MAKE EVERY VOTE COUNT–ALWAYS!

PPR123 = '*Perfect Proportional Representation*' + '*Instant Runoff Voting*' = '*Voter Equality*' + '*True*' *Democracy* !

PPR123: AN ELECTORAL SYSTEM FOR THE DIGITAL AGE
New options for better Democracy!

The power of **PPR123** comes from its foundation on the two voting systems, Alternative Vote and Proxy voting, which fulfill the two essential principles of democracy: majority rule, ensuring democratic legitimacy of all MPs; and perfect proportional representation of the truly expressed 'Will of the People', ensuring the democratic legitimacy of the parliamentary voting power of all parties.

Beyond this, even greater benefits can be achieved by leveraging the power of computers and proxy voting to upgrade citizen participation and provide more balanced representation of demographic diversity.

The Digital Age is transforming modern life and public expectations. Democracy should become digitally empowered to better serve its Citizens.

PPR123 would be unthinkable without computers (which may explain why it wasn't invented in previous centuries). With computers, it's now possible to count millions of Citizens' votes, cast as proxy votes by MPs, with every vote in Parliament.

Here's how proxy voting in Parliament might work:

- each MP casts their vote via cellphone or tablet computer, recorded on a local computer under the Speaker's control
- proxy votes for any absent MP could be temporarily reassigned by that party
- the computer tallies the **PPR123** proxy votes of all MPs
- the computer converts proxy vote totals to proportional equivalent numbers of seats
- the Parliamentary vote of record remains expressed as numbers of seats
  - hence, some provinces could choose to vote under **PPR123** and others could use another voting system (i.e. with one-MP=one-vote), as might arise from referendum results or constitutional considerations

While **PPR123** doesn't require computers to tally votes in each riding, it would be much quicker and more accurate with computers.

PPR123 could become the catalyst for the implementation of **secure** and **verifiable online voting**.

- As with online banking, online voting should be available to all Citizens via cell phone or PC.
  This would make voting much easier and more convenient, which should increase Citizen participation.
- For those who don't have a cell phone or PC, local voting centres (perhaps schools or libraries?) would provide online access (with technical assistance) via PC.
- The digital infrastructure for elections (databases, software, administrative controls) could also be used for Citizen engagement (e.g. public opinion polling or referenda).
- This digital infrastructure for federal elections could also be used for provincial elections.
- Citizens could review their voting records online at any time, ensuring public confidence and data validation.
- Another possible enhancement to our democracy, subject to political approval and suitable controls, would be to enable voters to switch their vote to a different party between elections. Under **PPR123**, this would simply result in a corresponding change in the voting power of each party in Parliament (i.e. no change of elected

representatives). <u>This would give Citizens greater power to hold elected representatives accountable, and apply pressure on all parties to serve the 'Will of the People'</u>. This would transform democracy—and the relationship between Citizens and their Government, making it more responsive and true to its definition of 'rule by the People'. It might also reduce turnover in general elections.

- If midterm vote shifts changed the balance of party power, the roles of Government and Opposition could be switched and Parliament would continue under new leadership until the next election (i.e. a 'constructive' non-confidence vote)

PPR123 also provides <u>unique opportunities to achieve more effective representation, without increasing the number of MPs</u>, specifically: to have smaller ridings in Canada's vast sparsely populated areas; and to design an electoral system that gives much more balanced representation in Canada's challenge of demographic diversity.

- **PPR123**, with <u>every vote counted equally, removes the need for ridings to have similar populations</u>.
- Many seats in urban areas could be much more effectively used by being redistributed to improve regional and demographic representation (n.b. only **PPR123** could provide such benefits without increasing the number of MPs, and while fulfilling the highest democratic standards of perfect proportional representation, voter equality and democratic legitimacy of all MPs).
- The recommendation is that there should be <u>no riding changes for the 2019 election</u>; but subject to Citizen approval of **PPR123** and proxy voting in Parliament, we recommend that Elections Canada should undertake major revisions to riding boundaries for the following general election in 2023.
  - reduce riding sizes in sparsely populated remote areas
  - establish more natural boundaries
  - within urban areas, combine multiple ridings into electoral districts of two to seven seats, and designate equal numbers of seats to be contested only by male or female candidates, and one or more seats contested only by candidates of ethnic minorities.
  - under **PPR123** with online voting, Citizens within an urban electoral district could vote in whichever riding they chose; it wouldn't matter how many votes were in each riding as, under **PPR123**, every vote counts equally for the chosen party, and every MP would be elected under majority rule.