



MAKE EVERY VOTE COUNT-ALWAYS!

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

CLARIFICATION OF PARLIAMENTARY VOTING UNDER PPR123

This is submitted to the **Special Committee on Electoral Reform (ERRE)** as a follow-up to questions raised by members at my presentation of **PPR123** on Sept.28 in Vancouver.

Specifically, there seemed to be a miscomprehension by some members regarding the rationale for the differentiated voting power of elected representatives, which some referred to as '*weighted voting*', apparently misunderstanding the essential importance of '*proxy voting*' in the realization of **Perfect Proportional Representation**. Under **PPR123**, the voting power in Parliament is derived directly from the People—through their uncoerced 1st-choice votes, assigned to an elected representative of that party, and thereafter cast as '*proxy*' votes with every vote in Parliament!

What truly sets **PPR123** apart from—and ethically above—all other voting systems is its solid foundation upon basic principles of Democracy:

1. '**Majority Rule**', based on a true expression of
2. '**The Will of the People**', as expressed through
3. '**The Primacy of the Citizen's Vote**', as the fundamental source and inextinguishable unitary measure of Democracy, from which all truly democratic power is derived.

The first two principles above have been recognized since the invention of Democracy by the ancient Athenians.

*'The Primacy of the Citizen's Vote', a logical extension of the first two principles, is proposed as a new basic principle of Democracy. It forms the conceptual foundation of **PPR123**—**Perfect Proportional Representation**. By contrast, other electoral systems waste countless Citizens' votes, and strip Citizens of their democratic right of vote equality by reserving this as an elite privilege of their elected representatives.*

*The power of **PPR123** comes from its foundation on two well established voting methods, the **Alternative Vote** and **Proxy voting**, which together enable the fulfillment of the basic principles of true democracy: **Majority Rule**, ensuring truly democratic legitimacy of all MPs; and **Perfect Proportional Representation** of the truly expressed '**Will of the People**'—thereby ensuring both the democratic legitimacy and equitability of the voting power of all parties in Parliament.*

Beyond this, even greater benefits can be achieved by leveraging the power of digital technology along with proxy voting to upgrade the quality and extent of Citizen participation, and thereby achieve more effective and balanced representation of demographic diversity.

PPR123—Perfect Proportional Representation! *This proud name was intentionally chosen to be both honestly descriptive and politically provocative, and to call upon the people of Canada and indeed the World to judge whether **PPR123** truly fulfills the promise of its name. Such positivity may seem 'un-Canadian'—but then again the World is our goal! Every democratic nation needs and deserves the best possible electoral system—and none of the existing systems can possibly fulfill the requirements and expectations of the 21st Century.*

The challenge to Canadians, and this government, is whether they have the will and self-assurance to assume a role of World leadership!

- Many reputed experts have stated that there's no *perfect* voting system; **PPR123** disputes such pessimistic and defeatist thinking.
 - All existing voting systems (FPTP, MMP, STV, AV) involve unfortunate tradeoffs with well-known defects.
 - Hence, we must look beyond them for a better solution.
 - It's time for democracy to be reinvented—utilizing the power of digital technology in the Information Age!
- Q: What elevates PPR123 above all existing voting systems?
A: Only **PPR123** can fulfill each of the essential criteria of true democracy:
 - (1) every elected representative has true democratic legitimacy as the '*rightful*' winner, supported by a *majority* of voters;
 - (2) the Parliamentary voting power of each party is always the direct expression of the true '*Will of the People*', specifically the *uncoerced 1st-choice preferences* (i.e. uncompromised by so-called '*strategic voting*') of all Citizens (with *no votes wasted*).
- The '*big idea*' that raises **PPR123** above and beyond other electoral systems is '*proxy*' voting, which is a universal standard practice borrowed from the world of corporate shareholder democracy. In a political democracy, each Citizen is an equal '*owner*' with one voting share. With **PPR123**, Parliamentary voting is transformed by basing it directly on the votes of all Citizens, through '*proxy*' voting by the elected representatives. Every Citizen's 'honest' 1st-choice vote is assigned to and held in trust by an elected representative of that party, and cast as a 'proxy' vote with every vote in Parliament!
 - Each elected representative is entrusted with every 1st-choice vote they personally received.
 - All 1st-choice votes for losing candidates are retained by the party and reassigned to an elected representative.
 - Some accommodation is necessary to avoid wasting votes for independent candidates and unrepresented parties.
 - **PPR123**, by automatically and perfectly adjusting to any population size, would facilitate future redistricting to more natural boundaries, and potentially also more equitable demographic representation (e.g. gender balance and diversity).

Some ERRE Members questioned the differentiated voting power of MPs from different parties under **PPR123**. Rather than this being thought of as ‘weighted’ voting, it should instead be seen as the perfectly democratic corrective that recovers all votes for the defeated candidates of each party (which non-PR systems simply discard as wasted votes—and—without the undemocratic flaws of other PR systems).

The following table “Analysis of 2015 Canadian Election: Represented vs Unrepresented Votes” clearly shows the enormous magnitude of the problems of ‘wasted’ votes and vote inequality under FPTP—with widely different impacts on the parties and their voters:

	BQ	Cons.	Green	Liberal	NDP	Total
Total elected MPs	10	99	1	184	44	338
Total votes for Party	818,652	5,600,496	605,864	6,930,136	3,461,262	17,416,410
Total represented votes (winners)	190,764	2,748,271	37,070	4,616,449	891,978	8,484,532
Total unrepresented votes (losers)	627,888	2,852,225	568,794	2,313,687	2,569,284	8,931,878
Percentage of votes represented	23%	49%	6%	67%	26%	48.7%
Percent of votes unrepresented	77%	51%	94%	33%	74%	51.3%
Average votes to elect one MP	81,865	56,571	605,864	37,664	78,665	51,528
Vote Inequality ratio	2.2	1.5	16.1	1.0	2.1	
<i>(i.e. the number of votes needed by each losing party to have voting power equivalent to 1 vote for the winning party)</i>						
Vote Proportion	4.7%	32.2%	3.5%	39.8%	19.9%	100.0%
Seats based on Vote Proportion	16	109	12	134	67	338
Seat count distortions due to FPTP	-6	-10	-11	50	-23	0

OBSERVATIONS:

- Only a minority (48.7%) of votes ‘counted’ (i.e. contributed to the election of the winners) in this election; a majority (51.3%) of votes were ‘wasted’ on defeated candidates—i.e. ‘thrown away’ by the FPTP voting system.
- Only the winning Liberal party had a *majority* of votes that counted (67%), yet even they had 2.3 million *wasted* votes.
- Even more votes for the NDP (2.5 million) and Conservatives (2.8 million) were wasted.
- As a percentage of votes, the Greens were by far the most victimized party—with 94% of their votes wasted; in terms of seats, the Greens were unjustly deprived of 11 of their proportionally fair share of 12, while the NDP were deprived of 23 out of 67.
- As a consequence of the ‘wasted votes’ for unelected candidates, there is substantial inequality and injustice to most parties and voters, as indicated in the table above by the Average Votes to elect one MP and Vote Inequality ratio for each party.

CONCLUSIONS:

- Far too little attention has been focused on the appalling and entirely avoidable democratic injustice and substantial distortion of the expressed ‘Will of the People’, caused by a voting system that brazenly ‘throws away’ all votes for defeated candidates (i.e. the ‘unrepresented’ votes, averaging 51.3% but even far worse for some parties); the identification and perfect rectification of this problem is one of the greatest contributions of **PPR123** to achieving the ideal of ‘true’ democracy.
- Truly democratic representative government can not be achieved simply by changing how the Citizens vote.
- Truly democratic representative government (with every Citizen’s uncoerced 1st-choice vote represented and counted equally with every vote in Parliament) can only be achieved by changing both how Citizens vote and how Parliament votes!
- **PPR123**, which eliminates ‘strategic voting’ and ‘wasted votes’, is based on the Alternative Vote by Citizens as well as Proxy Voting (i.e. of the entrusted votes of all Citizens) by Parliamentarians; it’s the ‘ideal’ electoral system that truly fulfills each of the basic principles of Democracy.
- **PPR123** presents ERRE with its own ‘Eureka moment’!
Please; no more looking backward to previous centuries in search of the best way to do voting in the Digital Age!

THE DIGITAL AGE IS TRANSFORMING MODERN LIFE AND PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS.

DEMOCRACY SHOULD BECOME DIGITALLY EMPOWERED TO BETTER SERVE ITS CITIZENS.

PPR123 would be impossible without computers (which could explain why it wasn't invented in previous centuries). With computers, one can count millions of Citizens' votes, cast as proxy votes by MPs, with every vote in Parliament.

Here's how proxy voting in Parliament might be implemented:

- MPs might cast their vote via cellphone or tablet computer, recorded on a computer under the Speaker's control (probably replicated on authorized computers controlled by each party)
- the **PPR123** proxy votes of all MPs (with reassignment for absent MPs) would be tallied by the computer(s)
- the proxy vote totals could be converted by computer into proportionally equivalent numbers of seats
- the Parliamentary vote of record might remain expressed as numbers of seats
 - hence, some provinces could choose to vote under **PPR123** and others could use another voting system (i.e. with one-MP=one-vote), as might arise from referendum results or constitutional considerations

PPR123 could become the catalyst for the implementation of secure and verifiable online voting.

- As with online banking, online voting should be available to all Citizens via cell phone or personal computer. This would make voting much easier and more convenient, which should increase Citizen participation.
- For those who don't have a cell phone or PC, local voting centres (perhaps schools or libraries?) could provide online access (with technical assistance) via PC.
- The digital infrastructure for elections (databases, software, administrative controls) could also be used for Citizen engagement (e.g. public opinion polling or referenda).
- This digital infrastructure for federal elections could also be used for provincial elections.
- Citizens could review their voting records online at any time, ensuring public confidence and data validation.

PPR123 also provides unique opportunities to achieve more effective representation, with little or no increase in the number of MPs, specifically: to have smaller ridings in Canada's vast sparsely populated areas; and to design an electoral system that gives much more balanced representation in Canada's challenge of demographic diversity.

- Parties with fewer than 3 elected representatives that achieve a minimum threshold of votes (e.g. 3%) should have up to 3 'At-Large' appointed representatives (e.g. their candidates with the most votes).
- **PPR123**, with every vote counted equally, removes the need for ridings to have similar populations.
- Many seats in urban areas could be much more effectively used by being redistributed to improve regional and demographic representation (n.b. only **PPR123** could provide such benefits without increasing the number of MPs, and while fulfilling the highest democratic standards of *Perfect Proportional Representation*, voter equality and democratic legitimacy of all MPs).
- The recommendation is that there should be no riding changes for the 2019 election; but subject to Citizen approval of **PPR123** and proxy voting in Parliament, it is recommended that Elections Canada should undertake major redistricting for the following general election in 2023:
 - reduce riding sizes in sparsely populated remote areas
 - establish more natural boundaries
 - within urban areas, combine multiple ridings into electoral districts of two to seven seats, and designate equal numbers of seats to be contested only by male or female candidates, and one or more seats contested only by candidates representing demographic minorities.
 - under **PPR123** with online voting, Citizens within an urban electoral district could vote in whichever riding they chose; it wouldn't matter how many votes were in each riding as, under **PPR123**, every vote counts equally for the chosen party, and every MP would be elected under *majority rule* (AV).

PPR123 fulfills each of the essential qualities of true Democracy, both individually and collectively:

- (1) every elected representative has true '*democratic legitimacy*' based on the criterion of '*Majority Rule*';
- (2) the body of elected representatives ensures that the '*Will of the People*' is served through '*Perfect Proportional Representation*' with every vote in Parliament.