



MAKE EVERY VOTE COUNT—ALWAYS!

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

AN OPEN LETTER TO PM JUSTIN TRUDEAU RE ELECTORAL REFORM

<http://www.macleans.ca/politics/ottawa/electoral-reform-can-the-liberals-get-it-right/#comments>

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“ELECTORAL REFORM: CAN THE LIBERALS GET IT RIGHT?”

“Trudeau Report Card: The Liberals are in a bind on sweeping electoral change.”

“In jeopardy: It’s hard to see multi-party support for any way to end ‘first past the post’ voting, as Trudeau promised. Will he claim he did his best and back off?”

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

This open letter is respectfully submitted in light of apparent risks now jeopardizing the fulfillment of your promise to deliver electoral reform (as reported above).

Electoral reform has the potential to become the most lasting legacy of this Parliament and your leadership as PM. Its fulfillment now needs your leadership to overcome political obstacles. This is your duty—to all present and future Citizens of Canada.

The obstacles to electoral reform are many, well known, and unsurprising. Most resistance to a fair and honest electoral system usually emanates from the political parties—all of them, including some members of your own party. Political parties are run by people seeking ever more power and control. The power brokers of each party predictably want what’s best for them, and not for their opponents; to them, the interests of the nation or its People are little more than political issues to be managed. Most People are hardly aware of electoral reform—being too busy, disinterested, cynical, and easily duped by bogus arguments. Political parties have plenty of experience duping the public into distrusting *any* form of electoral reform (*i.e. the usual goal of a referendum on ER*) even though almost everyone would benefit.

You have been openly suspected by opponents and pundits of secretly preferring a ranked ballot such as the AV (Alternative Vote) system, which is seen to favour a centrist party such as yours. What’s never explained is that no party *owns* the political centre, and each party chooses its part of the political spectrum. As example, Canada’s political right used to have a progressive centre-right party, which was abandoned due to the *‘vote splitting’* problem under FPTP (First-Past-the-Post); that would not have been necessary under AV, and the right could have retained a broader base that included part of the political centre.

Your campaign promise of electoral reform was quite well expressed (key points are underlined below):

“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. As part of a national engagement process, we will ensure that electoral reform measures – such as ranked ballots, proportional representation, mandatory voting, and online voting – are fully and fairly studied and considered.”

To *“Make every vote count”* is simply what the People want and expect; what’s also wanted and expected is that every vote should count *equally*, all the time, with no exceptions.

A ranked ballot is not just an electoral option—it is the right way to do democracy! Democracy is founded on the principle of *‘Majority Rule’*. With more than two parties, the only way to fulfill this criterion and ensure true *‘democratic legitimacy’* is an iterative process of elimination, as with the ranked ballot of the AV voting system. All political parties agree that an iterative process is the right way to elect their leaders—hence it must also be the right way to elect all MPs!

AV also ensures two other things which are arguably even more important: (1) it avoids the *‘vote splitting’* problem, whereby two similar parties ensure their mutual defeat; (2) it avoids the widespread (est. 40%) and democratically debilitating practice of *‘strategic voting’* (*i.e. the ‘lesser of evils’*) as it empowers Citizens to cast *‘honest’* votes for their true preferences.

The promise to *"Make every vote count"* is essentially a commitment to some form of PR (Proportional Representation).

Unfortunately, all of the standard forms of PR are seriously flawed.

Fortunately, there is a new *'made-in-Canada'* form of PR, called **PPR123 (Perfect Proportional Representation)**, which is a *hybrid* electoral system that uses digital technology to simultaneously satisfy *both* of the fundamental requirements of electoral democracy which are inherently in conflict:

1. To elect each individual MP with true *'democratic legitimacy'* (i.e. supported by a majority of voters); this is ensured by **PPR123** through its foundation on AV.
2. To elect a Parliament with the voting power that is a true reflection of the *'Will of the People'* (i.e. as expressed by their *'honest'* 1st-choice votes, with every vote counted—always); this is ensured by **PPR123** through *'proxy'* voting (i.e. with every Citizen's 1st-choice vote entrusted to an elected MP of that party, and all Citizens' votes cast by proxy with every vote in Parliament!)

What makes **PPR123** unique is that it's the only electoral system specifically designed to be scrupulously fair to all voters, all parties and all candidates—by perfectly meeting the challenge of *doing democracy right* (i.e. reflecting the *'true' Will of the People*) in both the election of the individual MP (i.e. local) and in the distribution of Parliamentary voting power across the assembly of all MPs (i.e. national or provincial) levels—with neither objective being compromised by the other.

- **PPR123** ensures that every elected MP is the *rightful* winner with the support of a *majority* of the electorate.
- **PPR123** ensures that every Citizen's 1st-choice vote is *uncoerced*—and *always* counts for that party, with *every* vote in Parliament.
- **PPR123** also ensures that every party always has voting power in Parliament exactly equal to the total votes received—by *all* of their *winning* and *losing* candidates.

By comparison: FPTP dismally fails the tests of true democracy at both the local and national levels;

AV by itself is perfectly democratic at the local level but very disproportionate and undemocratic at the national level;

standard PR systems are very undemocratic at the local level and only moderately ok at the national level (while introducing numerous problematic defects).

So what's the problem? **PPR123** is the one and only *'true'* solution. So all parties will surely recognize this and endorse **PPR123**—*right?*

Maybe—or maybe not.

The bigger problem probably is that the power brokers of most (maybe even all) parties almost certainly don't want ANY form of electoral reform (because it would likely be a threat to their power and control). So they might just agree to disagree on ANY form of electoral reform—as a way to preserve the status quo—if such a deception of the People's interest would go unchallenged.

Ultimately it will all depend on *leadership*. Any party leader—maybe even any Parliamentarian—could rise to the challenge of doing the *right* thing! Doing *right* by the People. Doing *right* by Canada and future generations. Doing *right* by Democracy!

Mr Prime Minister, the bully pulpit is yours. You are the man and now is the time. This is your time, and this is your great issue.

This is your special opportunity to stand up for the People—to do what's right for Canada, and indeed for the entire World of Democracy!

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.

PPS: Mandatory voting is undemocratic. Voter participation should increase under **PPR123**, given that every vote always counts!

Online voting should be implemented as soon as it's proven to be secure—probably within five to ten years. **PPR123** does use e-voting for Parliamentary voting, and would be very well suited to exciting innovations when public online voting becomes a reality.