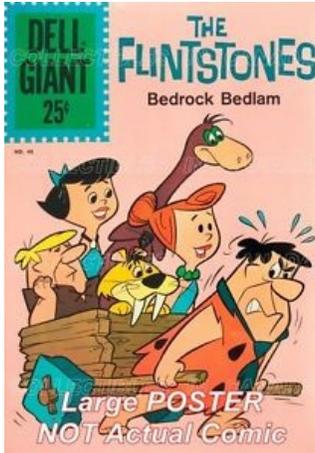




# MAKE EVERY VOTE COUNT—ALWAYS!

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

## THE EVOLUTION OF VOTING SYSTEMS



**FPTP**



**MMP / STV**



**PPR123**

Thanks to **Fred Flintstone** and the comic strip artists for these inspiring images depicting **the evolution of the wheel**—from square to circular—a testament to the insight of humanity, and continual striving for perfection, as exemplified by Fred! By analogy, these images generally seem to parallel **the evolution of voting systems**, as suggested by each of the captions!

*As a rather amazing and perhaps amusing piece of trivia, the following link shows how some math students have demonstrated that a square-wheeled vehicle could actually work surprisingly well—with a suitably shaped road surface (see video):*

<https://mathproblems123.wordpress.com/2010/11/06/catenary-amazing-properties/>

OK! This is about the evolution of voting systems. Not a topic that's easy to present in an engaging way.

Is there really such a thing as *'the evolution of voting systems'*? Of course—nothing is ever perfect—everything can always be improved—human ingenuity never stops. Evolution is the process of progress—that which is *better* survives, superseding what was *best* before. Darwin was right!

Everything has a *'best before'* date. And for Canada's First-Past-the-Post (FPTP) electoral system, the *'expiry date'* is now! Indeed, the ERRE Special Committee on Electoral reform is mandated to officially expire FPTP with its recommendation of the new electoral system to be used in our 2019 election.

FPTP is the electoral system that has lingered on from Canada's colonial past. It's still used in the UK, the USA and Canada. But it has been abandoned long ago by most of the rest of the world, including most other former British colonies (e.g. Australia, New Zealand, Ireland and Scotland etc.).

From the 18<sup>th</sup> to the early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries, considerable progress was made in the study and design of electoral systems, driven by the goal of making them more truly democratic and representative. They all struggled with the challenge of providing a pragmatic approximation to the ideal goal of **Proportional Representation (PR)**.

The ERRE Committee is guided by the election promise to "Make Every Vote Count". This implies some form of PR. But there are various forms of PR, so the question is **'Which is the best form of PR'?**

Before the computer age, the best form of PR was the Single Transferable Vote (**STV**). Previously, Mixed Member Proportional (**MMP**) held that distinction. While MMP remains more widely used than STV, when these two alternatives were shortlisted and carefully examined by the BC Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform (160 randomly selected citizens, half female, who spent a full year 2004-5 studying the options, with full academic support and over 1,600 written submissions from around the world), they chose STV over MMP by an 80% to 20% margin (even though a majority initially thought MMP would probably be the best choice). [They also chose STV over FPTP by 93% to 7%.]

The BCCA recommendation of STV over MMP was based mainly on the fact that STV gave voters more choice and power, whereas MMP gave more power and control to the political parties. Unfortunately, the complexity of STV left it vulnerable to baseless criticisms by opponents of electoral reform (led stealthily by political backroom operatives of various political parties). [Even though the 2005 referendum on STV was supported by more than 57% of BC citizens (with a majority in 97% of the ridings), it was declared defeated by the government that had arbitrarily set 60% as the requirement for change.]

So the picture is clear. MMP is vastly superior to FPTP. STV is clearly superior to MMP. But all forms of PR invented prior to the computer age suffer from multiple well-known flaws (as detailed in other documents on [www.ppr123.ca](http://www.ppr123.ca)).

Fortunately, we're now in the computer age—which has given rise to a new and objectively superior alternative called **PPR123 (Perfect Proportional Representation)**. Is **PPR123** really *'perfect'*? Not likely—history will undoubtedly show that evolutionary improvement is always possible; however, in comparison with prior forms of PR, the claim that it's *'perfect'* can be well substantiated.

Based on the first principles of democracy, 'Majority Rule' and the 'Will of the People', PPR123 is a 'hybrid' solution designed to perfectly fulfill each of the two conflicting requirements of a truly democratic electoral system:

1. In every riding, the elected representative should be the *rightful* winner (i.e. with true *'democratic legitimacy'*) supported by a *majority* of voters.
2. In Parliament, the voting power of every party should be a perfect reflection of the expressed 'Will of the People' based directly on their *true* 1<sup>st</sup>-choice votes (i.e. uncoerced by so-called *'strategic voting'* that's common in other systems) of *all* voters.

**PPR123** is the only voting system that truly (i.e. *literally*) fulfills the promise to *"Make Every Vote Count"*—by addressing each of these independent requirements separately—enabling both to be achieved perfectly, without compromise.

1. In every riding, the rightful winner is determined by the **Alternative Vote (AV)**, the electoral foundation of **PPR123**. Voters rank their top three choices as **1-2-3**. The votes are counted; the bottom candidate is eliminated, and those votes go to each voter's next choice, until the winner is elected with a majority. This ensures that all 1<sup>st</sup>-choice votes are *honest* votes for each voter's *true* preference (i.e. no need for *'strategic voting'* for the *'lesser of evils'*).
2. In Parliament, every party's voting power is directly derived from—and exactly equal to—all 1<sup>st</sup>-choice votes received by all of their candidates. Votes for *'losing'* candidates are retained by each party and reassigned to an elected representative. Some special accommodations would be provided for votes for small parties and independent candidates. **No Citizen's vote is ever wasted**—and *all* Citizens' votes are *always* cast, as *'proxy'* votes by an elected representative of that party, and *always* counted with *every* vote in Parliament.

Proxy voting (by representatives)—based upon honest voting (by Citizens)—with no votes ever wasted—are the three essential features of **PPR123** that enable it to surpass all other voting systems.

- Proxy voting has long been used in corporate shareholder democracy [in a political democracy, every Citizen is an equal 'owner' with one voting share].
- AV has been used in Australia for almost a century, and its iterative process of elimination is used in electing the leaders of all political parties.
- Hence, each of the electoral components of **PPR123** has long been used—to the point where no one would seriously propose anything else (i.e. where the importance and power of leadership and money are at stake). So, while **PPR123** is an innovative form of PR for electoral democracy, its elements are thoroughly proven and accepted as the most appropriate—indeed the only *'right'* way to do serious elections.

Counting millions of Citizens' votes (perfectly and immediately), with every vote in Parliament, is no problem for computers, but simply not feasible without computers—which is probably why **PPR123** wasn't invented centuries ago.