



MAKE EVERY VOTE COUNT—ALWAYS!

PPR123: 'Perfect Proportional Representation' + 'Instant Runoff Voting' = 'True' Democracy!

SUMMARY: THE CASE FOR PPR123

PPR123: 'Perfect Proportional Representation' (PPR) with 'Instant Runoff Voting' (IRV)

A hybrid voting system combining the benefits of both *rank-ordered voting* and *proportional representation*.

- **IRV raises the standards:** for election, voter choice, and political practices—for voters, parties and politicians
- **PPR delivers electoral justice:** represents the true '*will of the people*' via '*the primacy of the Citizen's vote*'
Making Every Vote Count – Always! ... In every election—and in Parliament !!!

PPR123 is a *hybrid* voting system (made in Canada) combining the benefits of both **Instant Runoff Voting** and **Perfect Proportional Representation**. It's scrupulously fair and equitable. It is simply the best replacement for Canada's '*First Past the Post*' (FPP) voting system, as it alone can fulfill the promise to '*Make every vote count—always*' – in every election, *and in Parliament!!!*

IRV ensures that every elected representative is the 'rightful' winner, supported by a *majority* of voters. IRV empowers voters to express their *true* preferences, by liberating them from the coercion under FPP that pushes many citizens into '*strategic voting*' (i.e. '*the lesser of evils*' syndrome). Under IRV, all parties will be motivated to seek secondary support from those who prefer other parties. Hence, IRV should facilitate honest voting and more respectful politics, focused on positive programs rather than negative personal attacks.

PPR, the ideal partner for **IRV**, ensures that every election outcome is always absolutely fair—to *all* parties, politicians and voters. It's called **Perfect PR** because: (1) the parliamentary voting power of each party is precisely equal to their total votes; (2) every citizen's vote always counts, *all* the time!

PPR is based only on 1st-place votes, and on the principle: "**the primacy of the Citizen's vote**".

The Citizen's vote is the fundamental and irreducible unit of democracy; with **PPR**, it serves not only to elect the people's representatives, but it also serves as the source of their voting empowerment in parliament. **PPR** ensures that every citizen's 1st-place vote is faithfully preserved (never lost) and used directly to provide equitable (rather than equal) voting power for each representative—and hence also each party—in parliament.

The equality of unitary voting power properly belongs to each citizen, rather than those elected. **Under PPR, when representatives vote in parliament they'd be casting all of the Citizen's votes entrusted to them** (easily counted by computer) rather than just their *own* single vote.

How PPR works:

- All citizens' votes are entrusted to an elected representative.
- To ensure that no vote is wasted, all of the 'losing votes' for defeated candidates must also be entrusted to an appropriate elected representative. Losing votes would be aggregated by party and province, with equitable reallocation within each party amongst their elected members, at the provincial or national level.
- (Other measures would be required to avoid wasting votes for independent candidates and parties without elected members.)

How PPR123 would work:

- **IRV** uses a *preferential ballot*. Every voter simply selects their *true 1st-choice* candidate! Each voter may also rank other choices as *2nd, 3rd* etc. In electing their representative, their vote would be reallocated to their next choice (if specified) only if and when their preferred choice is eliminated. So their vote is always counted, and there's no need for '*strategic voting*' to oppose an undesired candidate or party.
- **IRV** requires that each elected candidate must obtain a *majority (50%+1)* of votes. All *1st-place* votes are counted. If no candidate has a majority, the bottom candidate is eliminated and those votes reallocated to each voter's next choice. This process is reiterated if needed, until the winner is elected with a majority. (This is the way most parties elect their leaders; hence it must also be the best way to elect all representatives.)
- **PPR** ensures that the parliamentary voting power of each party is exactly equal to their national total of *1st-place* votes—by making sure that *no citizen's vote is ever wasted*—i.e. with every citizen's vote entrusted to an elected representative of the designated party (or potentially some arrangement for '*fringe*' candidate votes).
- Under **PPR**, the parliamentary voting power of each elected representative is precisely the number of citizens' votes entrusted in them, that is: the number of votes they personally received plus their equitable share of the losing votes reallocated within that party.
- **PPR123** also eliminates the '*vote splitting*' problem of **FPTP**, whereby two similar candidates or parties can defeat one another and thereby enable a third party to win with a minority of votes. **IRV**, requiring a majority to win, eliminates the problem at the constituency level; **PPR** eliminates it at the parliamentary level through truly proportional results—and with parties free to form coalitions in parliament.
- Under **PPR123**, the party (or coalition) with the most votes would form government. With **PPR** and multiple parties, 'majority' governments formed by a single party would probably be rare, and coalitions might become common. However, 'minority' governments can be quite stable and effective (as proven in Canada and elsewhere). People could also expect that, with the liberated political climate of **PPR123**, all parties should be much more motivated to work cooperatively together to better serve Citizens' interests.
- Parliamentary votes would be counted (by computer) on the number of the citizens' votes (not representatives' votes). However, a '*double majority*' rule (i.e. a majority of both citizens' *and* representatives' votes) could be a requirement for confidence votes or major legislation.

What's wrong with 'First Past the Post' (FPTP)?

- Strongly distorts the '*will of the people*'—always to the *unfair advantage of the winners* and disadvantage of the losers. *Strongly discriminates against smaller parties* and severely inhibits their potential to succeed.
- '*Wrongful*' governments can sometimes be elected (with much less than 50% support)—where a defeated party may even have a greater number of votes than the '*winner*'.
- '*Wrongful*' representatives can sometimes be elected (with far less than 50% support—due to the '*vote splitting*' problem), where a losing candidate might be more acceptable to voters.
- Often wastes a majority of citizen's votes in electing representatives—and all citizen votes in parliament.
- Rewards negative behaviours by parties (negative campaigns etc.) and voters ('*strategic voting*').
- Prone to producing *arrogant majority governments, dictatorial leadership, divisive politics, cynicism*, a climate of *negativity, widespread frustration, public distrust* and voter *apathy*.

What's wrong with 'Mixed Member Proportional' (MMP, or so-called PR)?

- **MMP** is only a *partial* corrective for the distorted results of **FPTP**. It fails to remedy the inherent defects and negativity of **FPTP**, that still afflict all of the elected constituencies. **MMP**'s conceptual flaw is focusing entirely on an imperfect fix for **FPTP**'s distortions—rather than fixing the causes of its debilitating defects.
- **MMP** introduces *its own serious defects*: *two classes of members* (one *not* elected by the public and *not* serving any constituency); *increased power to the parties* and *reduced accountability* to citizens; *significantly increased* (typically 30-50%) *size of constituencies* and/or *number of members*.

What makes PPR123 the best possible voting system:

- It *always delivers true electoral justice—scrupulously fair to everyone*—voters, politicians and parties.
- **PPR123** would always elect the '*rightful*' winners—both representatives and governments.
- No wasted votes; *all citizens' votes always count*—in every *election*, and every vote in *parliament*.
- Provides *better democracy* for voters, politicians and parties, by *eliminating the coercion* and *distortions* associated with '*vote splitting*' and '*strategic voting*'.
- *Reduces divisiveness, cynicism* and *political negativity*—by *promoting positive practices* by parties (seeking secondary support); politicians (*cooperative consensus seeking, collaborative* and *respectful relationships*); and voters (free to vote for their *true preferences*, and knowing that their vote will *always count*).
- Promotes *positive political engagement*, greater public *confidence*, voter *choice*, public *trust* in politics and politicians, plus much stronger *reasons to vote!*
- All these unique advantages make **PPR123** objectively superior to all other voting systems!