



MAKE EVERY VOTE COUNT-ALWAYS!

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

Open Letter #3 Re Electoral Reform: Mr. Prime Minister, Greatness is within your Grasp !

On Electoral Reform, different Parties have expressed different preferences:

1. Ranked ballots.
2. Proportional Representation.
3. A Referendum for public approval.

And the best choice is all three!!! With "PPR123", all of the Parties—and the People—will be winners!!!

Mr. Prime Minister, this is your moment of truth. This may well define the historical image of your leadership.

Your Minister of Democratic Institutions, apparently under some unidentified party manipulation, has allowed her reputation and yours to become jeopardized. However, it's not too late for you to exercise true leadership to salvage the situation by standing true to your word, by adopting the best plan to fulfill your promise of electoral reform before the 2019 election.

Minister Monsef was superficially correct in criticizing her ERRE Committee for failing to produce a clear recommendation. But she must bear full ministerial responsibility for her failure to ensure that her committee would fulfill their mandate and her expectations.

The ERRE Committee worked long and hard to find the best electoral alternative. But they failed in their deliberations—and it became clear that all members let themselves be manipulated into putting their party's interests ahead of the People's interests. The travesty of a Majority Report which was so indecisive, along with two Minority Reports that were internally contradictory, was unworthy of any political committee, much less the one established to determine the best way to conduct fair and truly democratic elections.

It was appropriate for the Minister to scorn the Committee's "**Recommendation 1**", especially as related to the "**Gallagher Index**":

"Recommendation 1: The Committee recommends that the Government should, as it develops a new electoral system, use the Gallagher index in order to minimize the level of distortion between the popular will of the electorate and the resultant seat allocations in Parliament. The Government should seek to design a system that achieves a Gallagher score of 5 or less."

What possessed the Committee to make such a problematic and absurd recommendation? One must question whether its purpose was to cause the resulting confusion and public disillusionment—as prelude to the disintegration of the electoral reform initiative. All Committee members must have well understood this—especially knowing that, from the outset, there was at least one party firmly committed to preventing any electoral reform.

The most obvious absurdity in the Committee's recommendation is that it should call upon the Government to perform the task which the Government had formed the Committee to perform—i.e. to "develop a new electoral system". The second absurdity is that Parliament and the People should be confronted with the impossible mathematical challenge (for non-mathematicians) of trying to understand the incomprehensible "**Gallagher Index**".

The Gallagher Index, made famous by the majority and minority reports of this Committee, is a mathematical statistic that gives some unintelligible measure of the overall distortions of an electoral system—but it's not a measure that can be easily comprehended in specific terms such as numbers of seats. The Liberal members of the Committee were poised to expose the sheer nonsense of this in their minority report:

"We believe the utility of the Gallagher Index, referenced in the Majority Report (MR), was not sufficiently borne out in testimony. This Index was only discussed by one of the 196 witnesses who presented before the Committee ... It is worth noting that the creator of the Gallagher Index, Professor Michael Gallagher, had previously testified before the Committee, yet failed to discuss his own Index.

...

[We] believe that the implications of achieving a score of 5 or less on the Gallagher Index, as recommended in the MR, would need to be further studied, understood, and presented to Canadians

...

We believe most Canadians would not want their future electoral system decided solely on the basis of a complex mathematical equation.”

Hence, the sole criterion specified by the Committee for the Government to use in its evaluation of electoral systems—a measure of their systemic distortion—is something only discussed by one proponent, something that the Committee itself did not actually understand (despite the importance they attached to it, and all the time and expertise available to their studies), and something Gallagher did not even mention in his testimony!?!)

Mr. Prime Minister, it is your good fortune that there is a silver lining to these clouds of confusion. Rather than wrestling with the Gallagher Index to measure the distortions of electoral alternatives suggested by the Committee, they’ve given you the freedom to choose an alternative that they overlooked—a ‘made-in-Canada’ solution which has ZERO distortion by design! It’s called “**PPR123**” (Perfect Proportional Representation)! Also, based on concerns expressed by some Committee members when it was presented to them (by Jeff Jewell of Mission BC), it was extended to “**PPR123+**” (i.e. Perfect Proportional Representation + Balanced Representation).

PPR123 is a hybrid electoral system that uses a preferential ballot (**AV**—to ensure true ‘democratic legitimacy’ of all elected MPs) combined with **Proxy Voting** in Parliament—where the Parliamentary voting power of each party is directly derived from and precisely equal to all of their 1st-choice votes! Hence, ZERO distortion of the true ‘Will of the People’—as honestly expressed through their uncoerced 1st-choice vote (the reason for using AV).

Further, concerning public approval, the implementation plan recommended to the Committee also eliminates any time pressures. We recommended that the Government adopt “PPR123+” subject to its approval in a referendum conducted coincident with the 2019 election, which would give plenty of time for a thorough public information campaign. The key requirement would be for the Government to first enact AV as the voting system to be used for the 2019 election.

Hence, the referendum question would be whether Citizens wanted their own 1st-choice votes to become the basis of all voting in Parliament (i.e. through Proxy Voting, with every vote entrusted to and cast by an MP)—or—would they want all Citizens’ votes to be thrown away (as presently), leaving each MP with just their own single vote! We believe that the Citizens of Canada would well understand that choice—and we Canadians, under your leadership, would set the world standard for Democracy in the 21st Century!

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. Please see our website for extensive analysis of **PPR123** as well as other voting systems:

<http://www.ppr123.ca>