



# MAKE EVERY VOTE COUNT—ALWAYS!

PPR 123: 'Perfect Proportional Representation' + 'Instant Runoff Voting' = 'True' Democracy!

## PPR123 = 'TRUE' DEMOCRACY!

'True' Democracy! It seems so simple. Yet it's been such an elusive goal and so difficult to achieve. But now that we know *how* to achieve it, further failure would become our disgrace—and a great dishonour to our ancestors who fought so hard for *freedom* and *democracy*, and to our descendants if we would fail in our duty to them.

So what is 'True' Democracy? It's democracy that's *'true'* to its basic principles: (1) 'majority rule' as the standard for both *electoral* and *legislative* decisions; (2) elections that *'truly'* reflect the *'freely'* expressed 'will of the people'; (3) 'the primacy of the Citizen's vote' as the *fundamental unit of Democracy* (and to 'Make Every Vote Count—Always!').

These principles provide a working definition of 'True' Democracy, and evaluation criteria to judge both *electoral* and *parliamentary* voting systems. None of the existing systems measure up to the standard of 'True' Democracy. In different ways and degrees, they all distort the expression of *'the will of the people'* through the electoral process, produce *'wrongful'* electoral results that misrepresent *'the will of the people'*, and waste many Citizens' votes.

Our 'First-Past-the-Post' (FPTP) voting system seems designed to prevent 'True' Democracy. It invariably perverts the *'true'* expression of the *'will of the People'*, produces very distorted *parliamentary voting power*, and typically wastes about *half* of the Citizens' votes. It often elects *'wrongful'* majority governments (i.e. *more than 50% of MPs*, but with *less than 50% of total votes*), and it can even elect the *'wrong'* winner (i.e. *with less votes than a losing party!*)!?

'Mixed Member Proportional' (MMP) is the most often proposed upgrade to FPTP, by most electoral reformers and some political parties. While MMP is widely used and objectively much better than FPTP, it still has major defects: (1) MMP retains FPTP, with all its flaws, as the basis of electing all representatives (MPs) from each electoral riding; (2) MMP requires some combination of *major* increases in *riding sizes* and/or the total *number of MPs*; (3) MMP works by creating a new class of *non-elected* MPs, *selected* from party lists, to mitigate FPTP's disproportional results. So MMP fails to eliminate FPTP (which elects most members with far less than a *majority*—some with just 30% of the votes), requires considerably larger ridings and/or more MPs, and it creates an *undemocratic* class of MPs (*one-third to one-half* of all MPs) beholden to their party and not accountable to voters. Hence, MMP is a seriously flawed alternative that gives the political parties more power over MPs.

There are other alternatives to FPTP that provide better remedies and are much less flawed than MMP. The 'Single Transferable Vote' (STV) is the next best-known challenger, well respected, with a proven record in several countries. In 2005, STV was recommended as the best choice for British Columbia, by the BC Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform. This was probably the most extensive and intensive democratic evaluation of electoral systems ever conducted. It was formed by randomly choosing one male and one female from each of BC's 79 ridings. UBC political scientists tutored the Assembly. It received over 1,600 submissions (representing the full range of ideas on electoral reform) from people around the world. Fifty public meetings were held across BC, and the process took about a year. It short-listed MMP and STV. A straw vote indicated that a large majority initially preferred MMP, but their final vote was 80% for STV over MMP, and 93% for STV over FPTP. Those who study the details will see that STV is clearly superior to MMP (that's clearly superior to FPTP). But STV is quite convoluted and confusing—characteristics easily exploited by opponents to raise doubt in the public mind; hence the BC-STV referendum *'defeat'* with *only 57.7% support* (*60% was required for adoption*).

Is there a better alternative than MMP and STV—and one that's easier for most people to understand?

**"YES!"** It's called 'Perfect Proportional Representation' with 'Instant Runoff Voting' (**PPR123**)!

**PPR123** is a *hybrid* electoral system, based on fundamental democratic principles, with *two* key elements that combine to achieve the synergy of *‘True’ Democracy*: (1) *‘Instant Runoff Voting’ (IRV)*, which ensures that every representative is elected by a *majority*; (2) *‘Perfect Proportional Representation’ (PPR)*, which ensures that the *Parliamentary Voting Power* of each party *perfectly* matches their total number of votes (i.e. *true ‘1<sup>st</sup>-choice’ votes!*)

Here’s how **PPR123** works:

1. Voters simply choose their top three candidates—ranking them 1, 2, 3. All voters freely select their ‘true’ preference as their ‘1<sup>st</sup>-choice’, knowing that their vote would automatically switch to their *next* choice if their top choice(s) are eliminated. So no voter would ever again be coerced by the voting system into so-called *‘strategic voting’* for *‘the lesser of evils’*. Hence, all ‘1<sup>st</sup>-choice’ votes are ‘free’, ‘true’ and ‘honest’ votes!
2. Each representative is elected in the same way that all political parties elect their leader, through an iterative process. All *‘1<sup>st</sup>-choice’* votes are counted. If no candidate has 50% of the votes, the bottom candidate is dropped and those votes go to each voter’s next choice. The process repeats until the winner is elected with a *majority* (i.e. *more than 50%*) of votes.
3. The best feature of **PPR123** is how it delivers *‘Perfect Proportional Representation’*—by *never* throwing *any* vote away: every Citizen’s ‘1<sup>st</sup>-choice’ vote (a truly honest vote) is always counted with every vote of Parliament!  
Specifically: (1) Every elected representative retains all their *‘1<sup>st</sup>-choice’* votes; all *‘1<sup>st</sup>-choice’* votes for *defeated* candidates are retained by each political party, and reassigned to an appropriate *elected* representative.  
(2) **Every time our representatives vote in Parliament**, they are not simply casting their own *single* vote—rather, **they are casting all of the Citizens’ votes entrusted to them** (i.e. *no Citizen’s vote is ever wasted*).

**PPR123** more than fulfills the promise of Canada’s Government, to *‘Make Every Vote Count’*.

Indeed, by its design, **PPR123** achieves the even higher standard, to *‘Make Every Vote Count—Always!’*

To summarize, **PPR123** is a *‘made in Canada’* electoral system that fully realizes the ideal of *‘True’ Democracy*. It’s quite simple to explain and understand. Also, there are strong precedents for each of its key elements (indeed, in *‘high stakes’* democracy involving *leadership* and *money*, it would be almost unthinkable to do it any other way):

1. *Instant Runoff Voting* is just like *the way parties elect their leaders*—with the support of a *majority* of voters.
2. *Perfect Proportional Representation* (i.e. *One-Citizen=One-Vote*) is achieved through elected representatives casting *‘proxy’ votes—on behalf of all Citizens whose votes are entrusted to them—*with every vote of Parliament; this is directly comparable to the standard practice of *‘proxy’* voting in *corporate shareholder democracy*.

In the computer age, it’s as easy to count the millions of Citizens’ votes as the hundreds of Representatives’ votes.

And surely there can be no dispute of the principle that **the democratic right of equal voting power properly belongs to each Citizen**, rather than their elected representatives [i.e. *‘the primacy of the Citizen’s vote’*].

We recommend a two-stage implementation of **PPR123**:

1. This Parliament should adopt **IRV** as the voting system to be used in Canada’s next election (2019), thereby ensuring that all representatives would be *‘rightful’* winners elected by a *majority* of voters, also liberating all Citizens (from so-called ‘strategic voting’) to vote for their ‘true’ preference as ‘1<sup>st</sup>-choice’! [n.b. Australia has used **IRV** for their federal elections since 1919];
2. This election should include a referendum [with a thorough public information campaign to explain the *what, why* and *how* of **PPR123**] enabling voters to choose **PPR** as Canada’s *Parliamentary Voting System!*

With Citizens’ approval, the new Parliament would proceed to adopt and implement **PPR** as Canada’s *Parliamentary Voting System!* Let’s all work together to help Canada catch and surpass Australia—and to become the world’s first *‘True’ Democracy with PPR123!* This would forever be remembered as the great democratic legacy of this generation of Canadians and political leaders to future generations and citizens of the free world!