



# **MAKE EVERY VOTE COUNT-ALWAYS!**

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

## **Open Letter #2 Re Electoral Reform: HERO OR ZERO ... TO BE—OR NOT TO BE?**

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<https://ipolitics.ca/2016/10/19/stop-jerking-our-chain-on-electoral-reform-trudeau/>

### **“STOP JERKING OUR CHAIN ON ELECTORAL REFORM, TRUDEAU”**

**Stephen Maher**

October 19, 2016

“I’d been assuming that the Liberals eventually would abandon the promise to get rid of first-past-the-post elections because the backroom people in charge of getting Trudeau re-elected would make it quite clear (behind closed doors) that he should *not* do any such thing.”

...

“the winning argument is the one we (the voters) never hear. It’s the one heard in party backrooms: ***Don’t do it or we’ll never get another majority.***”

Apparently, Trudeau is leaning towards the backroom point of view.”

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### **Mr. Prime Minister, and members of the ERRE Special Committee on Electoral Reform,**

Our second open letter (in three days) on Electoral Reform is respectfully submitted in light of the now quite apparent risks that are indeed jeopardizing fulfillment of your promise to deliver electoral reform (as stated above).

<http://makeeveryvotecount-always.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Open-Letter-to-PM-Justin-Trudeau-Re-Electoral-Reform.pdf>

Mr. Prime Minister, from your interview yesterday in Le Devoir, a skeptic would believe that you’re back-peddling on your promise to ***“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”***.

A cynic would believe that your promise was never a sincere commitment. A political realist might believe that nobody should ever have believed any such promise from you or any politician.

It may be unrealistic naivety on my part, but **I still want to believe that you *were* (and remain) sincere** about this promise, that you are a man of principle, that you are deeply aware (as surely all politicians are) that our existing electoral system is profoundly unfair to all Citizens, political parties and candidates, that it is essentially a crime against Democracy which undermines the very nature of politics and government.

I want to believe that you did and do believe these things. I want to believe that you were committed to doing the right thing for Canada and all Canadians, and future generations of Citizens and politicians, and acted in good faith in establishing the ERRE Special Committee on Electoral Reform, with an unflinching personal commitment to make *right* what was so *wrong*.

I want to believe that all MPs chosen by their parties as representatives on the ERRE Committee also believed all these things, and recognized the great honour and trust placed in them—by both their party and the Canadian People; I also want to believe that they have both the *political freedom* and *personal values* to serve the best interests of Canada and the Canadian People above any party *partisan* interests.

I really want to believe that the enormous commitment to public consultation on electoral reform was sincerely conducted, with a genuine open-mindedness in seeking the *best* alternative to become Canada's new voting system. I want to believe that the enormous costs, time and effort made by the ERRE Committee and the many witnesses, as well as all of the MPs and Citizens who engaged in town-hall meetings, that this enormous exercise in public consultation was undertaken with absolute sincerity—with no willingness to allow it to become a wasteful exercise in futility, as an artful fig leaf to cover-up some scurrilous hidden agenda.

Mr. Prime Minister, by raising this public moment of doubt in your commitment to electoral reform, you have **exposed to all Canadians the internal political conflict that exists between a principled party leadership and the unprincipled operators within the political backrooms**. Basically, this is the political reality of a *duopoly*—a pair of parties that together hold monopoly control of government (i.e. no other party is strong enough to win power)—which is the atrocious legacy of the existing First-Past-the-Post voting system.

Your solemnly stated and often repeated promise to deliver electoral reform was in fact **a defiant declaration of independence—for both political leaders and Citizens—to liberate them from the domination of the duopoly's backroom power-brokers**, and their grip on power resulting from the undemocratic majority governments (as severe distortions of the true Will of the People, due to the unfair FPTP voting system), which has often led to quasi-dictatorial control by the PMO.

Mr. **Prime Minister, you must now stand tall, you must choose to side with the People—against the backroom power of both duopoly parties**, you must rally *all* of the other party leaders to support you in your epic showdown between the political leaders and the backroom operators. You can remind them all that *minority* governments are not bad—they're probably even better than majority governments—because they produce greater *cooperation* and *accountability*!

It's pathetic to think that your commitment to doing what's right for Canada, for Canadians, for Democracy—is jeopardized by the enormous pressure exerted on you by the duopoly backrooms—simply because it may mark *finished* to their grip on majority governments. You should sternly put those actors in their place, and command them not to put their interests ahead of the nation's interest, and tell them to learn how to love minority governments!

So, Mr. Prime Minister, it does indeed get down to a question of leadership. Your leadership, first and foremost, as well as the leadership of the other parties, and indeed all parliamentarians.

Mr. Prime Minister, it seems clear that **Electoral Reform—whatever is done—will become your most lasting legacy!**

So what will it be? “**HERO OR ZERO ... TO BE OR NOT TO BE** ... That is the Question”

*Sincerely,*  
**Jeff & Diana Jewell**  
*Mission BC, Canada*

PS: While the authors sincerely believe that **PPR123** is the best electoral reform alternative, our full support would be eagerly extended to whichever electoral reform is chosen by the ERRE Special Committee on Electoral Reform.