



MAKE EVERY VOTE COUNT—ALWAYS!

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

SUMMARY: PPR123—THE IDEAL ELECTORAL REFORM FOR CANADA!

1. How people would vote under PPR123:

- Voters rank their top three choices as **1-2-3**; if their 1st-choice (candidate/party) is eliminated, their vote is automatically transferred to their next choice. (i.e. only *one* vote, but *three* choices)
- This means that every voter is liberated to cast their 1st-choice vote for their true preference, and no voter is ever again coerced into so-called strategic voting for 'the lesser of evils'.
- Voters would also understand that their 1st-choice vote would always count for their preferred party—and counted with all votes in Parliament—regardless of whether their local candidate was elected or defeated.

2. How representatives would be elected under PPR123:

- The winner in each constituency must obtain the support of a *majority* (>50%) of voters.
- PPR123 is a variant of *Instant Runoff Voting* (IRV) [also known as *Alternative Vote* (AV)]. It ensures that every representative is elected with true democratic legitimacy.
- Just like party leadership elections, multiple elimination rounds may often be required to elect each representative with a majority. (To avoid an anomalous defect of IRV, the order of elimination should be determined by using the *Borda Count* method.)

3. How PPR123 can deliver 'Perfect Proportional Representation' in Parliament:

- 'Perfect Proportional Representation' is achieved *not* by the number of *representatives* elected by each party—but by the total number of votes (1st-choice only) received by all candidates (winners & losers), which directly becomes the (undistorted) voting power of each party in Parliament!!!
- Each party retains all 1st-choice votes (i.e. no vote is ever wasted); also, every Citizen's vote always counts for their chosen party (even if their candidate loses)!
- Each elected representative retains all 1st-choice votes that they personally received.
- All 1st-choice votes for defeated candidates are retained by each party—and reassigned amongst their elected representatives, preferably within the same province (or region); the vote reassignment process could also be used to address demographic imbalances (e.g. gender, age, diversity etc.).
- All citizens' votes (i.e. 1st-choice only) would always be counted—with every vote in Parliament! All representatives cast 'proxy votes' on behalf of all citizens whose votes have been entrusted to them (just like corporate shareholder elections, for shareholders who can't attend; as a basic democratic principle, *each citizen 'owns' one equal voting share*—entrusted to a representative).

4. How PPR123 can ensure Government representation from all Provinces:

- As with our existing voting system (FPTP), IRV is vulnerable to exaggerated regional polarization, and it's possible that the Government may occasionally be shutout and have no elected representative from some province/region. This problem should be rectified by a new and truly democratic electoral system.

- **PPR123** proposes to rectify this problem, where it arises, by creating a ‘**Member-at-Large**’, for the duration of that Parliament, for each province (or region) that did *not* elect a representative of the party of Government. One possibility might be that Parliament could declare a candidate of that party (e.g. the one with the most votes in that province) to be elected by *acclamation* to serve as ‘*Member-at-Large*’ for that province (with zero impact on Parliamentary voting power); alternatively, the goal of gender parity might also be considered in filling this position.
- Similarly, Parliament could consider appointing one or more ‘**Independent**’ representative(s), by *acclamation*, to avoid wasting those votes for independent candidates and small parties without elected representation. This position might be designated as an *Ombudsperson*, and could be established as a national, regional or provincial representative. The chosen person must be *non-partisan*, and might be the leading independent candidate, or a distinguished citizen.
- Further, it is recommended that Parliament should consider adding a ‘**None-of-the-Above**’ option at the bottom of each ballot. This would enable *dissent* to be expressed as an *explicit* choice—which would be better for the health of democracy than *abstention*—and would remove any excuse for not voting.
- Further, it is also recommended that Parliament should consider **mandatory voting** [which would become democratically acceptable with a ‘*None-of-the-Above*’ option]. This might become more important if the trend of reduced democratic participation of the younger generation continues.
- **Only PPR123 can deliver on its bold promise of ‘Perfect Proportional Representation’—by truly ‘Making Every Vote Count—Always!’**