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Electoral Justice Now!

Liberating Democracy from an unjust electoral system, to better reflect and serve the 'Will of the People'!

EJN Newsletter #1: Announcing 'Electoral Justice Now!'

Sept. 18, Victoria BC. The public announcement of ***Electoral Justice Now!***, a newly formed group to advocate for “***Electoral Justice Now!***”, was made by its founders, *Jeff & Diana Jewell* of Mission BC, at the Victoria PR Townhall meeting.

Organized by Fair Vote Canada (FVC), this meeting was the first public opportunity to discuss the 2018 BC referendum on Proportional Representation (PR), a campaign promise by both BC's new NDP government and the Green party. The meeting featured opening statements by the PR representatives of the three parties: *Leonard Krog* (NDP), *Sonia Furstenau* (Green) and *Andrew Wilkinson* (Liberal).

Terry Dance Bennink spoke on behalf of FVC, outlining their commitment to work with others to ensure a successful referendum result. She also stated that FVC was open to any form of PR, and would not advocate a particular alternative.

Jeff Jewell made a similar commitment on behalf of ***Electoral Justice Now!*** (EJN), adding that its primary focus will be on exposing the many injustices of our present voting system, 'First-Past-The-Post' (FPTP). EJN's goal is to raise public awareness of FPTP's wide range of undemocratic outcomes and their consequences, and to explain why electoral justice is achievable only with PR.

Secondly, EJN will endeavor to frame the referendum debate on 'Justice' (based on PR) vs 'Injustice' (FPTP)—rather than getting trapped into trying to explain confusing details of voting systems to a public that has little or no interest in the subject. EJN also intends to 'call out' the political partisans behind the NO side, whose proven strategies of disinformation and negative campaigning are designed to exploit both the vulnerabilities of the standard PR systems as well as public apathy and anxiety.

Jewell noted that EJN has developed what they believe to be a far better and simpler form of PR, called '**PerfectPR**', which would avoid the weaknesses and corresponding vulnerabilities of the standard forms of PR. However, he stressed that EJN is committed to advocating for whichever form of PR is chosen.

Jewell strongly recommended that the selection process should clearly identify the weaknesses of each alternative, and that their vulnerabilities to anticipated NO campaigns should be factored into the decision process.

Jewell also suggested that an appropriate referendum question might be:

“Do you want a new PR electoral system that guarantees 'Justice' (i.e. every vote counts) or do you want to stick with the old system that guarantees 'Injustice' (by wasting about half the votes)?”

Approximately 200 people attended this meeting, which included a lengthy Q&A session.

Electoral Justice Now will provide detailed analysis of party positions and referendum issues throughout the campaign.