PPR123: THE PERFECT REMEDY FOR CANADA'S ELECTORAL PROBLEMS!

Under the leadership of PM Justin Trudeau, the Government of Canada is committed to electoral reform:

https://www.liberal.ca/realchange/electoral-reform/

"**We will make every vote count.**

- We are committed to ensuring that 2015 will be the last federal election conducted under the first-past-the-post voting system.

- We will convene an all-party Parliamentary committee to review a wide variety of reforms, such as ranked ballots, proportional representation, mandatory voting, and online voting."

PPR123 (**Perfect Proportional Representation + Instant Runoff Voting**) is an original *'made-in-Canada'* voting system that is the only way to *truly "Make Every Vote Count"!*

But first, citizens should understand *why* our Government has made electoral reform a priority. Even though our 2015 election drew a large increase in the number of voters (from 14.8 to 17.6 million) and voter participation rate (from 61.1% to 68.5%), the following statistics clearly show the problem:

- Just **8.4 million** Citizens **(32.9%)** voted for winning candidates—hence, **only their votes counted**.

- While **9.1 million** Citizens **(35.5%)** voted for losing candidates—so **their votes were wasted**—**did not count**;

- And **8.1 million** Citizens **(31.6%) didn't even vote** [many thought their vote wouldn't make any difference].

- Maybe even worse, **many Citizens didn't feel 'free' to vote for their true preference**—but felt coerced (by the *First-Past-The-Post* voting system) into so-called *'strategic voting'*—for the perceived *'lesser of evils'*.

- **In 206 ridings (61%), more than half the votes were wasted** (worst case 71.4%) by the voting system.

Perfect Proportional Representation (**PPR123**), would substantially improve <u>all</u> these issues. Here's how:

- As a democratic right, every Citizen has one vote. **PPR123** enables <u>voters to rank their top three choices</u>—giving everyone three chances for their vote to help elect the candidate and government they want.

- **PPR123** <u>empowers every Citizen to honestly express their *'true' 1st-choice*</u> (with no need for so-called *'strategic voting'* for the *'lesser of evils'*)—with the guarantee that <u>every *1st-choice* vote will *always* count for that party</u> (provided it elects at least one representative).

  o If a voter's *1st-choice* candidate is elected, that voter has helped elect the winner.

  o Under **PPR123**, <u>every elected member must receive the support of a *majority* (>50%) of votes</u>. If no candidate has a majority, the one with the fewest votes is eliminated and those votes then switch to each voter's next choice. It's an iterative process, like the one used to elect all party leaders. It raises the bar by ensuring that every representative is the candidate who is most acceptable to most voters.

- The key feature of **PPR123**, which ensures **Perfect Proportional Representation** for <u>all</u> parties in Parliament, is that <u>the Parliamentary Voting Power of each party is precisely equal to their total number of Citizens' 1st-choice votes</u> –rather than their number of elected representatives!

  o <u>No 1st-choice vote is ever thrown away</u> (n.b. 2nd-choice and 3rd-choice votes are only counted as required in each riding to elect the representative with a majority (i.e. >50%) support under IRV).

  o Each elected representative retains *all* of their 1st-choice votes (and *only* their 1st-choice votes).

  o <u>Each party retains all 1st-choice votes</u> (and *only* their 1st-choice votes) <u>for their defeated candidates</u>.

  o <u>Each party reassigns all retained votes among its elected representatives</u>, probably according to a formula to reduce demographic imbalances (e.g. gender parity etc.)

  o <u>With every vote in Parliament, each representative casts *'proxy'* votes on behalf of all Citizens' whose votes are entrusted in them</u>—which, in the 21st Century, can be quite easily counted by computer— probably also by a cell phone app. (This voting process is quite similar to the standard practice in corporate shareholder democracy, where shareholder votes are cast through *'proxy'* voting. In a democracy, all adult Citizens are shareholder owners with one equal share—and everyone is entitled to one equal vote—that should *always* be counted, and *should never thrown away by the voting system!)*