



MAKE EVERY VOTE COUNT-ALWAYS!

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

OPEN LETTER #4 TO THE PRIME MINISTER RE ELECTORAL REFORM

Mr. Prime Minister, your decision to abandon electoral reform is unacceptable.

Mr. Prime Minister, the future of Canada's democracy—and legacy of your leadership—are now at great risk.

With all due respect, **your unilateral decision to abandon electoral reform** is not just an enormous mistake—which you now have the duty to correct—it **is simply unacceptable—because it is not democratically legitimate.**

Even worse, your assertion that *"this was my choice to make"* is effectively an expression of contempt for both the authority of Parliament and Democracy itself. This typifies the dictatorial arrogance that appears to have become rooted in the office of the Prime Minister, under whichever party and leader—and, by extension, in the PMO (Prime Minister's Office). It seems that Canada's Parliament and its People cannot rid themselves of such bullying behaviour—apparently not even when an unpopular autocratic regime is swept out by one that so clearly and repeatedly promised to deliver both electoral reform and *true* integrity.

The abandonment of your seemingly heart-felt promises of electoral reform—to **"make every vote count"** and to **implement a new voting system for the 2019 election**—is particularly unacceptable from a leader of a *'false majority'* Government that has 100% of the power based on a vote-share of only 39%.

Your promise of electoral reform was made when your party languished in third-place—which made you and your party acutely aware—as victims—of the gross distortions of our existing "First-Past-the-Post" (FPTP) voting system, which had unfairly deprived your party of about 24 earned seats in the 2011 election (i.e. based on vote-share). However, when FPTP distortions in 2015 unfairly deprived *other* parties—and gave *your* party an unearned bonus of about 50 seats (with many of those seats taken from the NDP—from which your party had also taken its promise of electoral reform), those injustices were quite acceptable to you. Subsequently, you and your PMO evidently decided—as widely predicted by cynical political practitioners and pundits—that it would be politically less costly for you and your party to break your promise, rather than to fulfill it.

This betrayal of your own principles and solemn promise is ethically deplorable. But it is the utter lack of democratic legitimacy that makes this so entirely unacceptable.

The most fundamental principle of Democracy is ***'Majority Rule'***. Hence, **the essential criterion for 'democratic legitimacy'** is the support of a *majority* (i.e. at least 50%+1) of the voters.

It's well recognized that your Government—just as its predecessor and most prior governments of Canada—cannot be said to have 'democratic legitimacy'. That's not to say that Canada's governments have been illegitimate—but rather that **FPTP, in elections with more than two parties, consistently fails to elect MPs and governments which can truly claim to have 'democratic legitimacy'**. [Only 131 of this Parliament's 338 MPs (i.e. just 39%) actually attained 'democratic legitimacy' with the support of a majority of voters.]

Deprived of a fair electoral system [e.g. "PPR123+"]—i.e. one that would ensure the 'democratic legitimacy' of all MPs, and give each party precisely the Parliamentary voting power that it actually earned (i.e. based on vote-share)—Canadians have been subjected under FPTP to **endless 'Minority Rule' by the duopoly party** (i.e. the winning faction of the 'two-party system')—flip-flopping between the Liberals and Conservatives. And if that winner obtains a majority of seats (as is usual under FPTP—typically with about 39% vote-share), they have no need to moderate their agenda to attract any opposition support.

Hence, such **'false majority' governments are illegitimately empowered under FPTP to operate as quasi-dictatorships run by the PM/PMO**—with strict party discipline that turns their caucus of *'back-benchers'* into glorified *'rubber stamps'*—and with an opposition that is powerless to hold them accountable.

Under FPTP, Canada's 'democracy' can be explained as the 'game' of party politics—played as follows:

- *For MPs:* first get the party's nomination; then get elected; then climb the party ladder—where party loyalty is rewarded, and independent thinking is punished; then get re-nominated and re-elected.
- *For the political parties:* make promises designed to elect as many MPs as possible; gain power—especially to become the Government; serve the interests of party patrons; try to fool the public into believing that their interests are being served; fool the public into believing that this is 'democracy'.

Elections provide the one chance for the People to express their interests—and hopefully elect an MP and a Government that serves their interests. The electoral system has enormous (and largely unrecognized) impact in shaping the alignment of political parties, the outcomes of elections, and how the game of politics is played.

As an objective outline of the dysfunctionality and blatant phoniness of democracy under FPTP, this explains why electoral reform is so crucially important to the future of Canada's so-called democracy. And the urgency of Canada's needed electoral reform—as well as other democratic reforms—has been clearly demonstrated—indeed exemplified—by your unilateral decision to abandon electoral reform, your cavalier announcement of that decision, and your sequence of disingenuous attempts to rationalize that unworthy decision.

At this point, we still want to believe that your promises of electoral reform were sincerely made—with a sincere personal intention to fulfill them. However, while we were quite amazed that the duopoly party bosses allowed you to make such promises, it's sadly not surprising that they evidently found a way to pressure you into abandoning them—which is both disgusting and absolutely unacceptable.

This situation should now be recognized as the defining moment and the pivotal issue that will determine the public image of your leadership as Prime Minister—as well as your legacy in the democratic history of Canada.

As PM, you must now decide whether you will reverse your reversal on electoral reform—and stand with the People—as their true champion and defender of Democracy. Or will you instead continue to stand with the PMO and the duopoly party bosses—as overlords of the People and the historical enemies of true Democracy?

You may be troubled that it's normally not seen as 'Prime Ministerial' to reverse oneself on a major decision pronouncement. However, in this case, there is great upside growth potential for you—both as a person and as a leader—by moving from a decision that is democratically *illegitimate* and ethically *Wrong* to doing what is only *Right*—from *standing against* the People to *standing up for* the People—from presiding over a fraudulent form of democracy to delivering *true* democracy.

By rising to the challenge and fulfilling your promises, your personal integrity and political courage would be widely recognized and democratically rewarded by the People—as well as being greatly appreciated and admired by future generations of Canadians.

And with a truly fair electoral system, **Canada's reformed democracy can become a model for the world!**

Sincerely,

Jeff & Diana Jewell
Mission BC, Canada

PS: While the authors strongly believe that "**PPR123+**" ("Perfect Proportional Representation" plus balanced representation) would be the best electoral reform alternative, we would extend our full support to whichever electoral reform is chosen. Please see our website for extensive analysis of **PPR123** and other voting systems:

<http://www.ppr123.ca>