



# **MAKE EVERY VOTE COUNT—ALWAYS!**

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

## **The 'BIG IDEA' THAT EMPOWERS PPR123!**

**The only way to really "Make Every Vote Count" is to "Make Every Vote Count - Always"!**

**Make Every Vote Count – Always.ca** is a non-partisan citizen's initiative for electoral reform, advocating a truly fair and democratic voting system that achieves the bold promise of its name!  
"PPR123" ("Perfect Proportional Representation" with "Instant Runoff Voting"), is a hybrid electoral reform—designed specifically to "**Make Every Vote Count – Always**"!

The promise to "**Make Every Vote Count**" is a bold vision of a much more 'democratic' way to do Democracy!  
It's an inspiring concept – and an ideal that every democracy should fulfill.

To "**Make Every Vote Count - Always**" is simply a logical extension of this concept, leading to the innovation that *really* makes it work!

### **THE CITIZEN'S VOTE IS THE FUNDAMENTAL UNIT OF DEMOCRACY!**

Our solution is called **PPR123** – "**Perfect Proportional Representation**" (with "*Instant Runoff Voting*").  
**PPR123** focuses on the **Citizen's vote**—unlike all other electoral reforms that focus on *members* and *seats*.

With **PPR123**, the **voting power of each party** in Parliament comes from – and is **exactly equal to** their **total number of Citizen's votes** – *not* their number of elected representatives!

**PPR123** ensures that *no Citizen's vote is ever wasted* – by entrusting every vote to an elected representative!  
Votes for all *defeated* candidates would be retained by each party and reassigned to an elected representative;  
*each Citizen's vote would be cast by a representative of their party – and counted – with every vote in Parliament !!!*

**The only way to truly "Make Every Vote Count" is to "Make Every Vote Count - Always"!**

"**Make Every Vote Count - Always**" contains *two inter-related ideas* that together form a *really Big Idea!*

"**Make Every Vote Count**" is certainly a very good idea that everyone should agree with.

"**Make Every Vote Count - Always**" is an even much bigger idea—requiring further explanation of its full meaning and implications—also, how it can be achieved.

The promise to "**Make Every Vote Count**" must democratically mean that every Citizen's vote would count *equally*, which implies a commitment to "*proportional representation*" (**PR**). The label "**PR**" is identified with a range of electoral reforms that have been adopted by most of the world's leading democracies (*apart from England and many of its former colonies*). Most existing forms of PR have been designed as a corrective applied to the severely distorted results produced by the '*First-Past-the-Post*' (**FPTP**) voting system that grossly fails to reflect the '*will of the people*'. But all such forms of **PR** are imperfect, and introduce their own undemocratic flaws. And while they do make many more (perhaps most) votes count, none can claim to

make every vote count. Their conceptual flaw arises from being wrongly focused on numbers of *representatives* rather than the *Citizens' votes*.

The remarkable fact, however, is that there is a solution that is quite simple, elegant and even *perfect!* It's based entirely on the Citizens' votes—enabling it to perfectly fulfill the promise to “*Make Every Vote Count—Always!*” It emanates from the fact that *the fundamental (indeed irreducible) unit of democracy is the Citizen's vote*, along with the insight that the Citizen's vote should be used not just to elect the People's representatives—but also as the source and the measure of voting empowerment issued by the People to their representatives and each party in Parliament.

Further, it also follows from the commitment to “*Make Every Vote Count*”, that no Citizen's vote should ever be thrown away—hence votes for defeated candidates must never be wasted.

“**Perfect Proportional Representation**” (**PPR**) is always and automatically achieved—with every vote in Parliament—by ensuring that *each representative casts the number of citizen's votes entrusted to them* (rather than just their own single vote), and by ensuring that *every Citizen's vote is entrusted to an elected representative of their chosen party.*

Clearly, each representative is entrusted with those votes personally received. To ensure that no votes are wasted, all ‘losing’ votes for *defeated* candidates must be reassigned to an appropriate representative. The suggested process is that ‘losing’ votes should first be aggregated by party and province, then equitably reassigned amongst each party's elected representatives within each province (or at the national level). Note that such reassignment of voting power would apply only for political parties with elected representatives. (Special measures could be adopted to avoid wasting the votes for independent candidates or parties without elected representation.)

Note also that the reassignment of the votes won by defeated candidates would also provide the opportunity for rebalancing of the parliamentary voting power of each party—to offset demographic under-representation (e.g. to promote gender parity, etc.). Another opportunity that might be considered would be to ensure representation of the Government (and perhaps also the official Opposition) party from all provinces or regions, perhaps by acclaiming their candidate with the most votes to sit as an ‘*at large*’ representative. The vote reassignment process could accommodate such improvements in representation without any impact on the parliamentary voting power—which of course would remain precisely the total number of Citizen's votes for each party.

To recap, under **PPR123** each representative would cast the number of votes personally received plus their share of all the ‘losing’ votes reassigned within the party. Hence, *each party would vote with exactly the number of Citizens' votes* entrusted to them—i.e. *automatic and perfect proportionality!*

The democratic basis for the **PPR123** electoral system is expressed as the principle of “**the primacy of the Citizen's vote**”. It places the importance of Citizen's vote above all else. Indeed, the contention is that the democratic right of equal voting power properly belongs to each Citizen—rather than their elected Representatives.

[n.b.: The **PPR** Parliamentary voting process is directly comparable to the standard practice in corporate shareholder democracy, where *shareholders' votes* are cast on their behalf through ‘proxy’ voting by entrusted representatives. The core concept of **PPR123** is that, in a democracy, all adult Citizens have the political rights of ‘shareholder owners’ with *one equal share*—and entitled to *one equal vote*—which should *always be counted*, and *never thrown away*, by *any voting system!* This should be seen as the appropriate democratic model and standard practice for representative government in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.]