, minorities, balance of women being in office. Presumably (but maybe not) the same voting system would apply. There might be different voting systems for MPs than from the Senate but as long as all Senators are chosen the same way that could be okay. An example might be replacing Senators (as they resign, retire) with only Aboriginal candidates (e.g. geographically based) until a certain percentage is achieved (even 100%). For example let's say there is a vacancy for Alberta. Each of the First Nations in Alberta can recommend candidates for consideration and all Albertans get to vote on who it will be. That would be electoral reform but the voting system still needs to be decided. If there is only one vacancy then IRV or STV could be used. Having Right of Recall or Right to Hold Referendums would be Electoral Reform.

^ In Switzerland just being able to have referenda (referendums) on legislation that is voted on has stopped the passing of one-sided bills (that takes place in winner take all attitude FPtP assemblies) – e.g. Omnibus Bills.

^ Another example of **Electoral Reform** – could be in how allocating funding for House of Commons members > to be based on percentage of vote received (i.e. not having the bulk of funds to the party in power, with leftovers for other parties). Greens with one MP, and 10% of the vote, would get 10% of the parliamentary budget.

^ The Law Commission of Canada makes 23 recommendations and many of those are to have committee to review their recommendations. Recommendation 11&12to have a committee to review the Royal Commission recommendation for involving aboriginal involvement – why not just recommend implementing their recommendations?

Exhibit E

Ways for Objective Ranking

- Fairness – provides for proportionality
- Cost Effective
- Understandable
- Encourages Voting
- Encourages Running for Office
- Easy to Count

Examples

Achieves Proportionality Fairness

5 if number of representatives* (# of MPs) correlates to 95-100% of votes for party
4 if representatives (# of MPs) correlates to 80- 95% of votes for party
3 if representatives (# of MPs) correlates to 50-80% of votes for party```
2 if representatives (# of MPs) correlates to 30-50% of votes for party
1 if representatives (# of MPs) correlates to 5-30% of votes for party
0 if representatives (# of MPs) correlates to less than 5% of votes for party

If one seat for every 25,000 votes, if a million votes – should be 40 seats – if only one seat this is just 2.5% accommodation/accuracy

Cost Effectives

5 if costs 1 to 10% more than existing system (give it a six if it lowers cost)
4 if costs 10 to 25% more than existing system
3 if costs 25 to 50% more than existing system
2 if costs 50 to 75% more than existing system
1 if costs 75 to 100% more than existing system
0 if costs more than 100% of existing system

Understandability

5 if as simple (straightforward) as FPtP
4 if has one complication (e.g. preferential balloting, or two votes)
3 if has two complications (MMP with list)
2 if has three complications
1 if has four complications
0 if has five or more complications (eg. Stephan Dion's proposal)

Encourages VotingA

5 if increases voter turnout more than 40%
4 if increases voter turn-out 30-40%
3 if increases voter turn-out 20-30%
2 if increases voter turn-out 10-20%
1 if increases voter turn-out 1-10%
0 if doesn't increase (or decreases) voter turnout

Encourages VotingB for who you really want

5 if changes by more than 40%
4 if changes by 30-40%
3 if increases by 20-30%
2 if increases by 10-20%
1 if increases by 1-10%
0 if doesn't change strategic voting

Encourages Running for Office

5 if, on average, more than ten contest party nominations
4 if, on average, more than eight contest party nominations
3 if, on average, more than six contest party nominations
2 if, on average, more than four contest party nominations
1 if, on average, more than two contest party nominations
0 if no one contests party nomination
- Or measured by number of people declaring earlier

Easy of Counting

5 if done by midnight
4 if done by 4 am the next day
3 if done by 8 am the next day
2 if done by 8 p.m. the next day
1 if takes 24 to 48 hours to count
0 if takes more than two days

Consistency

5 if all parties do it the same way
4 if all but 90% of nominations done the same way
3 if all but 80% of nominations done the same way
2 if all but 70% of nominations done the same way
1 if all but 60% of nominations done the same way
0 if less than 50% of nominations done the same way

Clarity/Transparency

5 if all candidates run# for office
4 if candidates run in Primaries (before getting on ballot)
3 if candidates run in robust nomination process
2 if 50% of candidates run in robust nomination process
1 if it seems in any way that a party could decide on members on a list
0 if party decides on list

Note: existing system allows for appointed nominations
And/Or:

Clarity/Transparency

5 if all candidates run for office
4 if at least 80% of candidates run for office
3 if at least 60% of candidates run for office
2 if at least 40% of candidates run for office
1 if at least 20% of candidates run for office
0 if party decides on list

Size of riding

5 if under 100,000
4 100,000-150,000
3 150,000 – 200,000
2 200,000 – 250,000
1 250,000 to 300,000
0 over 300,000

 Exhibit F

Criteria Setting Background

In Problem Solving
Social Science recommends a staged approach:

A Identify the Issue to be resolved

B Generate Ideas that may work

E Develop Criteria to Evaluate the ideas (this is considered the key step)

F Group Criteria that may be similar

G* Rank the Criteria in importance to one another
(this may be done later as discussion generates feedback)

H Rate each idea based on the criteria developed
(e.g. on a one-to-five scale, where one is the lowest and 5 the highest rating)
1 not so well (poor)
2 fair
3 satisfactory
4 good
5 very good/excellent

I Utilize a matrix to compare ratings
(e.g. criteria across the top and ideas along the side)

J Add up the ratings for each idea to generate a priority list
of those that best solve the problem by the criteria given

K* If step G has been done then re-rank the ideas using weighting developed

L Discuss outcomes to see if satisfied

M* Once the matrix is developed additional ideas or criteria may be considered
To see if a different ideas meets the criteria and/or
if including different criteria changes the position.

* can be skipped or done in a different order

In application to Proportional Representation

A **Identify the Issue** to be resolved
To find an alternative way to have elections that better represent the electorate.

B **Generate Ideas** that may work
Over a hundred different system have been proposed
– so this step may be considered addressed

E **Develop Criteria** to Evaluate the ideas (this is considered the key step)

Here are some criteria that have been suggested:

1 Cost of holding an election
2 Easy to Count
3 Understandable/explainable
4 Encourages people to run for office
5 Encourages voting
6 Fairness – leads to proportional representation
7 Promotes democracy
8 Lends itself to representation
9 Facilitates good rule
10 Offers competition
11 Having to run to be elected

F **Group Criteria** that may be similar

Below is some discussion and rational for just having five criteria from amalgamating the ones given.

Cost of holding an election may be a consideration in choosing an alternative voting system. For instance a having run off ballots (knocking off one or more candidate each vote) may help decide preference but may be deemed lengthy to undertake (this method is used in conventions to select leaders). Perhaps rate First Past the Post (FPP) as 3 and see if others are less expensive or more expensive

Ease of Counting a ballot – I suggest is a subset of cost – such that if having a separate criteria for this would be like double counting. *This is based on using existing balloting (where people count each ballot) having computer counting (e.g. for STV versions) could speed things up but that is a different matter and I recommend not including it deliberations so as to not confuse the issue.*

[redacted]

Having an Easily Understandable method is important. Also the easier a system is to understand the likelier it is be easy to count – hence another argument for not including Easy-to-Count. *A system may be understandable after lengthy explanation and things like having varying number of representative per riding (such as proposed by Stefan Dion) may have merit but their saleability is critical in achieving change.*

Encourages People to Run for Office – Although having a system that will lead to proportional representation is likely to get more people for office I'm not convinced this is an important criteria – maybe it could be considered a side benefit. Thus I argue for eliminating this as a criteria.

Encourages People to Vote –with voter turnout around 50% (even low as 20% in Municipal elections) a system that gets more people participating would have merit. There may be better turnout if people think their vote may count – such as in Single Transferable Votes and systems that lead to Proportional Representation – e.g. so although their vote may not lead to their candidate winning it may lead to someone from the same party winning. I recognize that a system is Fairer (next criterion) will lead to better voter turnout and as such Encouraging Voting becomes a side benefit of a Fairer system.

I suggest that items: 6, 7 and 8 above are just different ways of saying the same thing:

Fairness – leads to proportional representation
Promotes democracy
Lends itself to representation

A system (e.g. that has proportional representation) that is fair is going to promote democracy which in turn would be because it lends itself to having better representation from the constituency and overall population wishes (good example is the Greens with 10% of the votes not having had a member in parliament until recently). So just call this criteria Fairness.

Facilitates Good Rule – it is difficult to judge what is good rule - particularly when the other systems have not been tried to assess their worthiness. Some would argue that minority governments (a more likely outcome with proportional representation) are less effective than majority governments – however the counter argument is that decisions are more in keeping with the general population. In a sense 'facilitating good rule' is part of promoting democracy - so say Drop this criterion.

Offers Competition – this notion is based on having two or more representatives per riding. I can understand the debate about who speaks for the constituency and discussions around cost of multiple representatives to make this a minor criterion – moreover it is really a subset of 'lends itself to representation' already rolled into "Fairness" It may be rather than have different criteria that the 'Fairness' category have greater weighting (e.g. be worth twice or thrice the other criteria).

A Person has to be run to be elected – this is a personal bias of mine – being in opposition to party lists (which did not work well for Italy – leading to corruption). I think it is

better to have people who have been vetted by standing for office, be the ones that would get in, on account of a proportional representation system. (Note: Stefan Dion agreed with this assessment in his speech to the Greens in 2012). I can see an argument being made for this item being a subcomponent of 'lends itself to representation'. Thus when rating a proposed system (idea) one could give low rating for a list based proportional system would not rate well under the 'Fairness' criterion. The more I think on this the more I see it as a separate criterion. Perhaps this might reinstate encourages people to running for office criteria. There is the justification for a separate criterion!

In **Summary**
Five Criteria

- Fair
- Cost Effective
- Understandable
- Encourages Voting
- Encourages Running for Office

Having just a few criteria (five) makes promoting any alternative (say from the outcome, after stage L). It may be through discussion and feedback that this criteria is changed. Then the next stages H and I may be pursued.

Action Plan
Here is a way to streamline gaining feedback (stage H):
Have criteria agreed upon.
Then participants give ratings for the ideas (alternative voting systems) to be considered. The feedback would be placed in a matrix – where there is significant disagreement in rating then discussion could focus on those ratings (rather than discuss each criteria for each item).

Going through the process allows others to appreciate how the outcome is reached.

Submitted by [redacted] To [redacted] October 2013

[redacted] October 2013

[redacted]

From: Minister, AG AG:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2018 5:13 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: AG Draft Email please with a referral to CCU submitted - Many thanks! FW: Electoral Reform
Attachments: 2017 - 11 - RPV vs FIRST PAST THE POST - PROVINCIAL.pdf

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From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 9, 2018 1:42 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: Minister, AG AG:EX
Subject: FW: Electoral Reform

Dear [redacted]

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.

The design of a voting system greatly effects how a society is governed, and your input will help to shape the future of our democracy and province. From now until February 28th, 2018 we encourage you to visit:

engage.gov.bc.ca/HowWeVote

Through this public engagement platform, you will be able to share your thoughts and ideas in regards to the referendum taking place in the fall of 2018. This platform will be active until February 28th, 2017.

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

cc: Honourable David Eby

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2018 12:58 PM
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Subject: Electoral Reform

Dear Mr. Horgan

I had submitted my version of the electoral reform to the federal government and other party leaders for consideration. I received a reply from the responsible minister's office that the proposal had been submitted to the then minister for review. However, the federal government has decided not to enact any form of electoral reforms which is very disappointing. Any form of governance based on the "horse race" principles is not a democracy.

REPRESENTATION by POPULAR VOTE (RPV) vs FIRST PAST the POST (FPP)

VOTING SYSTEMS ANALYSIS

ACRONYMS

The acronyms used in this document are as follows:

IND – Independent Candidate

RPV – "Representation by Popular Vote" Voting System

FPP - Representation by "First Past the Post" *"CURRENT"* Voting System

NOTES

1. The analysis of the FFP and the proposed RPV systems is based on a fictitious election example.
2. The number of valid ballots in the example election is ***1,050,000***.
3. The riding allocations are indicated by colour codes as given in the following table.

INDEPENDENT	
PARTY 1	
PARTY 2	
PARTY 3	
PARTY 4	

REPRESENTATION BY "FIRST PAST the POST" Election System

This example is given in the following Table #1. The analysis is provided at the end of the table.

REPRESENTATION by POPULAR VOTE Election System (RPV)

NOTES

1. **First and foremost, Party Representation by Popular Vote at the Provincial level and then by Popular Vote at the Riding Level which determines the ridings' allocations.**

2. **The Ridings and the method of voting does not need to be changed in any form from the current system (i.e. one vote by each voter for the desired candidate: Independent or Party representative).**

3. In the RPV method, **INDEPENDENT candidates** in various ridings are not subject to the "Provincial Popular Vote" criteria. Since an INDEPENDENT Candidate is associated with **one and only one Riding**, the election of such candidates is based on the "First Past the Post" system because it specifically represents the wishes of the electorate in only that riding.

   If the INDEPENDENT candidate does not meet the FFP criteria, then the riding would be allocated to one of the other parties based on the RPV. An example of this is in Table #2.

4. In the event there is a tie between two candidates within a riding, the situation may be resolved by the current method(s) for resolving such issues or preferably; by holding a by-election.

RPV ELECTION METHOD

This is a two-step process.

STEP #1

TABLE #2

Determine the number of ridings **for each Independent Candidate and Party based on the Provincial Popular Vote.**

STEP #2

Determine the relative riding's allocations **for each party based on the Riding's Popular Vote.**

TABLE #3

Round #1 of the relative Ridings Allocations for each Party based on the Ridings' Popular Votes.

The number of ridings' allocations for each of the Parties is based on the greatest Popular Vote for the representatives at the Riding Level and not exceeding the maximum number allocated for each party in Step #1 above.

TABLE #4

Round #2 is where the remaining Un-allocated Ridings are allocated to those ridings which have not yet reached the party allocation number as determined in Step #1 above.

TABLE #5

This table summarizes the RPV example.

NOTES:

1. The allocation process would be automated to perform the calculations as indicated in the RPV example. The results would have to be verified as they are in the current system.

2. The number of iterations for allocating Ridings' Representation could extend beyond the "2 Rounds" as given in the example.

TABLE #1 - ELECTION EXAMPLE AND RESULTS OF THE "FIRST PAST THE POST" ELECTORAL SYSTEM

TOTAL VOTES CAST IN THE ELECTION ***1,050,000***

RIDING	IND	PARTY 1	PARTY 2	PARTY 3	PARTY 4	MAX VOTES	TOTAL # RIDINGS
1	8,000	5,000	3,500	2,000	3,000	8,000	1
2	0	416	2,952	4,200	5,000	5,000	
3	0	2,233	3,600	3,340	4,000	4,000	
4	0	564	4,200	1,275	4,300	4,300	
5	0	371	3,340	3,800	5,000	5,000	
6	0	415	1,775	3,523	4,100	4,100	

RIDING	IND	PARTY 1	PARTY 2	PARTY 3	PARTY 4	MAX VOTES	TOTAL # RIDINGS
7	0	465	3,300	3,578	3,758	3,758	
8	0	416	3,523	2,667	4,620	4,620	
9	0	233	3,578	3,002	5,500	5,500	
10	0	564	2,667	2,952	4,600	4,600	
11	0	871	3,002	4,650	5,800	5,800	
12	0	915	2,952	4,200	5,200	5,200	
13	0	465	4,650	3,340	4,700	4,700	
14	0	415	4,200	1,275	4,300	4,300	
15	0	465	3,340	4,200	4,400	4,400	
16	0	416	1,280	4,130	4,600	4,600	
17	0	233	4,195	3,578	4,200	4,200	
18	0	64	4,130	2,667	4,250	4,250	
19	0	871	3,578	1,280	3,600	3,600	
20	0	915	2,667	4,195	4,200	4,200	
21	0	465	1,275	4,130	4,135	4,135	
22	0	564	4,200	3,578	4,245	4,245	
23	0	871	4,100	2,667	4,150	4,150	
24	0	915	3,500	233	3,578	3,578	
25	0	465	2,667	564	2,800	2,800	
26	0	1,415	1,275	871	4,100	4,100	
27	0	465	4,200	915	4,235	4,235	
28	0	416	4,130	465	4,278	4,278	
29	0	833	3,578	233	2,667	3,578	
30	0	2,964	2,667	564	3,000	3,000	
31	0	871	4,200	871	4,300	4,300	
32	0	915	4,130	915	4,130	4,130	
33	0	465	3,578	465	3,578	3,578	
34	0	233	2,667	4,130	4,200	4,200	
35	0	564	1,275	3,578	4,130	4,130	
36	0	871	4,200	2,667	8,800	8,800	
37	0	915	4,130	3,578	4,260	4,260	
38	0	465	3,578	2,667	3,580	3,580	
39	0	4,000	2,667	1,275	4,159	4,159	
40	0	4,310	3,578	2,200	5,200	5,200	
41	0	871	2,667	4,130	7,560	7,560	
42	0	915	1,275	3,578	4,200	4,200	
43	0	465	4,100	2,667	4,130	4,130	
44	0	233	4,230	550	4,900	4,900	
45	0	564	3,578	464	5,720	5,720	
46	0	871	2,667	512	4,330	4,330	
47	0	4,015	3,578	550	4,100	4,100	
48	0	2,100	2,667	2,667	7,440	7,440	
49	0	4,871	1,275	1,275	4,200	4,871	
50	0	3,915	2,200	2,200	4,130	4,130	
51	0	1,465	4,130	4,130	4,900	4,900	

RIDING	IND	PARTY 1	PARTY 2	PARTY 3	PARTY 4	MAX VOTES	TOTAL # RIDINGS
52	0	233	3,578	3,578	5,720	5,720	
53	0	871	2,667	2,667	4,330	4,330	
54	0	915	550	550	3,980	3,980	
55	0	465	464	464	5,720	5,720	
56	0	233	512	512	4,330	4,330	
57	0	710	550	550	3,980	3,980	56
58	0	8,325	8,500	2,667	525	8,500	
59	0	2,233	7,900	3,578	995	7,900	
60	0	564	6,002	2,667	315	6,002	
61	0	871	5,540	1,275	562	5,540	
62	0	915	6,541	4,200	880	6,541	
63	0	465	4,135	4,130	334	4,135	
64	0	233	2,788	2,578	464	2,788	
65	0	564	6,012	3,667	250	6,012	
66	0	871	8,500	3,578	900	8,500	
67	0	915	7,900	2,667	410	7,900	
68	0	465	6,002	1,275	310	6,002	
69	0	564	5,540	4,200	562	5,540	
70	0	871	6,541	4,130	800	6,541	
71	0	915	4,135	3,578	1,340	4,135	
72	0	465	2,788	2,667	2,220	2,788	
73	0	233	5,012	3,578	2,580	5,012	
74	0	564	5,540	2,500	3,690	5,540	
75	0	871	6,541	464	1,560	6,541	
76	0	915	4,135	1,745	464	4,135	
77	0	1,465	2,788	1,791	1,035	2,788	
78	0	6,000	6,012	1,300	4,650	6,012	21
79	0	8,750	850	8,000	3,550	8,750	1
80	0	465	464	8,210	3,791	8,210	
81	0	564	512	4,660	2,550	4,660	
82	0	871	791	5,420	2,460	5,420	
83	0	915	550	2,400	1,440	2,400	
84	0	465	1,464	4,561	791	4,561	
85	0	233	550	4,680	744	4,680	
86	0	564	791	4,660	464	4,660	
87	0	1,029	550	5,420	550	5,420	
88	0	915	464	2,400	791	2,400	
89	0	415	512	4,561	550	4,561	
90	0	669	550	4,680	464	4,680	
91	0	233	464	9,000	512	9,000	
92	0	564	550	8,210	550	8,210	
93	0	871	464	4,660	464	4,660	
94	0	2,915	512	5,420	550	5,420	
95	0	1,456	550	2,400	791	2,400	
96	0	3,688	464	4,561	550	4,561	

RIDING	IND	PARTY 1	PARTY 2	PARTY 3	PARTY 4	MAX VOTES	TOTAL # RIDINGS
97	0	2,540	550	4,680	464	4,680	
98	0	3,632	464	4,660	791	4,660	
99	0	2,500	512	5,750	550	5,750	
100	0	1,069	550	6,010	464	6,010	21
TOTAL VOTES	*8,000*	*127,608*	*304,692*	*304,700*	*305,000*	*1,050,000*	
%	0.76%	12.15%	29.02%	29.02%	29.05%	100.00%	
RIDINGS	1	1	21	21	56	100	

ANALYSIS

TABLE #1

Election Results and Riding Representation based on the "First Past the Post" Election System.

NOTES:

1. Even though Party 1 received 12.15% of the vote (i.e. approximately 36% of the other 3 parties), the party was allocated only **ONE riding**; the same as the Independent candidate.
2. Parties 2 and 3 were within 0.03% of party 4 according to the Provincial popular vote, yet Party 4 was allocated 56 ridings **(a majority government)!!**

Having an electoral process based on the "Horse Race" principles is definitely a very flawed system of governance!

TABLE #2 - "REPRESENTATION by POPULAR VOTE" - NUMBER OF RIDINGS

ALLOCATION PER PARTY BASED ON PROVINCIAL POPULAR VOTE

TOTAL VOTES CAST IN THE ELECTION ***1,050,000***

RIDING	IND	PARTY 1	PARTY 2	PARTY 3	PARTY 4	TOTALS
1	8,000	5,000	3,500	2,000	3,000	21,500
2	0	416	2,952	4,200	5,000	12,568
3	0	2,233	3,600	3,340	4,000	13,173
4	0	564	4,200	1,275	4,300	10,339
5	0	371	3,340	3,800	5,000	12,511
6	0	415	1,775	3,523	4,100	9,813
7	0	465	3,300	3,578	3,758	11,101
8	0	416	3,523	2,667	4,620	11,226

RIDING	IND	PARTY 1	PARTY 2	PARTY 3	PARTY 4	TOTALS
9	0	233	3,578	3,002	5,500	12,313
10	0	564	2,667	2,952	4,600	10,783
11	0	871	3,002	4,650	5,800	14,323
12	0	915	2,952	4,200	5,200	13,267
13	0	465	4,650	3,340	4,700	13,155
14	0	415	4,200	1,275	4,300	10,190
15	0	465	3,340	4,200	4,400	12,405
16	0	416	1,280	4,130	4,600	10,426
17	0	233	4,195	3,578	4,200	12,206
18	0	64	4,130	2,667	4,250	11,111
19	0	871	3,578	1,280	3,600	9,329
20	0	915	2,667	4,195	4,200	11,977
21	0	465	1,275	4,130	4,135	10,005
22	0	564	4,200	3,578	4,245	12,587
23	0	871	4,100	2,667	4,150	11,788
24	0	915	3,500	233	3,578	8,226
25	0	465	2,667	564	2,800	6,496
26	0	1,415	1,275	871	4,100	7,661
27	0	465	4,200	915	4,235	9,815
28	0	416	4,130	465	4,278	9,289
29	0	833	3,578	233	2,667	7,311
30	0	2,964	2,667	564	3,000	9,195
31	0	871	4,200	871	4,300	10,242
32	0	915	4,130	915	4,130	10,090
33	0	465	3,578	465	3,578	8,086
34	0	233	2,667	4,130	4,200	11,230
35	0	564	1,275	3,578	4,130	9,547
36	0	871	4,200	2,667	8,800	16,538
37	0	915	4,130	3,578	4,260	12,883
38	0	465	3,578	2,667	3,580	10,290

RIDING	IND	PARTY 1	PARTY 2	PARTY 3	PARTY 4	TOTALS
39	0	4,000	2,667	1,275	4,159	12,101
40	0	4,310	3,578	2,200	5,200	15,288
41	0	871	2,667	4,130	7,560	15,228
42	0	915	1,275	3,578	4,200	9,968
43	0	465	4,100	2,667	4,130	11,362
44	0	233	4,230	550	4,900	9,913
45	0	564	3,578	464	5,720	10,326
46	0	871	2,667	512	4,330	8,380
47	0	4,015	3,578	550	4,100	12,243
48	0	2,100	2,667	2,667	7,440	14,874
49	0	4,871	1,275	1,275	4,200	11,621
50	0	3,915	2,200	2,200	4,130	12,445
51	0	1,465	4,130	4,130	4,900	14,625
52	0	233	3,578	3,578	5,720	13,109
53	0	871	2,667	2,667	4,330	10,535
54	0	915	550	550	3,980	5,995
55	0	465	464	464	5,720	7,113
56	0	233	512	512	4,330	5,587
57	0	710	550	550	3,980	5,790
58	0	8,325	8,500	2,667	525	20,017
59	0	2,233	7,900	3,578	995	14,706
60	0	564	6,002	2,667	315	9,548
61	0	871	5,540	1,275	562	8,248
62	0	915	6,541	4,200	880	12,536
63	0	465	4,135	4,130	334	9,064
64	0	233	2,788	2,578	464	6,063
65	0	564	6,012	3,667	250	10,493
66	0	871	8,500	3,578	900	13,849
67	0	915	7,900	2,667	410	11,892
68	0	465	6,002	1,275	310	8,052

RIDING	IND	PARTY 1	PARTY 2	PARTY 3	PARTY 4	TOTALS
69	0	564	5,540	4,200	562	10,866
70	0	871	6,541	4,130	800	12,342
71	0	915	4,135	3,578	1,340	9,968
72	0	465	2,788	2,667	2,220	8,140
73	0	233	5,012	3,578	2,580	11,403
74	0	564	5,540	2,500	3,690	12,294
75	0	871	6,541	464	1,560	9,436
76	0	915	4,135	1,745	464	7,259
77	0	1,465	2,788	1,791	1,035	7,079
78	0	6,000	6,012	1,300	4,650	17,962
79	0	8,750	850	8,000	3,550	21,150
80	0	465	464	8,210	3,791	12,930
81	0	564	512	4,660	2,550	8,286
82	0	871	791	5,420	2,460	9,542
83	0	915	550	2,400	1,440	5,305
84	0	465	1,464	4,561	791	7,281
85	0	233	550	4,680	744	6,207
86	0	564	791	4,660	464	6,479
87	0	1,029	550	5,420	550	7,549
88	0	915	464	2,400	791	4,570
89	0	415	512	4,561	550	6,038
90	0	669	550	4,680	464	6,363
91	0	233	464	9,000	512	10,209
92	0	564	550	8,210	550	9,874
93	0	871	464	4,660	464	6,459
94	0	2,915	512	5,420	550	9,397
95	0	1,456	550	2,400	791	5,197
96	0	3,688	464	4,561	550	9,263
97	0	2,540	550	4,680	464	8,234
98	0	3,632	464	4,660	791	9,547

RIDING	IND	PARTY 1	PARTY 2	PARTY 3	PARTY 4	TOTALS
99	0	2,500	512	5,750	550	9,312
100	0	1,069	550	6,010	464	8,093
TOTAL VOTES	*8,000*	*127,608*	*304,692*	*304,700*	*305,000*	*1,050,000*
%	0.76%	12.15%	29.02%	29.02%	29.05%	100.00%
# RIDINGS BY PROVINCIAL POPULAR VOTE	1	12	29	29	29	100

The relative ridings' allocations in the above table are indicated by the party colour codes.

In the example, the Independent candidate and party standings based on the Provincial popular vote are as follows:

INDEPENDENT – 1 RIDING

PARTY 1 – 12 RIDINGS

PARTY 2 – 29 RIDINGS

PARTY 3 – 29 RIDINGS

PARTY 4 – 29 RIDINGS.

NOTE: In the RPV:

1. **Party 1 representation moved from 1 riding to 12 ridings**

2. Parties 2 to 4 representation is evenly allocated at 29 ridings each. **The flawed Party 4 majority in the "First Past the Post" system has now been eliminated and the relative ridings are now available for allocation among the other parties.**

TABLE #3 - REPRESENTATION by POPULAR VOTE - PARTY RIDINGS ALLOCATION

BASED ON EACH RIDING POPULAR VOTE - ROUND - 1

TOTAL VOTES CAST IN THE ELECTION 1,050,000

IND	RIDING	PARTY 1	RIDING	PARTY 2	RIDING	PARTY 3	RIDING	PARTY 4	RIDING
8,000	1	5,000	1	3,500	1	2,000	1	3,000	1
0	2	416	2	2,952	2	4,200	2	5,000	2
0	3	2,233	3	3,600	3	3,340	3	4,000	3
0	4	564	4	4,200	4	1,275	4	4,300	4
0	5	371	5	3,340	5	3,800	5	5,000	5
0	6	415	6	1,775	6	3,523	6	4,100	6
0	7	465	7	3,300	7	3,578	7	3,758	7
0	8	416	8	3,523	8	2,667	8	4,620	8
0	9	233	9	3,578	9	3,002	9	5,500	9
0	10	564	10	2,667	10	2,952	10	4,600	10
0	11	871	11	3,002	11	4,650	11	5,800	11
0	12	915	12	2,952	12	4,200	12	5,200	12
0	13	465	13	4,650	13	3,340	13	4,700	13
0	14	415	14	4,200	14	1,275	14	4,300	14
0	15	465	15	3,340	15	4,200	15	4,400	15
0	16	416	16	1,280	16	4,130	16	4,600	16
0	17	233	17	4,195	17	3,578	17	4,200	17
0	18	64	18	4,130	18	2,667	18	4,250	18
0	19	871	19	3,578	19	1,280	19	3,600	19
0	20	915	20	2,667	20	4,195	20	4,200	20
0	21	465	21	1,275	21	4,130	21	4,135	21
0	22	564	22	4,200	22	3,578	22	4,245	22
0	23	871	23	4,100	23	2,667	23	4,150	23
0	24	915	24	3,500	24	233	24	3,578	24
0	25	465	25	2,667	25	564	25	2,800	25
0	26	1,415	26	1,275	26	871	26	4,100	26
0	27	465	27	4,200	27	915	27	4,235	27

IND	RIDING	PARTY 1	RIDING	PARTY 2	RIDING	PARTY 3	RIDING	PARTY 4	RIDING
0	28	416	28	4,130	28	465	28	4,278	28
0	29	833	29	3,578	29	233	29	2,667	29
0	30	2,964	30	2,667	30	564	30	3,000	30
0	31	871	31	4,200	31	871	31	4,300	31
0	32	915	32	4,130	32	915	32	4,130	32
0	33	465	33	3,578	33	465	33	3,578	33
0	34	233	34	2,667	34	4,130	34	4,200	34
0	35	564	35	1,275	35	3,578	35	4,130	35
0	36	871	36	4,200	36	2,667	36	8,800	36
0	37	915	37	4,130	37	3,578	37	4,260	37
0	38	465	38	3,578	38	2,667	38	3,580	38
0	39	4,000	39	2,667	39	1,275	39	4,159	39
0	40	4,310	40	3,578	40	2,200	40	5,200	40
0	41	871	41	2,667	41	4,130	41	7,560	41
0	42	915	42	1,275	42	3,578	42	4,200	42
0	43	465	43	4,100	43	2,667	43	4,130	43
0	44	233	44	4,230	44	550	44	4,900	44
0	45	564	45	3,578	45	464	45	5,720	45
0	46	871	46	2,667	46	512	46	4,330	46
0	47	4,015	47	3,578	47	550	47	4,100	47
0	48	2,100	48	2,667	48	2,667	48	7,440	48
0	49	4,871	49	1,275	49	1,275	49	4,200	49
0	50	3,915	50	2,200	50	2,200	50	4,130	50
0	51	1,465	51	4,130	51	4,130	51	4,900	51
0	52	233	52	3,578	52	3,578	52	5,720	52
0	53	871	53	2,667	53	2,667	53	4,330	53
0	54	915	54	550	54	550	54	3,980	54
0	55	465	55	464	55	464	55	5,720	55
0	56	233	56	512	56	512	56	4,330	56
0	57	710	57	550	57	550	57	3,980	57

IND	RIDING	PARTY 1	RIDING	PARTY 2	RIDING	PARTY 3	RIDING	PARTY 4	RIDING
0	58	8,325	58	8,500	58	2,667	58	525	58
0	59	2,233	59	7,900	59	3,578	59	995	59
0	60	564	60	6,002	60	2,667	60	315	60
0	61	871	61	5,540	61	1,275	61	562	61
0	62	915	62	6,541	62	4,200	62	880	62
0	63	465	63	4,135	63	4,130	63	334	63
0	64	233	64	2,788	64	2,578	64	464	64
0	65	564	65	6,012	65	3,667	65	250	65
0	66	871	66	8,500	66	3,578	66	900	66
0	67	915	67	7,900	67	2,667	67	410	67
0	68	465	68	6,002	68	1,275	68	310	68
0	69	564	69	5,540	69	4,200	69	562	69
0	70	871	70	6,541	70	4,130	70	800	70
0	71	915	71	4,135	71	3,578	71	1,340	71
0	72	465	72	2,788	72	2,667	72	2,220	72
0	73	233	73	5,012	73	3,578	73	2,580	73
0	74	564	74	5,540	74	2,500	74	3,690	74
0	75	871	75	6,541	75	464	75	1,560	75
0	76	915	76	4,135	76	1,745	76	464	76
0	77	1,465	77	2,788	77	1,791	77	1,035	77
0	78	6,000	78	6,012	78	1,300	78	4,650	78
0	79	8,750	79	850	79	8,000	79	3,550	79
0	80	465	80	464	80	8,210	80	3,791	80
0	81	564	81	512	81	4,660	81	2,550	81
0	82	871	82	791	82	5,420	82	2,460	82
0	83	915	83	550	83	2,400	83	1,440	83
0	84	465	84	1,464	84	4,561	84	791	84
0	85	233	85	550	85	4,680	85	744	85
0	86	564	86	791	86	4,660	86	464	86
0	87	1,029	87	550	87	5,420	87	550	87

IND	RIDING	PARTY 1	RIDING	PARTY 2	RIDING	PARTY 3	RIDING	PARTY 4	RIDING
0	**88**	915	**88**	464	**88**	2,400	**88**	791	**88**
0	**89**	415	**89**	512	**89**	4,561	**89**	550	**89**
0	**90**	669	**90**	550	**90**	4,680	**90**	464	**90**
0	**91**	233	**91**	464	**91**	9,000	**91**	512	**91**
0	**92**	564	**92**	550	**92**	8,210	**92**	550	**92**
0	**93**	871	**93**	464	**93**	4,660	**93**	464	**93**
0	**94**	2,915	**94**	512	**94**	5,420	**94**	550	**94**
0	**95**	1,456	**95**	550	**95**	2,400	**95**	791	**95**
0	**96**	3,688	**96**	464	**96**	4,561	**96**	550	**96**
0	**97**	2,540	**97**	550	**97**	4,680	**97**	464	**97**
0	**98**	3,632	**98**	464	**98**	4,660	**98**	791	**98**
0	**99**	2,500	**99**	512	**99**	5,750	**99**	550	**99**
0	**100**	1,069	**100**	550	**100**	6,010	**100**	464	**100**
8,000		***127,608***		***304,692***		***304,700***		***305,000***	
0.76%		**12.15%**		**29.02%**		**29.02%**		**29.05%**	**100.00%**
1		**12**		**29**		**29**		**29**	**100**

TOTAL RIDINGS ALLOCATED IN <u>ROUND 1</u>	
IND / PARTY	**# RIDINGS ALLOCATED**
INDEPENDENT	1
PARTY 1	1
PARTY 2	21
PARTY 3	21
PARTY 4	29
TOTAL RIDINGS ALLOCATED IN ROUND 1	**73**
# OF RIDINGS TO BE ALLOCATED	***27***
TOTAL RIDINGS	***100***

TABLE #4 - REPRESENTATION by POPULAR VOTE - PARTY RIDINGS ALLOCATION

BASED ON EACH RIDING POPULAR VOTE - ROUND - 2

Since the Independent candidate and Party 4 have reached their maximum riding allocations in Round 1; they are excluded from Round 2.

PARTY 1	RIDING	PARTY 2	RIDING	PARTY 3	RIDING
4,871	49	4,230	44	4,130	34
4,310	40	4,200	31	4,130	41
4,015	47	4,200	36	3,578	35
4,000	39	4,130	32	3,578	42
3,915	50	4,130	37	3,578	52
915	54	4,130	51	2,667	38
871	46	4,100	43	2,667	48
710	57	3,578	33	2,667	53
564	45				
465	55				
233	56				

TOTAL RIDINGS ALLOCATED IN ROUND 2	
IND / PARTY	# RIDINGS ALLOCATED
PARTY 1	11
PARTY 2	8
PARTY 3	8
TOTAL RIDINGS ALLOCATED IN ROUND 2	**27**
TOTAL RIDINGS ALLOCATED IN ROUND 1	**73**
TOTAL NUMBER OF RIDINGS ALLOCATED	***100***
# OF RIDINGS TO BE ALLOCATED	***0***

TABLE #5 - "REPRESENTATION by POPULAR VOTE" - SUMMARY OF ALLOCATION PER INDEPENDENT(s) / PARTIES BASED ON PROVINCIAL AND RIDING POPULAR VOTE

TOTAL VOTES IN THE EXAMPLE ELECTION ***1,050,000***

RIDING	IND	PARTY 1	PARTY 2	PARTY 3	PARTY 4	TOTALS
1	8,000	5,000	3,500	2,000	3,000	21,500
2	0	416	2,952	4,200	5,000	12,568
3	0	2,233	3,600	3,340	4,000	13,173
4	0	564	4,200	1,275	4,300	10,339
5	0	371	3,340	3,800	5,000	12,511
6	0	415	1,775	3,523	4,100	9,813
7	0	465	3,300	3,578	3,758	11,101
8	0	416	3,523	2,667	4,620	11,226
9	0	233	3,578	3,002	5,500	12,313
10	0	564	2,667	2,952	4,600	10,783
11	0	871	3,002	4,650	5,800	14,323
12	0	915	2,952	4,200	5,200	13,267
13	0	465	4,650	3,340	4,700	13,155
14	0	415	4,200	1,275	4,300	10,190
15	0	465	3,340	4,200	4,400	12,405
16	0	416	1,280	4,130	4,600	10,426
17	0	233	4,195	3,578	4,200	12,206
18	0	64	4,130	2,667	4,250	11,111
19	0	871	3,578	1,280	3,600	9,329
20	0	915	2,667	4,195	4,200	11,977
21	0	465	1,275	4,130	4,135	10,005
22	0	564	4,200	3,578	4,245	12,587
23	0	871	4,100	2,667	4,150	11,788
24	0	915	3,500	233	3,578	8,226
25	0	465	2,667	564	2,800	6,496
26	0	1,415	1,275	871	4,100	7,661
27	0	465	4,200	915	4,235	9,815
28	0	416	4,130	465	4,278	9,289
29	0	833	3,578	233	2,667	7,311
30	0	2,964	2,667	564	3,000	9,195
31	0	871	4,200	871	4,300	10,242
32	0	915	4,130	915	4,130	10,090
33	0	465	3,578	465	3,578	8,086
34	0	233	2,667	4,130	4,200	11,230
35	0	564	1,275	3,578	4,130	9,547
36	0	871	4,200	2,667	8,800	16,538
37	0	915	4,130	3,578	4,260	12,883
38	0	465	3,578	2,667	3,580	10,290
39	0	4,000	2,667	1,275	4,159	12,101
40	0	4,310	3,578	2,200	5,200	15,288
41	0	871	2,667	4,130	7,560	15,228

RIDING	IND	PARTY 1	PARTY 2	PARTY 3	PARTY 4	TOTALS
42	0	915	1,275	3,578	4,200	9,968
43	0	465	4,100	2,667	4,130	11,362
44	0	233	4,230	550	4,900	9,913
45	0	564	3,578	464	5,720	10,326
46	0	871	2,667	512	4,330	8,380
47	0	4,015	3,578	550	4,100	12,243
48	0	2,100	2,667	2,667	7,440	14,874
49	0	4,871	1,275	1,275	4,200	11,621
50	0	3,915	2,200	2,200	4,130	12,445
51	0	1,465	4,130	4,130	4,900	14,625
52	0	233	3,578	3,578	5,720	13,109
53	0	871	2,667	2,667	4,330	10,535
54	0	915	550	550	3,980	5,995
55	0	465	464	464	5,720	7,113
56	0	233	512	512	4,330	5,587
57	0	710	550	550	3,980	5,790
58	0	8,325	8,500	2,667	525	20,017
59	0	2,233	7,900	3,578	995	14,706
60	0	564	6,002	2,667	315	9,548
61	0	871	5,540	1,275	562	8,248
62	0	915	6,541	4,200	880	12,536
63	0	465	4,135	4,130	334	9,064
64	0	233	2,788	2,578	464	6,063
65	0	564	6,012	3,667	250	10,493
66	0	871	8,500	3,578	900	13,849
67	0	915	7,900	2,667	410	11,892
68	0	465	6,002	1,275	310	8,052
69	0	564	5,540	4,200	562	10,866
70	0	871	6,541	4,130	800	12,342
71	0	915	4,135	3,578	1,340	9,968
72	0	465	2,788	2,667	2,220	8,140
73	0	233	5,012	3,578	2,580	11,403
74	0	564	5,540	2,500	3,690	12,294
75	0	871	6,541	464	1,560	9,436
76	0	915	4,135	1,745	464	7,259
77	0	1,465	2,788	1,791	1,035	7,079
78	0	6,000	6,012	1,300	4,650	17,962
79	0	8,750	850	8,000	3,550	21,150
80	0	465	464	8,210	3,791	12,930
81	0	564	512	4,660	2,550	8,286
82	0	871	791	5,420	2,460	9,542
83	0	915	550	2,400	1,440	5,305
84	0	465	1,464	4,561	791	7,281
85	0	233	550	4,680	744	6,207
86	0	564	791	4,660	464	6,479
87	0	1,029	550	5,420	550	7,549
88	0	915	464	2,400	791	4,570

RIDING	IND	PARTY 1	PARTY 2	PARTY 3	PARTY 4	TOTALS
89	0	415	512	4,561	550	6,038
90	0	669	550	4,680	464	6,363
91	0	233	464	9,000	512	10,209
92	0	564	550	8,210	550	9,874
93	0	871	464	4,660	464	6,459
94	0	2,915	512	5,420	550	9,397
95	0	1,456	550	2,400	791	5,197
96	0	3,688	464	4,561	550	9,263
97	0	2,540	550	4,680	464	8,234
98	0	3,632	464	4,660	791	9,547
99	0	2,500	512	5,750	550	9,312
100	0	1,069	550	6,010	464	8,093
TOTAL VOTES	***8,000***	***127,608***	***304,692***	***304,700***	***305,000***	***1,050,000***
%	**0.76%**	**12.15%**	**29.02%**	**29.02%**	**29.05%**	**100.00%**
# RIDINGS BY PROVINCIAL POPULAR VOTE	**1**	**12**	**29**	**29**	**29**	**100**

This ends the RPV voting system proposal.

[redacted]

From: Minister, AG AG:EX
Subject: FW: Popular Proportional Representation
Attachments: PopPR1120.pdf

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2017 5:24 AM
To: Minister, AG AG:EX
Subject: Popular Proportional Representation

Hon. David Eby and/or persons in the AG office,

Good morning. I have been talking with Hon. Lana Popham, Lana's staff and others. It's been suggested I write to you at this time concerning a suggested electoral method. A short statement of the method, "Popular Proportional Representation", is included below with a longer discussion attached.

Thank you for organizing this important process for BC. I look forward to the public consultation phase. Sincerely, [redacted]

PopularPR

Citizens receive a simple ballot listing local candidates in their riding. A citizen marks a single preferred choice and the candidate with most votes is elected a Member.

Votes for defeated candidate are not "lost". If a defeated candidate is affiliated with a party, votes for that candidate are added to a party-at-large (PAL) sum for that party. PALs are redistributed to Members from the defeated candidate's party who are elected in other ridings. (The outcome in each riding is decided only by votes within that riding; and every Member is elected within a riding.)

When a standing vote is called in the Legislature, each Member stands on behalf of his or her individual votes plus PAL share. A measure passes or fails by sums that reflect numbers of citizen voters. The math is easily done by computer while the 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 just as at present.

Popular Proportional Representation Time for BC democracy?

If there is ever a time to rethink democracy, that time is now. But "rethink" needs to be more than only reviewing what's gone before or what's done elsewhere, mixing-and-matching among various schemes. Can we be bold, erase the slate, and ask afresh: how could democracy work in the 21st century?

The good news is that courage, freed from "democracy tunnel vision", is rewarded. A way forward is simpler, less costly, and more democratic than we might imagine.

The core is to honour each citizen's vote. No matter which candidate is elected in any riding, we require that each vote retains it's value, equal to every other vote, on election day and throughout the life of the ensuing Legislative Assembly. Such focus on core value turns out to simplify everything.

PopularPR

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When a standing vote is called in the Legislature, each Member stands on behalf of his or her individual vote plus PAL share. A measure passes or fails by sums that reflect numbers of citizen voters. The math is easily done by computer while the 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 just as at present.

Discussion

Usual methods for voting reform are based on one idea only: seats. How to assign seats, how to arrange seats, how to add seats. But trying to achieve proportionality by adjusting seats is tough. It spawns schemes that are complicated, expensive, add more seats, and even then only manage to reduce degree of disproportion.

PopularPR achieves complete proportionality (each party's vote matching its popular vote) at no added cost or complication by following the principle that every citizen's vote on election day retains its value, equal to every other vote, throughout the resulting Legislature. The seats are just furniture. When Members stand, they stand for people — citizens who voted for them or for the party they represent.

As set out above PopularPR is complete and ready to bring to BC referendum. Beyond this, there are possible extensions and refinements for future legislative review. Some options are listed below. This should not complicate basic PopularPR but provides topics for future thought — inviting reader feedback. A reader can also skip ahead to Questions and Comments.

Option 1: Clarification of voter choice

To better recognize citizens' wishes and to encourage independent candidates, a simple extension to PopularPR would add a question to voters' ballots: if the chosen candidate is not elected, to which PAL (if any) should the vote be added?

Most voters are content to mark a candidate and be done. Votes for defeated candidates default to the PALs of candidates' parties. However, some voters may wish to refine the choice if their candidate isn't elected. Voters may choose an independent if they can identify a major party as "backup" should their independent lose. Another voter might select a candidate from party A yet choose party B if that candidate is defeated. Still another voter might wish that the ballot not be redirected to any party at all. In every case the core value is to honour each voter's wishes.

Option 2. Redistricting

PopularPR requires no redrawing of electoral boundaries. After PopularPR is adopted, future changes to electoral boundaries becomes simple and worry-free. All citizen are equally represented regardless where they live. There are no "swing" ridings, no "safe" ridings and no gerrymandering. We can freely address the growing problem of dense urban ridings and sparsely settled rural ridings. Ridings can become geographically convenient without over- or under-representing anyone.

Option 3: Creating seats for small-party and regional representation

Although PopularPR achieves voting reform without adding seats, proponents for seats-based reforms raise good points which can be brought into PopularPR with minimal extension. For examples there are issues if voters choose candidates from small parties that fail to win any riding. Then there is no elected Member to carry the PAL. Or a party may win ridings but leave large regions without any elected Member of that party. One approach to these situations is to create additional seats based upon criteria such as fraction of popular vote, these criteria subject to ongoing legislative review. Importantly, as PopularPR is not burdened by trying to achieve proportionality based on seats-count, the number of added seats can be very few. Moreover, given the freedom to redistrict (option 2), seats created for small-party and/or regional representation can be compensated by other changes yielding no overall seats gain.

Option 4: Other seats-based innovations

Proponent for seats-based reform have many more ideas. While PopularPR achieves complete proportionality simply and effectively, it's interesting to consider further seats-based ideas which might (in the future) be brought into PopularPR without over-complicating or adding expense. For examples it's suggested that one could elect multiple Members from fewer but larger ridings. Suggestions have included using the 42 federal ridings rather than 87 BC ridings, electing two highest vote-scoring candidates in each riding. Ballots remain simple: only choosing one candidate per riding. It is thought this can lead to greater party diversity, reducing pressure (see option 3) to create new seats.

A further seats-based innovation would create a seat for each leader of a major party without requiring that leader win a riding. Arguments have been given why this is a good idea. Interestingly this is like what's proposed (option 3) for smaller parties, hence treating all parties similarly.

Our goal here is not to complicate PopularPR but to enable future consideration of seats-based ideas.

Alternatives

BC is rich with original thinkers. There are proposals close to PopularPR yet different. These include **PracticalPR** and **PerfectPR**, with the same core as PopularPR based on primacy of the citizen voter. Cooperating with each other, innovators maintain a common **"PPR"** label while yet developing different ideas. Such differences are healthy along with common goals.
See https://makeeveryvotecount-always.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Announcing-PracticalPR.pdf

During 2016 hearings by the federal committee on electoral reform, there were several independent proposals across the country which have been termed collectively as **"weighted vote"** methods. A good example is described at www.weightedvote.net. PPR is considered (especially by detractors) as a weighted vote method insofar as each Member stands to vote on behalf of numbers of citizens represented by that Member. The distinction with PPR is to recognize each citizen's vote as the basic unit (hence weight=1) of democracy, those weights summed when Members stand.

Usual methods for PR include Mixed Member Proportional (**MMP**) and Single Transferable Vote (**STV**) with many flavours and hybrids such as **LocalPR**, **Rural-UrbanPR** and more. These are traditionally seats-based methods reviewed by organizations including Fair Voting BC (https://fairvotingbc.com) and Fair Vote Canada (http://www.fairvote.ca). Because seats-based methods are practiced elsewhere, they provide practical lessons. Despite greater complexity in voting and vote counting as well as higher costs and imperfect proportionality, these seats-based schemes remain superior to first-past-the-post

Innovations among seats-based schemes include ideas discussed under option 4. Some of these are called **EasyPR** and **LeadersPlus**. See https://thegrassisgreener.ca/2017/09/02/introduction-to-m3-leaders-bcs-federal-ridings-as-a-basis-for-pr-part-2/

> This brief writeup will not make further comparison with other methods. There is terrible danger though if we go through the BC referendum process restricted to choosing only among seats-based schemes. In the year 1265 there weren't many choices how to run a parliament. Votes were counted by counting members (mostly barons) who stood. In today's 21st century (when even landless persons and women vote!) can't we consider other ways to count? Isn't it time to rethink? These matters are at the heart of democratic future in BC and worldwide.

Questions and comments

Elected Members would complain about voting with different weights. Really? It's a good question to ask our present Members. Among replies are that the question is nuts. Members value — indeed honour — that they were elected on behalf of people. If, by standing, they can sum the people who voted for them or their party, that is exactly what Members intend.

Who is against PopularPR? **First**, there is focussed wealth and power which 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 seats proponents may wish to keep PopularPR out of the discussion entirely.

Who forms government? The party or cooperation among parties that captures the largest fraction of popular vote has first opportunity to form government. The number of seats occupied by Members of different parties does not matter.

Are resulting governments stable? Probably 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 PAL so that those citizens are equally represented along 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 PALs for parties A and B remain with those parties.

Disparity between sparse rural populations and dense urban ones is a big problem for seats-based methods. When the only unit of democracy is the seat, it's important that each seat represent nearly the same number of people. This can lead to tiny ridings in urban centres and huge ridings in rural areas. While PopularPR can be implemented with no redistricting, it opens future opportunities to rationalize ridings boundaries, consolidating in dense urban areas while providing better locality of representation for rural residents. Regardless how riding boundaries are drawn, every citizen's vote counts equally.

A further cost of seats-based methods occurs as populations keep evolving. The electoral commission must continue an exhaustive costly process of redistricting. Under PopularPR it no longer matters if ridings gain or lose residents. Democracy is based on citizens not the ridings in which citizens reside.

How are PAL shares assigned? A simple idea is to distribute equal across all Members within a party. However the present writeup leaves this vague so that a party caucus can give the matter deeper thought. It can be part of a party platform. For example, PAL assignment can bring voting weight to gender equality even if gender count among Members is unequal. PAL assignment can also be made day-to-day or moment-to-moment depending upon Members present at any time in the Legislature. Computers are good at this stuff.

Voters for defeated candidates aren't "directly" represented. Really? In local constituency matters there's the elected Member even if party ideology doesn't line up with the voters. On larger issues involving party ideology, the voter has contributed to legislative power of other Members of the voter's party. With PopularPR the voter has two avenues for representation.

Turnout is encouraged. A citizen who holds views different from most others in his or her riding will vote anyway so that the vote can be carried to the Legislature by Members of a party of choice. Similarly in a "safe" riding where nearly everyone feels alike and the electoral outcome is certain, there's incentive to vote so that elected Member will carry more legislative weight. All citizens can vote their consciences without distorting pressure of "strategic" voting. Independents and small party candidates are encouraged. Voting under PopularPR is especially transparent as the voter sees the role of each vote cast.

Any method for PR will be opposed by forces of focussed wealth. The Liberal Party of BC has set a priority to defeat PR. In the upcoming contest, PopularPR has key advantages. It is impressively simple (compared with seats-based schemes). Ballots are simple; voting is simple. PopularPR is inexpensive, avoiding added seats. And PopularPR is so transparent and grounded in clear expression of democratic principle, that it is harder for forces of focused wealth to deny.

if you've comment or question, or if you want to stay in touch with the effort to bring PopularPR into the BC democracy discussion, please drop an email to [redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 10:13 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: FW: New blended FPTP and PR - CMPR
Attachments: BC2017 JD saved 20180226.xlsx

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 10:05 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: New blended FPTP and PR - CMPR

Dear [redacted]

Attached is a spreadsheet which was prepared following BC's last provincial election using the CMPR Model (Canadian Modified Proportional Representation). We are updating the CMPR package now and will send you the latest version later today. It is very comprehensive and has complete details for CMPR implementation within the FPTP ballot system.

CMPR offers continuity of FPTP as a stable electoral system while achieving significant gains in proportional representation without excessive costs or disruptions to government. The traditional FPTP ballot is used in CMPR.

CMPR's PR gains are historically around a 60% improvement as measured by the decrease in the Gallagher Index to a target of 5.0%, comparing traditional FPTP to CMPR election results.

Based on modelling Canada's federal elections since 1957, CMPR can change governments but this has occurred rarely and mostly the effect has been to reduce majorities or add seats to non-government minorities without changing government.

We hope this is of interest.

Kind Regards,

[redacted]

[redacted] Manitoba

Electoral Division	Candidate	Party	Votes Received	% of Votes Cast *	*MLA (OLD)*	*% VOTES*	*% SEATS*	*DIFF*	*DIFF^2*	*(Add CMPR Seats) MLBC*	*MLA (NEW)*	*% CMPR SEATS*	*MDIFF*	*MDIFF^2*	*DIFF-MDIFF*
Oak Bay-Gordon He	Xaanja Ganja Free	4BC	53	0.20%											
Richmond North Ce	John Crocock	BC Action Party	109	0.79%											
Delta South	Errol Edmund Sherley	BC Action Party	77	0.33%											
Powell River-Sunshi	Reuben Richards	BC Cascadia Party	152	0.65%											
Port Coquitlam	Billy Gibbons	BC Cascadia Party	84	0.36%											
Vancouver-False Cr	Phillip James Ryan	BC Citizens First Party	75	0.34%											
Courtenay-Comox	Leah Catherine McCulloch	BC Conservative Party	2,061	7.61%											
Kelowna-Mission	Charles Hardy	BC Conservative Party	1,755	7.23%											
Cariboo North	Tony Goulet	BC Conservative Party	690	5.94%											
Langley	Justin Greenwood	BC Conservative Party	1,122	5.09%											
Maple Ridge-Missio	Trevor Hamilton	BC Conservative Party	850	3.58%											
Mid Island-Pacific R	Julian Fell	BC Conservative Party	842	3.52%											
Richmond-Queensb	Kay Khilvinder Hale	BC Conservative Party	635	3.52%											
Burnaby-Deer Lake	Graham Bowers	BC Conservative Party	523	3.18%											
Vancouver-Kingswa	Charles Bae	BC Conservative Party	446	2.52%											
Maple Ridge-Pitt M	Gary John O'Driscoll	BC Conservative Party	613	2.49%											
North Island	John M. Twigg	BC First	507	2.14%											
Oak Bay-Gordon He	Andrew John Weaver	BC Green Party	13,843	51.91%	1										
Saanich North and t	Adam Olsen	BC Green Party	13,425	41.73%	1										
Cowichan Valley	Sonia Furstenau	BC Green Party	10,669	37.21%	1										
Victoria-Beacon Hill	Kalen Harris	BC Green Party	8,274	30.26%											
Victoria-Swan Lake	Christopher Alan Maxwell	BC Green Party	6,826	29.90%											
West Vancouver-Se	Dana Moore Taylor	BC Green Party	6,447	28.70%											
Nelson-Creston	Kim Charlesworth	BC Green Party	4,770	27.88%											
Parksville-Qualicum	Glenn Sollitt	BC Green Party	7,671	25.58%											
New Westminster	Jonina Campbell	BC Green Party	6,358	25.36%											
Saanich South	Mark Neufeld	BC Green Party	6,497	25.19%											
Esquimalt-Metchos	Andy MacKinnon	BC Green Party	5,814	24.76%											
Powell River-Sunshi	Kim Darwin	BC Green Party	5,629	24.11%											
Nanaimo-North Co	Lia Marie Constance Versaev	BC Green Party	5,583	23.74%											
Vernon-Monashee	Keli Westgate	BC Green Party	5,557	21.43%											
Kamloops-South Th	Donovan Cavers	BC Green Party	5,214	20.47%											
Mid Island-Pacific R	Alicia La Rue	BC Green Party	4,865	20.34%											
Kamloops-North Th	Dan Hines	BC Green Party	4,521	20.24%											
Nanaimo	Kathleen Harris	BC Green Party	4,899	19.72%											
West Vancouver-Ca	Michael Markwick	BC Green Party	4,067	19.22%											
Kelowna-Lake Coun	Alison Shaw	BC Green Party	4,416	19.20%											
Langford-Juan de Fu	Brendan Ralfs	BC Green Party	4,341	18.87%											
Penticton	Connie Sahlmark	BC Green Party	4,707	18.44%											
Courtenay-Comox	Ernie Sellentin	BC Green Party	4,907	18.12%											

North Vancouver-Se	Joshua Johnson	BC Green Party	4,451	17.93%
Vancouver-Hastings	David H.T. Wong	BC Green Party	3,660	17.42%
Chilliwack	Wayne Froese	BC Green Party	3,014	17.03%
Vancouver-Mount F	Jerry Kroll	BC Green Party	3,561	16.90%
Abbotsford-Mission	Jennifer Holmes	BC Green Party	3,940	16.85%
Langley East	Bill Masse	BC Green Party	4,389	16.23%
Fraser-Nicola	Arthur Alexander Green	BC Green Party	2,336	16.04%
Surrey-White Rock	Bill Marshall	BC Green Party	4,189	15.96%
Kootenay West	Sam Troy	BC Green Party	2,760	15.83%
Vancouver-False Cr	Bradley Darren Shende	BC Green Party	3,448	15.73%
Shuswap	Kevin Babcock	BC Green Party	3,940	15.52%
Langley	Elizabeth Helen Walker	BC Green Party	3,358	15.23%
Cariboo-Chilcotin	Rita Helen Giesbrecht	BC Green Party	1,979	15.08%
North Vancouver-Lo	Richard Warrington	BC Green Party	3,617	15.07%
North Island	Sue Moen	BC Green Party	3,498	14.75%
Vancouver-Quilcher	Michael Barkusky	BC Green Party	2,974	14.71%
Chilliwack-Kent	Josie Bleuer	BC Green Party	3,088	14.69%
Kelowna-Mission	Rainer Wilkins	BC Green Party	3,422	14.10%
Burnaby-Lougheed	Joe Keithley	BC Green Party	2,837	13.76%
Burnaby-Edmonds	Valentine Wu	BC Green Party	2,436	13.61%
Vancouver-West En	James Marshall	BC Green Party	2,701	13.57%
Kelowna West	Robert Mellalieu	BC Green Party	3,290	13.47%
Vancouver-Langara	Janet Rhoda Fraser	BC Green Party	2,582	13.46%
Maple Ridge-Missio	Peter Pak Chiu Tam	BC Green Party	3,181	13.40%
Vancouver-Fairview	Louise Boutin	BC Green Party	3,453	13.27%
Richmond-Stevesto	Roy Sakata	BC Green Party	2,614	12.95%
Richmond-Queensb	Michael Wolfe	BC Green Party	2,311	12.82%
Port Coquitlam	Jason Hanley	BC Green Party	2,975	12.75%
Surrey-Cloverdale	Aleksandra Muniak	BC Green Party	2,871	12.33%
Maple Ridge-Pitt M	Alex Pope	BC Green Party	3,010	12.22%
Prince George-Vale	Nan Kendy	BC Green Party	2,080	12.09%
Port Moody-Coquitl	Don Barthel	BC Green Party	2,692	12.04%
Coquitlam-Burke M	Ian Donnelly Soutar	BC Green Party	2,553	11.92%
Burnaby-Deer Lake	Rick McGowan	BC Green Party	1,951	11.87%
Surrey South	Pascal Tremblay	BC Green Party	2,826	11.79%
Burnaby North	Peter Hallschmid	BC Green Party	2,415	11.75%
Columbia River-Rev	Samson Boyer	BC Green Party	1,582	11.44%
Delta North	Jacquie Miller	BC Green Party	2,512	11.42%
Kootenay East	Yvonne Marie Prest	BC Green Party	1,814	11.27%
Prince George-Macl	Hilary Crowley	BC Green Party	1,880	11.14%
Vancouver-Kensing	Simon Alexander Rear	BC Green Party	2,215	11.13%
Richmond South Ce	Greg Powell	BC Green Party	1,368	11.01%
Surrey-Fleetwood	Tim Binnema	BC Green Party	2,018	10.83%

Coquitlam-Maillard	Nicola Eyton Spurling	BC Green Party	2,223	10.82%	
Surrey-Whalley	Rita Anne Fromholt	BC Green Party	1,665	10.73%	
Abbotsford West	Kevin Allan Eastwood	BC Green Party	2,068	10.61%	
Richmond North Ce	Ryan Kemp Marciniw	BC Green Party	1,457	10.60%	
Vancouver-Point Gr	Amanda Konkin	BC Green Party	2,315	10.32%	
Boundary-Similkam	Vonnie Lavers	BC Green Party	2,145	10.08%	
Surrey-Guildford	Jodi Murphy	BC Green Party	1,675	9.81%	
North Coast	Hondo Arendt	BC Green Party	809	9.31%	
Vancouver-Kingswa	Ellisa Calder	BC Green Party	1,645	9.31%	
Delta South	Larry Colero	BC Green Party	2,134	9.07%	
Nechako Lakes	Douglas Norman Gook	BC Green Party	843	9.00%	
Vancouver-Fraservi	Eric Kolotyluk	BC Green Party	1,580	7.45%	
Cariboo North	Richard Edward Jaques	BC Green Party	836	7.20%	
Surrey-Green Timbe	Saira Aujla	BC Green Party	1,017	7.15%	
Surrey-Newton	Richard Krieger	BC Green Party	1,073	6.98%	
Surrey-Panorama	Veronica Laurel Greer	BC Green Party	1,437	6.66%	
Abbotsford South	William Aird Flavelle	BC Green Party	3,021	14.93%	
Peace River South	Mike Bernier	BC Liberal Party	6,180	75.63%	1
Peace River North	Dan Davies	BC Liberal Party	8,542	66.30%	1
Kelowna-Lake Coun	Norm Letnick	BC Liberal Party	13,834	60.14%	1
Kelowna West	Christy Clark	BC Liberal Party	14,559	59.60%	1
Cariboo-Chilcotin	Donna Barnett	BC Liberal Party	7,710	58.75%	1
Prince George-Vale	Shirley Bond	BC Liberal Party	10,094	58.69%	1
West Vancouver-Ca	Ralph Sultan	BC Liberal Party	12,215	57.74%	1
Kelowna-Mission	Steve Thomson	BC Liberal Party	13,985	57.64%	1
Prince George-Macl	Mike Morris	BC Liberal Party	9,674	57.33%	1
Vancouver-Quilcher	Andrew Wilkinson	BC Liberal Party	11,474	56.77%	1
Kootenay East	Tom Glenn Shypitka	BC Liberal Party	9,114	56.64%	1
Kamloops-South Th	Todd Graham Stone	BC Liberal Party	14,409	56.56%	1
Shuswap	Gregory James Kyllo	BC Liberal Party	14,236	56.09%	1
Abbotsford West	Michael de Jong	BC Liberal Party	10,910	55.99%	1
Nechako Lakes	John Rustad	BC Liberal Party	5,108	54.51%	1
Langley East	Rich Coleman	BC Liberal Party	14,579	53.91%	1
Chilliwack-Kent	Laurie Throness	BC Liberal Party	11,257	53.55%	1
Penticton	Dan Ashton	BC Liberal Party	13,671	53.55%	1
Skeena	Ellis Ross	BC Liberal Party	6,370	53.16%	1
Richmond North Ce	Teresa Wat	BC Liberal Party	7,292	53.05%	1
Abbotsford South	Darryl Plecas	BC Liberal Party	10,687	52.82%	1
Abbotsford-Mission	Simon John Gibson	BC Liberal Party	12,080	51.67%	1
Surrey South	Stephanie Cadieux	BC Liberal Party	12,345	51.51%	1
Cariboo North	Coralee Ella Oakes	BC Liberal Party	5,969	51.40%	1
Surrey-White Rock	Tracy Redies	BC Liberal Party	13,232	50.43%	1
Richmond South Ce	Linda Reid	BC Liberal Party	6,159	49.59%	1

Kamloops-North Th	Peter Gordon Milobar	BC Liberal Party	10,921	48.89%	1
Chilliwack	John Martin	BC Liberal Party	8,641	48.82%	1
Vancouver-Langara	Michael Lee	BC Liberal Party	9,235	48.13%	1
Vernon-Monashee	Eric Bailey Foster	BC Liberal Party	12,473	48.10%	1
Richmond-Stevesto	John Yap	BC Liberal Party	9,706	48.07%	1
Surrey-Cloverdale	Marvin Hunt	BC Liberal Party	11,171	47.98%	1
North Vancouver-Se	Jane Ann Thornthwaite	BC Liberal Party	11,705	47.16%	1
Columbia River-Rev	Doug Clovechok	BC Liberal Party	6,325	45.75%	1
Parksville-Qualicum	Michelle Stilwell	BC Liberal Party	13,605	45.37%	1
Langley	Mary Polak	BC Liberal Party	9,859	44.71%	1
Delta South	Ian Paton	BC Liberal Party	10,473	44.50%	1
Coquitlam-Burke M	Joan Isaacs	BC Liberal Party	9,514	44.44%	1
Boundary-Similkam	Linda Margaret Larson	BC Liberal Party	9,174	43.09%	1
West Vancouver-Se	Jordan Sturdy	BC Liberal Party	9,649	42.95%	1
Vancouver-False Cr	Sam Sullivan	BC Liberal Party	9,332	42.57%	1
Fraser-Nicola	Jackie L. Tegart	BC Liberal Party	6,181	42.44%	1
Richmond-Queensb	Jas Johal	BC Liberal Party	7,525	41.74%	1
Vancouver-Fraservi	Suzanne Anton	BC Liberal Party	9,171	43.21%	
Surrey-Panorama	Puneet Sandhar	BC Liberal Party	9,126	42.27%	
Maple Ridge-Missio	Marc Dalton	BC Liberal Party	9,723	40.95%	
Port Moody-Coquitl	Linda Reimer	BC Liberal Party	9,122	40.80%	
Burnaby North	Richard T. Lee	BC Liberal Party	8,349	40.61%	
Delta North	Scott Hamilton	BC Liberal Party	8,817	40.10%	
Stikine	Wanda Good	BC Liberal Party	3,330	39.25%	
Maple Ridge-Pitt M	Doug Bing	BC Liberal Party	9,652	39.17%	
North Vancouver-Lo	Naomi Yamamoto	BC Liberal Party	9,336	38.89%	
Coquitlam-Maillard	Steve Kim	BC Liberal Party	7,862	38.26%	
Surrey-Guildford	Amrik Virk	BC Liberal Party	6,510	38.14%	
Burnaby-Lougheed	Steve Darling	BC Liberal Party	7,698	37.33%	
Courtenay-Comox	Jim Benninger	BC Liberal Party	10,049	37.12%	
Burnaby-Deer Lake	Karen Xiao Bao Wang	BC Liberal Party	5,973	36.35%	
Surrey-Fleetwood	Peter Fassbender	BC Liberal Party	6,659	35.75%	
North Island	Dallas William Smith	BC Liberal Party	8,436	35.57%	
Vancouver-Point Gr	James Lombardi	BC Liberal Party	7,610	33.91%	
Vancouver-Kensing	Kim Jee Chan Logan	BC Liberal Party	6,598	33.16%	
North Coast	Herb Pond	BC Liberal Party	2,879	33.15%	
Surrey-Green Timbe	Brenda Joy Locke	BC Liberal Party	4,711	33.11%	
Nanaimo	Paris Gaudet	BC Liberal Party	8,189	32.97%	
Burnaby-Edmonds	Garrison Duke	BC Liberal Party	5,852	32.69%	
Vancouver-Fairview	Gabe Garfinkel	BC Liberal Party	8,482	32.59%	
Saanich South	David Calder	BC Liberal Party	8,113	31.45%	
Port Coquitlam	Susan Chambers	BC Liberal Party	7,101	30.44%	
Surrey-Whalley	Sargy Chima	BC Liberal Party	4,712	30.36%	

Surrey-Newton	Gurminder Singh Parihar	BC Liberal Party	4,603	29.93%	
Nelson-Creston	Tanya Rae Wall	BC Liberal Party	4,891	28.59%	
Nanaimo-North Co	Alana DeLong	BC Liberal Party	6,696	28.47%	
Esquimalt-Metchos	Barb Desjardins	BC Liberal Party	6,564	27.96%	
Cowichan Valley	Steve Housser	BC Liberal Party	7,943	27.70%	
Vancouver-Kingswa	Trang Nguyen	BC Liberal Party	4,891	27.67%	
Saanich North and t	Stephen P. Roberts	BC Liberal Party	8,654	26.90%	
Langford-Juan de Fu	Cathy Noel	BC Liberal Party	6,062	26.35%	
Mid Island-Pacific R	Darren Frank DeLuca	BC Liberal Party	6,196	25.90%	
Powell River-Sunshi	Mathew Wilson	BC Liberal Party	5,717	24.49%	
Kootenay West	Jim Postnikoff	BC Liberal Party	4,265	24.46%	
Oak Bay-Gordon He	Alex Dutton	BC Liberal Party	6,482	24.31%	
Vancouver-West En	Nigel Elliott	BC Liberal Party	4,583	23.03%	
Vancouver-Hastings	Jane Spitz	BC Liberal Party	4,692	22.34%	
New Westminster	Lorraine Brett	BC Liberal Party	5,333	21.27%	
Vancouver-Mount F	Conny Lin	BC Liberal Party	3,454	16.39%	
Victoria-Swan Lake	Stacey Piercey	BC Liberal Party	3,642	15.95%	
Victoria-Beacon Hill	Karen Bill	BC Liberal Party	4,296	15.71%	
Vancouver-Mount F	Melanie Mark	BC NDP	13,667	64.86%	1
Vancouver-West En	Spencer Chandra Herbert	BC NDP	12,195	61.28%	1
Vancouver-Kingswa	Adrian Dix	BC NDP	10,620	60.07%	1
Kootenay West	Katrine Conroy	BC NDP	10,415	59.72%	1
Vancouver-Hastings	Shane Lee Simpson	BC NDP	12,468	59.36%	1
Surrey-Whalley	Bruce Ralston	BC NDP	9,060	58.37%	1
Surrey-Green Timbe	Rachna Singh	BC NDP	8,280	58.19%	1
North Coast	Jennifer Rice	BC NDP	4,998	57.54%	1
Surrey-Newton	Harry Bains	BC NDP	8,823	57.37%	1
Port Coquitlam	Mike Farnworth	BC NDP	12,937	55.46%	1
Vancouver-Point Gr	David Robert Patrick Eby	BC NDP	12,375	55.15%	1
Vancouver-Kensingt	Mable Elmore	BC NDP	10,916	54.87%	1
Burnaby-Edmonds	Raj Chouhan	BC NDP	9,613	53.70%	1
Vancouver-Fairview	George Heyman	BC NDP	13,958	53.64%	1
Surrey-Fleetwood	Jagrup Brar	BC NDP	9,951	53.42%	1
Victoria-Swan Lake	Rob Fleming	BC NDP	12,181	53.36%	1
Victoria-Beacon Hill	Carole James	BC NDP	14,476	52.95%	1
Langford-Juan de Fu	John Horgan	BC NDP	12,144	52.78%	1
New Westminster	Judy Darcy	BC NDP	12,923	51.55%	1
Stikine	Doug Donaldson	BC NDP	4,370	51.51%	1
Powell River-Sunshi	Nicholas Simons	BC NDP	11,846	50.75%	1
Surrey-Panorama	Jinny Sims	BC NDP	10,910	50.53%	1
Coquitlam-Maillard	Selina Mae Robinson	BC NDP	10,308	50.17%	1
Surrey-Guildford	Garry Begg	BC NDP	8,467	49.60%	1
Mid Island-Pacific R	Scott Kenneth Fraser	BC NDP	11,662	48.75%	1

Delta North	Ravi Kahlon	BC NDP	10,658	48.47%	1
Vancouver-Fraservi	George Chow	BC NDP	10,160	47.87%	1
Burnaby-Lougheed	Katrina Chen	BC NDP	9,845	47.74%	1
Burnaby North	Janet Routledge	BC NDP	9,794	47.64%	1
North Island	Claire Felicity Trevena	BC NDP	11,274	47.54%	1
Burnaby-Deer Lake	Anne Kang	BC NDP	7,778	47.33%	1
Port Moody-Coquitl	Rick Glumac	BC NDP	10,542	47.16%	1
Nanaimo-North Co\	Doug Routley	BC NDP	10,986	46.71%	1
Nanaimo	Leonard Krog	BC NDP	11,498	46.29%	1
Esquimalt-Metchos	Mitzi Jayne Dean	BC NDP	10,803	46.01%	1
North Vancouver-Lo	Bowinn Ma	BC NDP	10,786	44.92%	1
Maple Ridge-Pitt M	Lisa Marie Beare	BC NDP	10,992	44.61%	1
Saanich South	Lana Popham	BC NDP	10,904	42.27%	1
Nelson-Creston	Michelle Mungall	BC NDP	7,159	41.85%	1
Maple Ridge-Missio	Bob D'Eith	BC NDP	9,843	41.46%	1
Courtenay-Comox	Ronna-Rae Leonard	BC NDP	10,058	37.15%	1
Coquitlam-Burke M	Jodie Wickens	BC NDP	9,344	43.64%	
Skeena	Bruce Alan Bidgood	BC NDP	5,089	42.47%	
Richmond-Queensb	Aman Singh	BC NDP	7,262	40.28%	
Vancouver-False Cr	Morgane Oger	BC NDP	8,772	40.01%	
Richmond South Ce	Chak Au	BC NDP	4,893	39.40%	
Richmond-Stevesto	Kelly Greene	BC NDP	7,870	38.98%	
Surrey-Cloverdale	Rebecca Smith	BC NDP	8,976	38.56%	
Vancouver-Langara	James Wang	BC NDP	7,215	37.60%	
Fraser-Nicola	Harry Lali	BC NDP	5,475	37.59%	
Columbia River-Rev	Gerry Taft	BC NDP	4,966	35.92%	
Cariboo North	Scott Elliott	BC NDP	4,117	35.45%	
Langley	Gail Chaddock-Costello	BC NDP	7,561	34.29%	
North Vancouver-Se	Michael Rene Charrois	BC NDP	8,452	34.05%	
Richmond North Ce	Lyren Chiu	BC NDP	4,587	33.37%	
Boundary-Similkam	Colleen Ross	BC NDP	6,941	32.61%	
Surrey South	Jonathan Silveira	BC NDP	7,745	32.32%	
Chilliwack	Tracey Lorrean O'Hara	BC NDP	5,673	32.05%	
Chilliwack-Kent	Patti MacAhonic	BC NDP	6,678	31.77%	
Prince George-Macl	Bobby Deepak	BC NDP	5,319	31.52%	
Cowichan Valley	Lori Lynn Iannidinardo	BC NDP	8,965	31.26%	
Saanich North and t	Gary Holman	BC NDP	9,761	30.34%	
Abbotsford West	Preet Rai	BC NDP	5,890	30.23%	
Surrey-White Rock	Niovi Patsicakis	BC NDP	7,925	30.20%	
Kamloops-North Th	Barb Nederpel	BC NDP	6,730	30.13%	
Nechako Lakes	Anne Marie Sam	BC NDP	2,784	29.71%	
Kootenay East	Randal Macnair	BC NDP	4,779	29.70%	
Vernon-Monashee	Barry Charles Dorval	BC NDP	7,588	29.26%	

Prince George-Vale	Natalie Fletcher	BC NDP	5,025	29.22%
Abbotsford-Mission	Andrew Murray Christie	BC NDP	6,754	28.89%
Parksville-Qualicum	Sue Powell	BC NDP	8,476	28.26%
Langley East	Inder Johal	BC NDP	7,625	28.20%
Penticton	Tarik Sayeed	BC NDP	7,150	28.01%
Vancouver-Quilcher	Madeline Lalonde	BC NDP	5,525	27.34%
West Vancouver-Se	Michelle Livaja	BC NDP	6,068	27.01%
Shuswap	Sylvia Jean Lindgren	BC NDP	6,816	26.86%
Cariboo-Chilcotin	Sally Watson	BC NDP	3,434	26.17%
Kelowna West	Shelley Cook	BC NDP	6,055	24.79%
Peace River South	Stephanie Goudie	BC NDP	1,991	24.37%
Oak Bay-Gordon He	Bryce Casavant	BC NDP	6,229	23.36%
West Vancouver-Ca	Mehdi Russel	BC NDP	4,874	23.04%
Kamloops-South Th	Nancy Bepple	BC NDP	5,479	21.51%
Kelowna-Mission	Harwinder Kaur Sandhu	BC NDP	5,102	21.03%
Kelowna-Lake Coun	Erik Olesen	BC NDP	4,753	20.66%
Delta South	Bruce Reid	BC NDP	4,800	20.40%
Peace River North	Rob Dempsey	BC NDP	836	6.49%
Abbotsford South	Jasleen Arora	BC NDP	5,652	27.93%
Parksville-Qualicum	Terry Hand	BC Refed	236	0.79%
Surrey-Panorama	Liz Galenzoski	BC Refed	117	0.54%
Mid Island-Pacific R	Dan Cebuliak	BC Refed	76	0.32%
Fraser-Nicola	Michael Henshall	BC Social Credit Party	573	3.93%
New Westminster	James Crosty	BC Social Credit Party	280	1.12%
Stikine	Rod Taylor	Christian Heritage Party of B.(	784	9.24%
Abbotsford-Mission	Dan Cameron	Christian Heritage Party of B.(	607	2.60%
Abbotsford West	Lynn Simcox	Christian Heritage Party of B.(	484	2.48%
Surrey-Guildford	Kevin Pielak	Christian Heritage Party of B.(	418	2.45%
Abbotsford South	Ron Gray	Christian Heritage Party of B.(	874	4.32%
Vancouver-Hastings	Kimball Mark Cariou	Communist Party of BC	185	0.88%
Kamloops-North Th	Peter Paul Kerek	Communist Party of BC	164	0.73%
Vancouver-Mount F	Peter Marcus	Communist Party of BC	127	0.60%
Surrey-Whalley	George Gidora	Communist Party of BC	85	0.55%
Kamloops-South Th	Beat Klossner	Communist Party of BC	99	0.39%
Esquimalt-Metchos	Tyson Riel Strandlund	Communist Party of BC	60	0.26%
Delta South	Nicholas Wong	Independent	6,050	25.71%
Peace River North	Bob Fedderly	Independent	2,489	19.32%
Boundary-Similkam	Peter Entwistle	Independent	3,028	14.22%
Peace River North	Rob Fraser	Independent	785	6.09%
Surrey-Newton	Balpreet Singh Bal	Independent	881	5.73%
Surrey-White Rock	Tom Bryant	Independent	894	3.41%
Columbia River-Rev	Duncan Boyd MacLeod	Independent	450	3.26%
Columbia River-Rev	Justin James Hooles	Independent	353	2.55%

Surrey South	Peter Njenga	Independent	580	2.42%
Nechako Lakes	Al Trampuh	Independent	218	2.33%
Richmond North Ce	Dong Pan	Independent	301	2.19%
Kelowna West	Brian Thiesen	Independent	525	2.15%
Chilliwack	Ryan McKinnon	Independent	370	2.09%
Peace River North	Jeff Richert	Independent	231	1.79%
Cowichan Valley	Ian Morrison	Independent	478	1.67%
Maple Ridge-Pitt M	Steve Ranta	Independent	373	1.51%
Burnaby-Deer Lake	Elias Ishak	Independent	207	1.26%
Nanaimo-North Co	P. Anna Paddon	Independent	257	1.09%
Surrey-Green Timb	Vikram Bajwa	Independent	155	1.09%
Saanich North and t	Jordan Templeman	Independent	333	1.04%
Vancouver-Mount F	Mike Hansen	Independent	195	0.93%
Nelson-Creston	Jesse O'Leary	Independent	151	0.88%
Nelson-Creston	Tom Prior	Independent	135	0.79%
Burnaby-Lougheed	Sylvia Gung	Independent	134	0.65%
West Vancouver-Se	Tristan Andrew Galbraith	Independent	135	0.60%
Surrey South	Gary Hee	Independent	125	0.52%
Vancouver-West En	Leon David Dunn	Independent	100	0.50%
Cowichan Valley	Samuel Lockhart	Independent	136	0.47%
Cowichan Valley	Eden Haythornthwaite	Independent	117	0.41%
Esquimalt-Metchos	Delmar Martay	Independent	90	0.38%
Vancouver-Point Gr	Brian Taylor	Independent	80	0.36%
Victoria-Beacon Hill	Jordan Reichert	Independent	94	0.34%
Victoria-Beacon Hill	David Shebib	Independent	32	0.12%
Skeena	Merv Ritchie	Land Air Water-The L.A.W.	524	4.37%
Nechako Lakes	Jon Rempel	Libertarian	417	4.45%
Kootenay East	Keith D. Komar	Libertarian	385	2.39%
Langley East	Alex Joehl	Libertarian	448	1.66%
Vancouver-West En	John Clarke	Libertarian	322	1.62%
Shuswap	Kyle McCormack	Libertarian	388	1.53%
Cowichan Valley	James Robert Anderson	Libertarian	367	1.28%
Vernon-Monashee	Don Jefcoat	Libertarian	313	1.21%
Mid Island-Pacific R	Robert Alexander Clarke	Libertarian	283	1.18%
Surrey South	Josh Barrett	Libertarian	282	1.18%
Vancouver-Quilcher	William Morrison	Libertarian	238	1.18%
Surrey-Cloverdale	Peter Poelstra	Libertarian	263	1.13%
North Vancouver-L	Donald N.S. Wilson	Libertarian	270	1.12%
Kamloops-South Th	Jessica Lea Bradshaw	Libertarian	274	1.08%
Columbia River-Rev	Rylan Kashuba	Libertarian	148	1.07%
Langford-Juan de Fu	Scott Burton	Libertarian	238	1.03%
Nanaimo	Bill Walker	Libertarian	251	1.01%
Port Coquitlam	Lewis Clarke Dahlby	Libertarian	231	0.99%

Vancouver-False Cr	Liz Jaluague	Libertarian	200	0.91%
North Vancouver-Se	Clayton Welwood	Libertarian	212	0.85%
Coquitlam-Maillard	Jesse Velay-Vitow	Libertarian	155	0.75%
West Vancouver-Se	Michael Cambridge	Libertarian	168	0.75%
Vancouver-Fraservi	Hiroshi Hyde	Libertarian	155	0.73%
New Westminster	Rex Brocki	Libertarian	174	0.69%
Abbotsford West	Dave Sharkey	Libertarian	133	0.68%
Langley	Robert Kerr Pobran	Libertarian	151	0.68%
Esquimalt-Metchos	Josh Steffler	Libertarian	149	0.63%
Maple Ridge-Missio	Jeff Monds	Libertarian	144	0.61%
Saanich South	Andrew Paul McLean	Libertarian	158	0.61%
Victoria-Beacon Hill	Art Lowe	Libertarian	168	0.61%
Burnaby-Lougheed	Neeraj Murarka	Libertarian	109	0.53%
Richmond-Queensb	Lawrence Chen	Republican Party	294	1.63%
Langford-Juan de Fu	Willie Nelson	The Vancouver Island Party	222	0.96%
Victoria-Swan Lake	David Costigane	The Vancouver Island Party	181	0.79%
Saanich South	Richard Percival Pattee	The Vancouver Island Party	123	0.48%
Oak Bay-Gordon He	Jin Dong Yang-Riley	The Vancouver Island Party	62	0.23%
Vancouver-Kensing	Ramanjit Kaur Dhillon	Your Political Party of BC (YPI	167	0.84%
Vancouver-Langara	Surinder Singh Trehan	Your Political Party of BC (YPI	156	0.81%
Vancouver-Fraservi	Harpreet S. Bajwa	Your Political Party of BC (YPI	156	0.74%
Vancouver-Fairview	Joey Doyle	Your Political Party of BC (YPI	131	0.50%
Surrey-Green Timbe	Kanwaljit Singh Moti	Your Political Party of BC (YPI	66	0.46%
Vancouver-False Cr	James Filippelli	Your Political Party of BC (YPI	96	0.44%
Vancouver-Kingswa	Brette Mullins	Your Political Party of BC (YPI	76	0.43%
Vancouver-Mount F	Shai Joseph Mor	Your Political Party of BC (YPI	67	0.32%
Vancouver-Point Gr	David Stall	Your Political Party of BC (YPI	60	0.27%
Surrey South	Fabiola Cecilia Palomino	Your Political Party of BC (YPI	61	0.25%

4BC Total	53		0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%				0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
BC Action Party Total	186		0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%				0.01%	0.00%	0.00%
BC Cascadia Party Total	236		0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%				0.01%	0.00%	0.00%
BC Citizens First Party Total	75		0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%				0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
BC Conservative Party Total	9537		0.53%	0.00%	0.53%	0.00%				0.53%	0.00%	0.00%
BC First Total	507		0.03%	0.00%	0.03%	0.00%				0.03%	0.00%	0.00%
BC Green Party Total	301,034	3	16.74%	3.45%	13.30%	1.77%	5	8	8.70%	8.05%	0.65%	5.25%
BC Liberal Party Total	734,198	43	40.84%	49.43%	-8.59%	0.74%		43	46.74%	-5.90%	0.35%	-2.69%
BC NDP Total	716,644	41	39.86%	47.13%	-7.26%	0.53%		41	44.57%	-4.70%	0.22%	-2.56%
BC Refed Total	429		0.02%	0.00%	0.02%	0.00%				0.02%	0.00%	0.00%
BC Social Credit Party Total	853		0.05%	0.00%	0.05%	0.00%				0.05%	0.00%	0.00%
Christian Heritage Party of B.C. Total	3167		0.18%	0.00%	0.18%	0.00%				0.18%	0.00%	0.00%
Communist Party of BC Total	720		0.04%	0.00%	0.04%	0.00%				0.04%	0.00%	0.00%

Independent Total	20482			1.14%	0.00%	1.14%	0.01%			1.14%	0.01%	0.00%
Land Air Water-The L.A.W. Total	524			0.03%	0.00%	0.03%	0.00%			0.03%	0.00%	0.00%
Libertarian Total	7194			0.40%	0.00%	0.40%	0.00%			0.40%	0.00%	0.00%
Republican Party Total	294			0.02%	0.00%	0.02%	0.00%			0.02%	0.00%	0.00%
The Vancouver Island Party Total	588			0.03%	0.00%	0.03%	0.00%			0.03%	0.00%	0.00%
Your Political Party of BC (YPP) Total	1036			0.06%	0.00%	0.06%	0.00%			0.06%	0.00%	0.00%
Grand Total	1797757	87		100.00%	100.00%	0.00%	3.05%	92	100%	0.00%	1.23%	0.00%

Threshold	1.15%
NEW MLBC Seats	5
OLD Gallagher Index	12.4%
NEW Gallagher Index	7.9%
Improvement to 5% GI	61%

*ONLY BCGP meets Threshold AND has +DIFF, ALL MLBC seats added to BCGP

RIDING	CANDIDATE	PARTY	VOTES	VOTE %
Victoria-Beacon Hill	Kalen Harris	BC Green Party	8274	30.3%
Victoria-Swan Lake	Christopher Alan Maxwell	BC Green Party	6826	29.9%
West Vancouver-Se	Dana Moore Taylor	BC Green Party	6447	28.7%
Nelson-Creston	Kim Charlesworth	BC Green Party	4770	27.9%
Parksville-Qualicum	Glenn Sollitt	BC Green Party	7671	25.6%
			AVG	28.5%

MLBC = Member of Legislature representing BC (NEW PR Seats)
MLA (OLD) = Member of the Legislature for BC (OLD MLAs)
MLA (NEW) = Members of Legislature (MLA (OLD) + MLBC)

For Algorithm, Rules, and details of CMPR Model, please contact:

[redacted]

CMPR is, Canadian Modified Proportional Representation.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 9:01 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Written Submission

After researching and synthesizing the five different voting systems that the B.C. government is considering to implement in the fall of 2018 (FPTP, PR, STV, MMP, and MMM), and evaluating each of their benefits and drawbacks; I believe that Single Transferable Vote (STV) is the best possible voting system for the elections of the future. Single Transferable Vote permits the voter to rank the candidates in the order of which they prefer them. This could completely eradicate the common voting issue where a voter likes multiple candidates and is indecisive as to which one will be their singular choice. STV also well reflects what the nation/province thinks of each candidate, contrary to the current system in which a voter just selects one candidate and the voter's ballot is labeled as being 100% affiliated with just that one party. A significant drawback of STV is that it is a much more complex voting system compared to what is currently in place. However, I believe that an issue should not be avoided simply because of its complexities, perhaps if we start informing people at a young age (high school and university students) about how STV works, we will one day have a voting population that fully understands and takes full advantage of the STV voting system. That is my thoughts on why STV is the best system to implement, thank you for reading.

[redacted]

[redacted]

Hybrid PR/FPTP Electoral Proposal by [redacted]
November 30, 2017

One of the media turning points in the 2017 provincial election was when Sunshine Coast resident "Linda" was caught on camera proclaiming to Christy Clark that she'd never vote for her. It struck a chord across the province, but of course the irony of the situation is that Linda really does represent the average BC voter in feeling that our electoral system gives us a choice to vote for party leaders or parties in elections, when in fact we technically only vote for and elect local candidates.

I feel like somewhat of an anomaly in that I'm a proponent of electoral reform, though more so democratic reform, who actually supports the traditional concept of electing local representatives to represent their constituencies, rather than political parties, in the legislature. Furthermore, while I understand and appreciate other voters' affinity for voting for parties and party leaders, I am very concerned about the appropriateness of conventional proportional representation for an electoral entity of BC's geographical diversity. Simply put, voters in a small rural community, or anywhere, deserve a representative who is local to their general region, understands the area, and is directly accountable to those voters.

I am afraid that despite my extreme dissatisfaction with the status quo in Victoria, which is mainly towards the party system and particularly vote-whipping and party discipline, and the consequential lack of effectiveness of "back-benchers" (the majority of our MLAs), my strong belief in local representation puts me at odds with proportional representation.

Another fear I have of PR is that if political parties have more control over who represents them in the legislature (any kind of "list" system), they will no doubt value party loyalty first and foremost at the expense of representatives who are independent-minded and/or have valuable experience in the world outside of climbing a political party hierarchy.

Of course elected members of political parties are making this decision about what kind of PR will be on the referendum ballot, and how it will be implemented should it succeed. Therefore, I'm not very hopeful that the provincial government is going to propose a system that gives more independence to MLAs, or shifts accountability and loyalty to the areas you represent from your political parties.

So, my proposal is to give voters a choice. If some of us want to vote for a local candidate first and foremost, let us; if others want to vote party-first and don't particularly care who the local candidate is, this is possible, too.

Right now we have a ballot with text that identifies the candidates and parties they represent. All we can do is place a single "X," which indicates only one thing—one FPTP vote for that candidate. My proposal is to split this text up into two ballots—one for candidate and one for party, except the party ballot would list all the registered parties in the BC election. People could vote Green, for example, even if there is no local candidate running for the Greens,

enhancing democracy. Or people can vote BC Liberal even if they don't particularly like the local BC Liberal candidate.

Instead of having an "X," or even two "X"s, voters can be empowered with a "1" and a "2." To avoid confusion and spoiled ballots, logistically, I can imagine registered voters being given two stickers when they are sent to the ballot box, rather than a pencil (digital voting is also a possibility).

In the ballot box, a voter can decide to give their "1" to an individual candidate on the candidate ballot, or to a party on the party ballot. Then they can assign their "2" to the other ballot. Such a relatively simple system opens up democracy to voters in such a significant way. If voting for the BC Liberal Party is a voter's top priority in 2021, the voter can clearly indicate that. The same goes for voting for a great local candidate, who may be associated with or endorsed by any of the parties. A voter also has the freedom to indicate that their favourite party platform/choice that election may be Green, for example, but that their preferred local candidate is actually the NDP candidate—and the freedom to preferentially rank one of these choices as being more important to them than the other.

How do these votes get counted? I have to admit that to answer this question we'd likely need to hand this concept over to a statistician. The opportunity for "first-past-the-post" could still be in play where the number of "1"s on the candidate ballot would be counted against the number of "1"s on the party ballot to decide whether the majority of voters in a constituency have opted to vote party-first or candidate-first. In essence, every election would become a referendum on PR vs. FPTP in each and every constituency.

Once this has been determined, all the "1"s and "2"s on the party or candidate ballots (depending on the overall preference) are counted to then determine the "winner" of the individual constituency. This winner may come out as "party name" or may come out as "candidate name." Like other forms of PR, if "party name" comes out as the winner it would be up to that party to appoint the candidate... unless a form of PR offers any better ideas. Presumably, if "party name" wins and in that same constituency "candidate name" from that same tops the candidate poll, one can imagine the choice of whom to appoint would be easy (perhaps even automatic).

An added element of democracy here is that someone individually elected as a candidate may have been endorsed/nominated by a particular party, but will have a mandate from voters to behave more freely than the "whipped" MLAs that the public has grown ever more accustomed to and disillusioned with. Conversely, when a constituency essentially chooses party/PR via its allocation of "1" votes, there will be clarity for MLAs and for the public that these MLAs will be appointed to represent the party that was selected in this area and they will need to do so be remaining loyal to that party.

So, with this electoral reform comes democratic reform. There could even be more independents in the legislature, which would not be a bad thing for democracy. A shortfall of

many PR systems is they would completely prevent the election of a genuine independent like Vicki Huntingdon. However, this system would still allow this choice.

Granted, how the results are tabulated opens up many possibilities. For example, a party could have a worry that their partisan "1"s might split between the party ballot and candidate ballot... However, I can still only see that the outcome would be fine and only validating for the party, as their supporters' "2" selections will still count as votes one way or the other.

Another concern is undoubtedly that the overall proportional vote province-wide may still not be reflected by seats in the legislature. However, the party side of the ballot could be added up province-wide and be used to decided things such as what party leader should be first invited by the Lieutenant-Governor to form government, or proportion of party representation on key committees. Perhaps more can be done as well, such as setting aside seats in the legislature that are not tied to constituencies and filled only to reflect the province-wide "party" vote (however, this is where a statistician would be needed to run simulations).

In general, such a "hybrid" model would be reflective of our unique province and maximize the democratic choices for our voters. Hence, it also has a high likelihood to be supported in a referendum, certainly more so than pure PR, which troubles many people including myself. Shifting the interest from parties to voters (where it should be) immeasurably broadens the expression of voter preference and intent. We would all be freed from frustrations about the limitations of FPTP... and with political parties... and with candidates who do or don't toe the party line... and with the limits/linearity of the party system and majority governments—because these choices would all be in our hands.

Written Submission Regarding Government of British Columbia Public Engagement Process on Electoral Reform

February 19th, 2018

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute my views on the issue of electoral reform in British Columbia, which I think is a very important issue for the health of our parliamentary democracy. I will first describe in some detail what I see as our current situation with our majoritarian voting system and then I will present what I think that we should do in order to significantly improve our situation in terms of possibly changing our voting system.

I think that our current majoritarian voting system, first-past-the-post, results in a very significant portion of voters in our province being unrepresented in our provincial law-making and governance. That is, their votes do not contribute to the election of their consituency's member of our legislative assembly. It appears that with our current voting system that unless a given voter votes for the single most popular candidate for their constituency, their views are unrepresented in our legislative assembly, at least from the point of view of their own constituency. I think that this fact has probably significantly contributed to reducing voter participation or "turn-out" in our provincial elections during the last few decades in particular.

According to our government election authority, Elections British Columbia, voter participation in our 2013 provincial general election was approximately 55[1] percent while it was around 60 percent in 2017[2]. Apparently, of the reported 1 974 014 valid votes cast in our 2017 election, 1 001 020 or just over half of them (~ 51 percent) contributed to the election of members to our legislative assembly[3]. This means that roughly 31 percent (51 percent of 60 percent) of eligible voters elected the members of our legislative assembly during our 2017 election. In 2013, the equivalent figure was roughly 28 percent. As a result, many eligible voters in our province are not represented, at least not from the point of view of their own consituency in which they voted. I don't think that it should come as a surprise if many of the citizens of our province do not think that their votes really count in our elections or do not think that they have a significant voice in the law-making and governance of our province. It appears that the significant disproportionality and therefore unfairness created by our current voting system has a discouraging effect on many eligible voters that leads them to not exercise their democratic right to vote in our provincial elections and contributes to making them more disinterested in learning about current issues and in taking action to try and improve the situation in our province.

A personal example that I could provide is that of a friend who is also a citizen, resident, and eligible voter of British Columbia. He has said to me that he chooses not to vote in

[1] Elections British Columbia, 2013
[2] Elections British Columbia, 2017
[3] Elections British Columbia, 2017

our provincial elections and that if there was an option on the ballot to indicate that one is not interested in voting for any of the listed candidates, he would select that option. We discussed that in the case of a proportional representation voting system, there is usually a greater diversity of political parties, and therefore viewpoints, that have a significant chance of obtaining seats in our legislative assembly. When asked if he would change his mind about not voting if we were to switch to a system of proportional representation, he said that he would be much more likely to vote in that case.

Significantly lower voter participation in our elections represents significantly lower participation in our democratic system of governance and law-making, which I think generally tends to lead to worse public policies being pursued and policies that are not genuinely in the public interest of our province. Fair Vote Canada, a group that is in favour of proportional representation, has the following statement on their website that refers to the disproportional and unfair distribution of seats by our first-past-the-post voting system at the federal level in Canada during the 2015 general election:

"39 % votes = 54 % seats = 100 % power"[4].

In contrast, many other countries around the world have implemented proportional representation voting systems in order to try and improve the state of their democratic systems of law-making and governance. They have emphasized the principle of proportionality while trying to maintain that of the local accountability of directly elected representatives, apparently with significant success in achieving this balance. For example, in 1993 New Zealand changed from first-past-the-post to a mixed member proportional voting system[5]. Norway and Sweden implemented proportional voting systems as early as 1920[6] and 1909[7], respectively. These countries have decided to keep their proportional representation voting systems. According to Fair Vote, 123 of 195 countries around the world (~ 63 percent) have a form of proportional representation voting system (I am including mixed majoritarian-proportional voting systems in the category of proportional representation voting systems).[8] Furthermore, of the 35 member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)[9], 30 of those countries have forms of proportional representation while 5 (Australia, Canada, France, the United Kingdom, and the United States) do not, excluding the Australian senate. The OECD countries are, I think, widely regarded at least in the western world as the most successful present day democracies. I have included a list of the 35 OECD countries in the appendix at the end of this document.

Majoritarian voting systems such as first-past-the-post in present day democracies generally appear to facilitate the emergence of two or three main political parties that

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[4] Fair Vote Canada, 2015
[5] Electoral Commission New Zealand, 2013
[6] Norwegian Parliament (Stortinget), 2017
[7] Swedish Election Authority (Valmyndigheten), 2015
[8] Fair Vote, 2015
[9] Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2018

have a significant chance of forming government. They also apparently tend to produce competitive and adversarial parliaments or legislative assemblies instead of co-operative and collaborative ones. During the related elections, voters also apparently tend to vote strategically to try and prevent a given political party from forming government as opposed to voting specifically for a particular political party or candidate whose policies they support. In this situation, the focus of political debate frequently appears to become distracted from what the various political parties' and candidates' proposed policies actually are. Potential political candidates also may not agree with many policies of any one of the main two or three political parties but may be reluctant to try and obtain a mandate or seat independently of those political parties.

A relatively common criticism that I have heard with respect to implementing proportional representation is that it would provide an opportunity for political parties whose policies may be unfairly based on race or ethnicity for example to obtain seats in our legislative assembly. As others have responded, I think that that is a cultural issue and a relatively very minor one in British Columbia that should not deter us from introducing a much higher degree of proportionality and therefore fairness in terms of representation within our democratic system of law-making and governance.

...

The main question in the context of reforming our voting system in Canada and British Columbia appears to me to be, "Do we want to have a voting system that is proportional or not?" That is, do we want the number of seats that a given political party obtains in the parliament or legislative assembly to be largely proportional to the number of votes that it receives or not? In terms of trying to improve our current situation, I support the implementation, as soon as possible, of a proportional representation voting system for our provincial and federal elections. In the case of Sweden, which has a proportional representation voting system, the people of that country appear to have agreed that their system of governance should accurately reflect the will of their people and so representation in the Swedish parliament should be proportional to a high degree. During its last election in 2014, Sweden had a national voter participation rate of 85.81 percent[10]. At the constituency level, the average percentage of votes that translated into members elected to the Swedish parliament was also approximately 86 percent. This is the average rate at which votes contributed to the election of representatives at the constituency level (there are currently 29 constituencies in Sweden). The equivalent figure for British Columbia during both the 2017 and 2013 elections was approximately 51 percent. It appears to be self-evident that in British Columbia we would be much better able to adequately address many of the important environmental, political, and economic issues that we are currently confronted with if we were to achieve a similarly high level of citizen participation in our democracy as is the case in countries such as Sweden. I think that implementing a system of proportional representation, which would necessarily increase the rate at which votes contribute to the election of our representatives, would

[10] Swedish Election Authority (Valmyndigheten), 2014

very significantly increase public confidence in our voting system and the governments that it produces and probably lead to a significantly higher voter participation rate.

Here are my main recommendations regarding the proposed electoral reform process in our province. As to the upcoming referendum on the issue of electoral reform in the fall of this year I think that we should have a referendum ballot that consists of two questions, following a structure that has been used recently in New Zealand in 2011[11]. Accordingly, I think that the first question should ask whether one wants to keep our current voting system or to change to another voting system. I think that the second question should ask which of four other voting systems one would choose if we decide to change our voting system. Three of the four other voting systems that I think should be on the list of options to choose from in the referendum include 1) open list proportional representation (List PR), 2) mixed member proportional (MMP) representation, and 3) single transferable vote (STV). I would much rather have the open list form of list proportional representation than the closed list form because the former provides voters with significantly more choice as to who they support or do not support among the candidates on the election lists put forward by the political parties.

I think that the most important part of preparing for the referendum this fall on electoral reform will be carrying out a successful public education campaign so that the citizens of British Columbia are aware of the referendum and sufficiently educated about the various voting systems in order to be able to make a well-informed decision. For a relatively recent (2011) referendum on electoral reform that it conducted, the election authority in New Zealand commissioned an educational video presentation[12] of approximately 15 minutes in length that gave viewers the main important information about each of the various voting systems being considered in order to make a sufficiently well-informed decision on the referendum. The presentation attempted to provide an unbiased overview of the different voting systems and did not declare any preference for any of the particular voting systems. I think that it is a very effective presentation and I think that Elections British Columbia should produce or commission a similar video presentation based on this model. If done in the same way as in New Zealand, the video would not be considered as advertising that voters vote either in favour of or against any of the voting system options. I also think that sufficient limitations should be set on advertising spending either in favour of or against any of the voting system options in order to maintain a well-balanced public discussion of electoral reform and the question of possibly changing our voting system.

I do not think that there should be any citizen's jury convened or assembled to decide on behalf of the citizens of British Columbia on this issue. It appears to me that delegating the authority to make this kind of decision to a small, select group of citizens will not produce the desired result of a truly publicly mandated decision, which I believe is the purpose of a referendum. The citizen's jury would also present a much smaller, and thus

[11] Electoral Commission New Zealand, 2017
[12] Electoral Commission New Zealand, 2013

easier target (as opposed to our entire population of eligible voters) for opponents of changing our voting system to a more proportional, fairer one.

In the case of implementing a proportional representation voting system, I think that we would probably want to increase the number of members of our legislative assembly, as in the case of New Zealand's relatively recent (1993) change to mixed member proportional representation. Both New Zealand and Norway have similar population sizes to British Columbia at just under or over five million people. New Zealand has 120 seats in its parliament while Norway has 169. Increasing our number of members of our legislative assembly would apparently faciliate maximizing the proportionality of the distribution of seats in our legislative assembly.

I think that another point that should be emphasized in publicly discussing electoral reform in our province is that we can have future referenda to change certain aspects of our voting system or to change the voting system entirely.

These are the main points that I would like to contribute on first, what our current situation is with our majoritarian voting system, and second, what I think that we should do in order to improve our situation with regard to our voting system. A short-form list of the above recommendations follows.

Thank you for your consideration of the above views,

[redacted]

Recommendations

1. New Zealand-style simple two-part referendum ballot

2. Include an open list proportional representation option as well as mixed member proportional and single transferable vote

3. Public education campaign on electoral reform includes New Zealand-style video presentation overview of voting system options and is unbiased

4. Advertising spending that is in favour of or against any of the voting system options is sufficiently limited so that there is a well-balanced public discussion

5. If successful in implementing proportional representation, significantly increase the number of members of our legislative assembly to a reasonable level

6. No citizen's jury or similar body convened or assembled in relation to this issue

7. Emphasis on ability to modify and change voting systems in the future

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Appendix

Alphabetical List of 35 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Member Countries as of February 19th, 2018

1. Australia
2. Austria
3. Belgium
4. Canada
5. Chile
6. Czech Republic
7. Denmark
8. Estonia
9. Finland
10. France
11. Germany
12. Greece
13. Hungary
14. Iceland
15. Ireland
16. Israel
17. Italy
18. Japan
19. Korea (South)
20. Latvia
21. Luxembourg
22. Mexico
23. Netherlands
24. New Zealand
25. Norway
26. Poland
27. Portugal
28. Slovak Republic
29. Slovenia
30. Spain
31. Sweden
32. Switzerland
33. Turkey
34. United Kingdom
35. United States

Thank you for giving me the chance to share my views about the electoral reform process. There are two topics that I would like to talk about. The first is which electoral system would be best for British Columbia, and the second is about what the ballot question should look like.

Lessons From Past Referenda

Even though there is widespread understanding that our current voting system has major problems, it needs to be recognized that British Columbians have been asked to vote on PR twice already. On both occasions, the answer was arguably "No." I don't think it would be right to just keep asking and asking the same question to voters until we get the answer we want. We need to understand why people have voted No so far, and we need to respond to the concerns they have expressed.

The referendum failure in 2005 was blamed to a large extent on the fact that the public was not well informed about what they were voting on. The government at the time concluded that an education campaign was needed for the next referendum. They asked the Electoral Boundaries Commission to create a map of new ridings that would be used if voters switched to BC-STV, so people could have a better idea of what the new system would look like. Both the education campaign and the riding map were good ideas that I think should be repeated in 2018. The public should be presented with a set of riding maps for every electoral system that is put on the upcoming ballot.

Unfortunately, the riding boundaries that were proposed in 2009 had a couple of problems. The proposed riding of North Island South Coast lumped the northern half of Vancouver Island together with a large segment of the mainland coast, which would make it incredibly difficult for residents on the far side of the riding to meet with their representatives. Other ridings that the Commission created merged rural and urban areas together, which raised fears that rural British Columbians would lose their voice in the legislature. These issues were major contributors to the disappointing failure of the second referendum on PR..Care needs to be taken in the future to ensure that riding boundary maps do not have these glaring problems.

On the positive side, voters have expressed a lot of support for the Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform, which proposed BC-STV in 2004. As much as possible, I think the province should stick to the Assembly's vision and recommendations when advocating for electoral reform, including its support for STV. But we need to make a modification to it in order to address the concerns of rural communities.

Best Voting System

Advocates for proportional representation have come up with a new system called Rural-Urban PR. In this system, multi-member districts are created for most of the province, just like BC-STV had; but for the rural regions with the lowest population densities, the ridings are left as single member districts, so they can be kept as small as possible. This modification brings back a little bit of the distortions in the number of seats political parties get though, so a small number of "top up" seats would be added to the legislature to correct for the imbalance.

This system would lead to the accurate representation of political parties' popularity, which BC-STV was intended to achieve, and it does it without creating excessively large ridings. It results in the accurate representation of both the regions and the parties of British Columbia, and it stays close to the original recommendation of the Citizens' Assembly in 2004. Therefore, I recommend that Rural-Urban PR be the electoral system that is put on the referendum ballot in the fall of 2018.

The Referendum Question

I have seen that some organizations are pushing for a two part ballot in the upcoming referendum. They want to have one question that just asks voters if they want to switch to some form of PR, and then a second question that asks everyone to select their favourite system from a short list. This is an idea that I strongly disagree with. I understand that it is based on a successful referendum in New Zealand, but it is not based on listening to what British Columbians have said during our own referenda in the last thirteen years.

As I explained earlier, the reasons that the No side won the last two referenda in this province are the confusion voters have felt on this issue, and the unpopular riding boundaries. The two part ballot would do nothing to address these concerns. In fact, it would make both of them worse.

By putting several forms of PR on the ballot, voters are likely to be more confused than ever about what they are actually voting for. It will also be very difficult to provide voters with high quality electoral district maps for all of the proposed systems. This will either lead to a repetition of the problems with flawed riding boundaries that we had in 2009, or we will have no maps at all, which will repeat the problem of uneducated voters that we had in 2005.

Meanwhile, opponents on the other side will have an easy time raising fears about giant ridings under STV, giant legislatures under MMP, and the uncertain, experimental nature of some of the other systems being proposed. Advocates for the Yes side will be left trying to teach the public about several different voting systems all at once, and trying to assure people that none of them are problematic.

For the No side to win, all they would have to do is convince voters that one version of PR is dangerous or confusing. That won't be hard when voters are getting overwhelmed by new concepts like top-up seats, closed lists, ranked ballots, and multi-member districts. I worry that this is going to lead to a disastrous No vote; and the worst thing about it is that it would be a flat out rejection of the concept of PR itself, instead of just one particular form of it. It could easily be a death blow to PR in this province, and it could hurt electoral reform efforts in the rest of Canada too.

It would be much better to stick with a single-question ballot. I recommend picking one form of proportional representation, thoroughly educating the public about it, and asking voters whether to switch to that new system. As I explained earlier, the system I favour is Rural-Urban proportional. I picked this because it responds to the concerns that voters expressed about BC-STV, while still staying pretty close to the recommendation of the Citizens' Assembly.

I recommend that the Electoral Boundary Commission be asked to draw up a new riding boundary map that would be used if we get a Yes vote. It would need to keep urban and rural areas separate, and it would need to keep rural ridings relatively small.

With these measures taken, the government would then be able to tell voters that their concerns about BC-STV have been listened to, and that a modified system has been created that will work out better for everyone.

I acknowledge that Rural-Urban PR is one of the more complicated voting system that are being discussed, but at least it is just one system; and its complicated mechanisms all derive from the single principle of accurately representing the popularity of political parties without losing local representation for the different communities in BC. I believe that this is a system that can be defended in a referendum if there is a solid education campaign behind it. I hope that you will adopt this option when choosing the ballot question.

Best regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, November 24, 2017 6:07 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Written submission

Hello!

Thank you for asking for my input about electoral reform in B.C. I have filled out your survey and here are a few additional comments.

1 - ELECTORAL REFORM IS JUSTIFIED - The current First Past the Post system only works as long as governments can be counted on to consider the general good. Though this may have been true historically in certain jurisdictions, it is increasingly not the case.

2 - THE FIRST PAST THE POST SYSTEM DISCOURAGES VOTING AND DENIES REPRESENTATION - Many citizens don't vote for their preferred candidates when they think these candidates have no chance of winning.
Their choice is to not vote at all or to vote for a "lesser evil"
candidate who does not really represent them. The latter choice inflates results for large parties, permitting them to gain supporters without having to change to accommodate them.

3 - PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION SYSTEMS ARE LESS SUSCEPTIBLE TO ELECTION FRAUD THAN THE FIRST PAST THE POST SYSTEM. If voting is tallied proportionately, total votes for parties are more important than results within a given riding. This could put an end to the current "all or nothing" mentality about electoral contests and decrease the motivation for gerrymandering and other forms of vote manipulation.

4 - THE EMPOWERMENT OF SMALL "EXTREMIST" PARTIES THROUGH PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION IS NOT REALLY A DANGER. To win even one seat under Proportional Representation a party would still have to have a substantial amount of support across the province. And looked at positively, a party of this threshold size would give many more citizens a chance to have their say and to determine the appeal of their ideas. Much more dangerous, in terms of extremism, is for elites within a major party to take control of it and disempower its rank and file members while pretending to be acting for them.

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2018 11:57 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: WRITTEN SUBMISSION - BC ELECTORAL SYSTEM
Attachments: BC ELECTORAL SYSTEM.pdf

Hello,

I am submitting the enclosed document per the Written Submissions process.

I strongly believe that any changes to the current voting system must be done must carefully and with the significant support of BC voters. Thus, I am suggesting that, as a minimum there, should be a **50/50/50 threshold**: i.e. at least 50% of eligible voters - in at least 50% of the Province's ridings - voting at least 50% in favour.

Best regards,

[redacted]

SUBMISSION – BC ELECTORAL SYSTEM – February 02, 2018

Introduction

I am proposing that the optimal voting system is **Instant Run-off Voting (IRV)**. This system addresses many of the concerns about disproportionate power given to First-Pass-The-Post (FPTP) non-majority plurality winners. It does so in a more cost effective and straightforward way than many Proportional Representation Voting systems which ironically also give disproportionate power to parties with very minimal support.

Selecting a New Voting System

Changing how we vote is not a trivial issue and should not be done lightly. At the very least there should be a **50/50/50 threshold**: at least 50% of eligible voters - in at least 50% of the Province's ridings - voting at least 50% in favour.

Considerations

FPTP has provided stable, effective government for many years. No voting system is "perfect" and all potential systems have their pros and cons.

Any new voting system should result in minimizing the downsides of FPTP including non-majority winners, a perception of "wasted" votes, and strategic voting.

The method of voting should result in determining a majority winner in each riding, it needs to be transparent to the average voter, and there must be an opportunity to do recounts where appropriate.

The ballot needs to be straightforward with the number of names on the voting lists minimized to the extent possible.

Any new voting system should not increase the cost of governing including no additional members to the legislature.

Of all the many different voting systems from FPTP to the various forms of proportional representation to run-offs, it is my view that **Instant Run-off Voting** addresses many of the concerns about FPTP and will accommodate many of the above considerations – i.e. a majority winner is selected, the method is relatively straightforward with only one name per party, the number of members elected is not increased, and there is minimal impact on the electorate since each voter only has to go to the polls once.

Instant Run-off

Under this system, voters rank all or as many of the candidates on the ballot as they wish in order of preference. If no candidate reaches a majority on the first round, a second round (run-off) is automatically triggered by eliminating the bottom candidate and reallocating the second choice votes that candidate received to the other candidates per the voters' indicated preferences. Run-offs continue under the same procedure until one candidate reaches a majority.

Advantages of Instant Run-off

1. Majorities are achieved without having to have additional elections.
2. Campaigning will usually be more civilized since no candidate can afford to alienate voters.
3. Voters are encouraged to vote for their preferred candidate rather than vote strategically.
4. Increased voter turnout since all voters will feel their vote will have a say in the outcome.
5. While somewhat more complicated than FPTP, since more homework is required by voters, it is more straightforward than other proportional voting systems which also require voters to be much more informed.

In Support of

A Mixed Member Proportional

Representation Electoral System for the

Canadian Federal Government

[redacted]

November 5, 2017

Word Count: 2818

Introduction

"There is no perfect voting system out there that will achieve all things for all people. We understand that. However, certainly we can improve on a voting system that was invented before we invented the lightbulb and on a voting system that allows 39% of voters to produce 100% of the power" (Cullen, 2016, 1015). This statement was by Mr. Nathan Cullen of the NDP, and when making it, he sought to remind the Liberal party of their commitment to electoral reform as well as the importance of the issue. Since this statement was made, the Liberal government has rescinded their commitment to electoral reform; however, this revocation does not reflect a change in the desires of the Canadian public (Stone, 2017). Electoral reform is an issue that has plagued Canada for decades, and is a problem that must be addressed (Hiemstra, and Jansen, 2006, 289). Various alternatives to Canada's electoral system have been proposed, and other options will continue to be suggested until Canada's electoral system is able to properly represent its electorate.

Thesis

This paper will argue why the federal Canadian government should adopt a mixed-member proportional representation (MMPR) electoral system, on the basis that Canada needs a new electoral system, that the MMPR electoral system is the best system available, and that MMPR is an electoral system with proven success in other countries.

Problems with Canada's Current Electoral System

Canada currently uses an electoral system commonly referred to as "First-Past-The-Post" (FPTP), formally known as the "Single Member Plurality" (SMP) electoral system. This system is flawed in a variety of ways, and it is no longer a system that serves the Canadian public in a beneficial way (Gibson, 2001, 8). The main criticisms of Canada's FPTP system are its lack of proportionality, its ability to distort votes, and how it has magnified regionalism within Canada (Weaver, 1997, 477). In the following sections, the previously listed issues will be discussed in greater depth.

Lack of Proportionality

Electoral systems tend to fall between two categorizations, either majoritarian or proportional. Canada's FPTP electoral system is majoritarian, so once a politician receives a majority of the votes from a constituency, they earn a seat in the House of Commons. Under a proportional electoral system, politicians are elected because the number of votes they received is proportionate to the amount needed to receive a seat. Canada's majoritarian electoral system creates scenarios where a party can receive a majority of the votes, but not be supported by a majority of the country (LeDuc, 1999, 65). In Canada's last federal election, the Liberals won with 39.5% of the vote, meaning that a minority of the electorate supports the party with 100% of the power in parliament (Elections Canada, 2015). Canada frequently has majority governments; however, parties in power rarely have over 50% of the vote (LeDuc, 1999, 65). Canada has a diverse population with a variety of priorities; however, without proportionality, only those of the minority-majority are able to have a voice.

Distortion of the Votes

Distortion of votes is another issue that arises from Canada's FPTP electoral system. Canada functions under a representative form of democracy, so once leaders are elected, they are sent to represent their constituents in the House of Commons. This representational form of democracy has been distorted however, and this is largely due to the majoritarian electoral style within Canada (LeDuc, 1999, 67). This distortion is exemplified in Canada's last election where the Liberal party received 39.5% of the vote, but received a majority of the seats in the House of Commons, whereas the Green party received 3.5% of the vote, but only one seat (Elections Canada, 2015). This distortion misrepresents the desires of the Canadian public, and results in situations like the one currently taking place in the Canadian government, where the Liberals are overrepresented, and the Green party is grossly underrepresented.

Magnification of Regionalism

Canada's FPTP electoral system is also responsible for aggravating regionalism within Canada, an issue Canada has struggled with since its inception (LeDuc, 1999, 64). Alan Cairns first noted this issue in 1968 in his paper, "The Electoral System and the Party System in Canada, 1921–1965" in which he argued FPTP forces parties to focus their resources and policies towards select regions for their political success (Cairns, 1968, 66). This predicament causes issues to be regionalized, and select constituencies to be alienated by politicians (Jansen, and Siaroff, 2004, 43). This issue also decreases the ability for smaller parties to do well, because they are unable to receive a majority of the votes in any single constituency (Jansen, and Siaroff, 2004, 43). When parties prioritize regions, and smaller parties are unable to amass significant

support, political success is no longer contingent on one doing good for the community, but rather how well one is able to strategize and win within the system (Massicotte, 2001, 4).

Other Systems

This paper has explained the flawed nature of Canada's FPTP electoral system, and will now discuss solutions. The following section will provide a summary of several alternative electoral systems Canada could adopt, as well as why they should or should not be implemented. These systems include, the runoff/second ballot electoral system, the single transferable vote electoral system, alternate vote electoral system, and the mixed-member proportional representation electoral system.

Run Off/Second Ballot Electoral Systems

The run off/second ballot electoral system is frequently used in regions where there are more than two political parties. In this system, when no party receives a majority the election, a run off/second ballot election can be held to determine the candidate that the public desires the most (Milner, 1999, 190). This system holds an initial election to determine the general public's preferred parties/leaders. Once the first election is over, if there is no majority, the top two parties/leaders run a second election and the winner from the subsequent election becomes the new leader/government of the country (Milner, 1999, 190). When one votes, they may be agreeable to another one or two other candidates, and be strongly against another; however, many systems do not provide the means for a voter to articulate such; however, the run off/second ballot electoral system does, through its multi-election process.

Issues with Run Off/Second Ballot Electoral Systems

The run off/second ballot electoral system is majoritarian in nature, and because of such it's unable to properly articulate the desires of the public. Under majoritarian systems, once one receives 50% + 1 of the vote, they receive all the power, leaving a large portion of the population without representation. This electoral system also functions in FPTP manner, so issues such as regionalism, lack of proportionality, and distortion of the votes continue to be issues under this system.

Single Transferable Vote (STV) Electoral System

The STV electoral system values the preferences of every voter. Using a preference based system, the STV electoral system gives voters the opportunity to rank their candidates, or merely vote for their most favoured candidate (Milner, 1999, 192). This system creates a quota for what is necessary to win the election based on the votes cast, and if one of the candidates from the first preference category doesn't receive the quota, the candidate with the lowest number of votes, has their ballots redistributed, and the second choices on those ballots are reallocated to the other candidates (which are worth a percentage of that of the first-choice votes) (Milner, 1999, 192). In this system, every preference from the electorate is accounted for and used to ensure the candidate elected reflects the will of the electorate.

Issues with STV Electoral Systems

The STV electoral system has the potential to increase and enhance distortions that already occur under the FPTP electoral system. In the STV electoral system, if one only puts down one choice, with no other preferences, that vote holds more weight then one that has

several preferences. The way in which candidates can be "dropped" is also problematic, and leaves many votes "unaccounted" for. These issues are not obvious at first, but below is an example of how they can occur.

Voter Ballots:

Rank	Maria	Sonia	Joseph	Marcus
#1	Candidate D	Candidate E	Candidate E	Candidate D
#2	Candidate G		Candidate G	Candidate G
#3	Candidate F			Candidate E

Election Results:

Candidates	Election Tally #1	Election Tally #2	Election Tally #3	Election Results
Candidate D	2			2
Candidate E	2		1	3
Candidate F			□	0
Candidate G		* (x3)		0

*In the first election tally, because Candidate G was no one's first choice, Candidate G was "dropped" even though they received all the votes in the second election tally.

□ In the third election tally, Candidate F had already been dropped, so Maria's vote became irrelevant.

In this scenario, every voter except for Sonia voted for Candidate G; however, because Candidate G received no votes initially, their popularity as the second preference went

unaccounted for, and while Marcus' third choice was accounted for, Maria's third choice was ignored. Marcus put Candidate E as his last choice, and because no other voter choice a third candidate, Candidate E won the election. Sonia's reluctance to select any other candidate disproportionately gave her ballot more weight than Marcus' ballot. Marcus' choice to rank Candidate E as his last choice, ultimately lost his first choice the election. In this election, 4 preferences went unaccounted for, and Candidate E won because they were Marcus' last choice. The STV electoral system would not benefit Canadian society or solve our current electoral issues.

Alternative Vote (AV) Electoral Systems

The goal of AV electoral uses a ballot that accounts for what voter preferences would be if there were to be a run-off/second ballot election, and includes those preferences in the initial vote. This system gives voters a ballot with a list, where one can rank their preferences. If one's first preference receives the lowest number of votes, that candidate will be "dropped", and one's second preference will receive the vote (Milner, 1999, 189). This process continues until there is only one candidate left. The main goal of this system is to both reward and create cooperative habits between parties (Jansen and Siaroff, 2004, 57). The AV electoral system is majoritarian in nature, so the moment a party has 50% +1 of the vote, they win the election.

Issues with Alternative Vote (AV) Electoral Systems

The issue with AV electoral systems, is their majoritarian method, that leaves a large portion of the population without a voice. Issues such as distorted votes and lack of

proportionality wouldn't be solved under this electoral system, and regionalism would continue to be a problem under this system in the same manner that it is with FPTP.

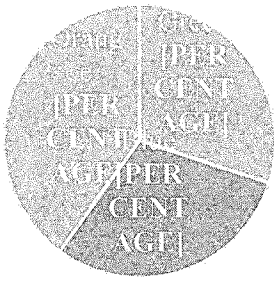
Mixed-Member Proportional Representation (MMPR) Electoral Systems

MMPR is an electoral system that seeks to find a balance between proportional and majoritarian systems, and is able to do this by combining the desirable aspects from both systems (Milner, 1999, 192). In this system every voter receives two ballots, one for a candidate in their constituency, and one for their preferred party. In order to accommodate the extra voting category, the number of seats in parliament are also doubled (Milner, 1999, 192). How this system provides a solution to Canada's current FPTP is not initially clear, but the charts below are able to illustrate the benefits of this system.

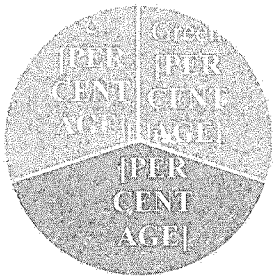
Party Vote									
Maria	Sonia	Joseph	Marcus	Peter	Elle	Elias	Sam	Lola	Tahlia
Blue	Orange	Blue	Orange	Green	Orange	Green	Blue	Green	Blue

Candidate Vote									
Maria	Sonia	Joseph	Marcus	Peter	Elle	Elias	Sam	Lola	Tahlia
Smith (Green)	Bradley (Blue)	Murphy (Orange)	Murphy (Orange)	Smith (Green)	Murphy (Orange)	Murphy (Orange)	Bradley (Blue)	Bradley (Blue)	Smith (Green)

Candidate Votes

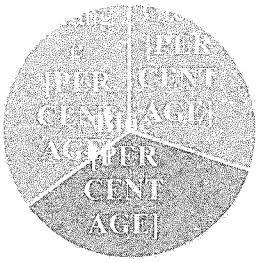


Party Votes



In a FPTP electoral system, the party votes would be ignored, and issues relating to the lack of proportionality, distortion of votes, and regionalism would similarly be ignored. This scenario however, could be solved under an MMPR electoral system. The following chart depicts how house seats would be allocated, taking into account all preferences of the Canadian public under an MMPR system.

MMPR House



In the candidate vote, the Blue party was underrepresented, and in the party vote, the Blue party was overrepresented, and vice versa for the Orange party; however, MMPR was able to provide a solution. All Candidates were able to keep their seats they received in the candidate vote, and in the party vote, the discrepancies were fixed. In this scenario, MMPR was able to find a compromise between voter's candidate preferences as well as their party preferences.

Benefits of Mixed-Member Proportional Representation Electoral Systems

MMPR electoral systems are able to address issues that other systems cannot. In Canada the main issues with FPTP are distorted votes, a lack of proportionality, and regionalism (Weaver, 1997, 477). MMPR offers the solution. MMPR receives voter's preferences in two different manners, and because of such, this system's ability to effectively create proportional government is considerably improved (Shugart, and Wattenberg, 2001, 582). MMPR electoral systems are able to do this by accepting votes for members of parliament in a FPTP method, so that preliminary local preferences are accounted for. By collecting all votes as a combined total for parties, MMPR is also able to account for general Canadian preferences as well (Weaver, 1997, 483). Discrepancies that occur with seat allocation in the house are nullified under this system, by dispersing the extra seats that to parties that are more popular than others, and withholding seats from less popular parties (Weaver, 1997, 483). Regionalism in Canada is magnified by parties favouring select regions over others, and the inability for smaller parties to succeed without majorities in select regions. Under an MMPR electoral system, parties would not be able to succeed without addressing all regions, and smaller parties would no longer need a majority to receive their votes, because their "party votes" would be able to compensate for their lower "candidate votes" (Hiemstra and Jansen, 2006, 299).

Mixed-Member Proportional Representation Electoral Systems in Action

MMPR systems are in effect in countries throughout the world, and these countries serve as examples of how MMPR system can enhance a democracy. New Zealand and Germany are examples of two countries where MMPR is flourishing. Each country has a specific way of using

the system, and each country reaps unique benefits, showing the versatility of this electoral system.

New Zealand

New Zealand uses an MMPR to promote societal equality and proportionate representation to its diverse population. To receive a seat from the general party seats, a party must receive a minimum of 5% of the vote (Arseneau, 1999, 137). This allows New Zealand to provide an opportunity for smaller parties to have a voice; however, prevent fringe parties from receiving too much of a voice in parliament (Arseneau, 1999, 140).

In New Zealand, the switch from FPTP to MMPR has allowed for minority groups such as women, and New Zealand's aboriginal population, to thrive. Under New Zealand's last election with FPTP, women made up 21% of the House of Commons, and under the first MMPR election this number increased by 7% (Arseneau, 1999, 136). The Maori indigenous population under FPTP had a guaranteed 4 seats, but under the first election with MMPR they received a record 15 seats in parliament (Denemark, 2001, 79). These numbers have grown over the past decade, as has the ability of New Zealand's parliament to be representative of its diverse population (Tapaleao, 2017).

Germany

Germany has followed and benefitted from an MMPR electoral system for over 50 years (Scarrow, 2001, 65). Like New Zealand, Germany uses a 5% threshold for one to receive a "party" seat; however, if 5% is too much for the party, having 3 electoral district seats can serve as the threshold instead (Scarrow, 2001, 67). This deviation from the New Zealand model fosters

the ability for smaller parties succeed by allowing them to either focus on widespread support, or selective regional support, and still receive seats in parliament.

Germany adopted this system following WWII, and various journals have commented that this electoral system may have aided Germany' stability (Scarrow, 2001, 69). MMPR is an electoral system that provides countries with a comprehensive understanding of the electorate's desires, and this understanding in turn provides the citizenry with a government that is able to properly represent them and their interests (Shugart, and Wattenberg, 2001, 582).

Alternate Argument

Others argue that the federal Canadian government should keep the current electoral system, on the basis that Canada already has a functional electoral system, that the FPTP electoral system is the best system available, and that FPTP has decades of success that depict its utility.

Conclusion

This paper has argued why the federal Canadian government should adopt a mixed-member proportional representation (MMPR) electoral system, on the basis that Canada needs a new electoral system, that the MMPR electoral system is the best system available, and that MMPR is an electoral system with proven success in other countries.

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[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 10:47 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Why First-Past the Post is the best system

Why First-Past the Post is the best system

In my opinion First-Past the Post is the best System out of all the presented systems. FPTP is described as "The winner takes it all". The voters indicate on a ballot the candidate/party of their choice, and the candidate who receives the most votes wins. This system mostly leads to Majority Government which brings stability.
Another big advantage FPTP provides is a clear connection between the constituent and the local representative.
The last advantage first-past the post brings, is that it is easy to understand because it is straightforward and has been successfully used for a long time.
That is why i believe that the FPTP system is the best system for running a country.

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, February 17, 2018 3:01 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: We need a referendum question which results in a clear decision.

I would like to see a referendum question which results in a clear decision. To that end I believe the referendum question should refer to a decided PR system of MMP to compare with FPTP.

This decided system of MMP should be based upon the recommendations of the House of Commons Special Committee on Electoral Reform (ERRE), and be adapted to the local needs of British Columbia. Other provinces have proposed a ballot similar to New Zealand's, and with the closed province-wide lists used in New Zealand, but with only 30% compensatory members.

ERRE produced an exhaustive report based upon evidence from around the world and their just released final report was the result of cross party cooperation. This is an excellent place to start--but then we need to adapt these recommendations to the special needs of British Columbians.

For a BC system, we need to accommodate the public desire for local representation, and we need to produce fair representation for both urban and rural. There is also little public appetite to increase the size of the legislature, but proportionality can be satisfied with a small number of compensatory members. Should lists be closed or open? If these questions were decided before the referendum question, BC citizens could more easily compare a decided PR system of MMP with FPTP.

Thank you for asking for my input.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2018 3:48 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Voting systems

I believe that in addition to a referendum on alternative voting systems, a system of online voting needs to be implemented.

The issues of security and vote fraud should not be difficult to overcome if a system is well designed and robust.

Kind regards,
[redacted]