



# MAKE EVERY VOTE COUNT-ALWAYS!

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

## PPR123: THE IDEAL ELECTORAL SYSTEM FOR THE DIGITAL AGE

The power of **PPR123** comes from its foundation on two well established voting methods, **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 and equitability of the voting power of all parties in Parliament.

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

- Many experts have told ERRE that there's no perfect voting system:
  - All existing voting systems (FPTP, MMP, STV, AV) have many well-known and serious defects.
  - The only logical conclusion is that one needs to look beyond them for a better solution.
- ERRE's understanding of voting systems is about where I was in 2004, before my '*Eureka moment*'!
  - With a strong background in mathematics and systems analysis, I thought I should be able to analyze the challenging problem of voting systems and come up with a better solution.
  - I first tried to invent a better '*electoral mousetrap*' on my own, and re-invented a variation of the Borda Count.
  - I then researched the subject of voting systems to test my thinking against the ideas of others.
  - I searched through the 1,600+ submissions to BCCA looking for new ideas:
    - I discovered "*The Seven Cent Solution: Vote Proportional Representation*", by John R Kennedy of Burnaby BC, presented in 2004 to the BC Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform.
- **The key idea ('Eureka moment')** for **truly democratic representation** is **'proxy' voting in Parliament!**
  - The body of elected representatives holds in trust all Citizens' votes (1<sup>st</sup>-choice only), which are cast by proxy on their behalf with every vote in Parliament.
    - Each elected representative is entrusted with every 1<sup>st</sup>-choice vote they personally received.
    - 1<sup>st</sup>-choice votes for losing candidates are retained by each party and reassigned to elected representatives.
    - Some accommodation is necessary to avoid wasting votes for independents and unrepresented parties.
    - Proxy voting is standard practice in corporate shareholder democracy; in a political democracy, every adult Citizen is an '*owner*' entitled to one equal voting share.
- **PPR123** fulfills each of the essential qualities of true Democracy, both individually and collectively: (1) every elected representative has '*democratic legitimacy*' based on the criterion of '*Majority Rule*'; (2) the body of elected representatives ensures that the '*Will of the People*' is served through '*Perfect Proportional Representation*' (i.e. with the total 1<sup>st</sup>-choice votes of all Citizens directly determining the voting power of each party in Parliament).

### CONCLUSIONS:

- Truly democratic representative government can not be achieved simply by changing how the Citizens vote.
- Truly democratic representative government can only be achieved by changing both how Citizens vote and how Parliament votes!
- **PPR123**, which eliminates '*strategic voting*' and '*wasted votes*', is based on the Alternative Vote by Citizens as well as proxy voting by Parliamentarians; it's the '*ideal*' electoral system that truly fulfills the principles of Democracy.
- **PPR123** presents ERRE with its own '*Eureka moment*'!
- *Please; no more looking backward to previous centuries in search of the best way to do voting in the Digital Age!*

**THE DIGITAL AGE IS TRANSFORMING MODERN LIFE AND PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS.  
DEMOCRACY SHOULD BECOME DIGITALLY EMPOWERED TO BETTER SERVE ITS CITIZENS.**

**PPR123** would be impossible without computers (which could explain why it wasn't invented in previous centuries). With computers, one can 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:

- MPs might cast their vote via cellphone or tablet computer, recorded on a computer under the Speaker's control (possibly replicated on authorized computers controlled by each party)
- the computer tallies the **PPR123** proxy votes of all MPs (with reassignment for absent MPs)
- the computer converts proxy vote totals to proportionally equivalent numbers of seats
- the Parliamentary vote of record might remain 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

**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?) could 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.

**PPR123** also provides unique opportunities to achieve more effective representation, without increasing the number of MPs, 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 every vote counted equally, removes the need for ridings to have similar populations.
- 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 no riding changes for the 2019 election; 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.

**PPR123** fulfills each of the essential qualities of true Democracy, both individually and collectively:

- (1) every elected representative has true '*democratic legitimacy*' based on the criterion of '*Majority Rule*';
- (2) the body of elected representatives ensures that the '*Will of the People*' is served through '*Perfect Proportional Representation*' with every vote in Parliament.