



# Electoral Justice Now!

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

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## EJN Newsletter #4: 'Core-PPR', the first stage of 'PracticalPR'!

### **Electoral Justice Now raises two important Questions of Principle:**

1. Whose vote should be the **fundamental unit** of **Democracy**:  
the **Citizen's vote** or the **Representative's vote**?
2. Whose votes should be counted in the legislature:  
**every Representative's single vote**—or—**every single Citizen's vote**?

*Why are there so many different voting systems? Why so much complexity?*

Most Citizens don't want to have to think about voting systems. They just want a voting system that's fair to all voters and parties. And they want it to be as simple as possible.

'**Core-PPR**' is what they've wanted all along—which hasn't been available—until now!

What is **Core-PPR**? It's the basic set of core features of '**PracticalPR**' (PPR) that ensure *perfect proportionality*—which no other form of Proportional Representation (PR) can do.

What is **PracticalPR**? It's a *flexible* and *customizable* electoral system built upon Core-PPR, supplemented by a set of *optional* enhancements which are designed as remedies for various practical issues with election results. Such as:

- Stability of a minority government (PR eliminates '*false-majority*' governments).
- Additional regional representatives be added to address the problems of polarization and under-representation.
- 'At-Large' representation to provide representation for those votes for Independents and/or small parties that didn't elect any representatives.

All of the optional enhancements (about a dozen so far) deserve careful consideration. But none are essential, and some would raise questions that might confuse some voters.

By contrast, Core-PPR provides *perfect proportionality*, and facilitates a perfectly clear and simple referendum choice based on principle (with no need to understand voting systems):

### **WHICH SYSTEM SHOULD BE USED FOR VOTING IN THE LEGISLATURE?**

**A.** Do you want to **change** how voting is done in the legislature, to produce perfectly proportional representation, **by using the votes of all Citizens?**

---OR---

**B.** Do you want to **retain** the existing voting system in the legislature, that uses only the single vote of each Representative, which is a disproportional distortion that is typically based on **only about half of the Citizens' votes?**

Every previous referendum on some form of PR has only succeeded in producing headaches for voters and heartaches for the proponents of PR. Why? Because all of the standard PR systems suffer from various forms of complexity and defects—making them highly vulnerable to the negative campaigns run by the opponents of PR.

The NO campaign is always masterminded by a moonlighting bunch of political pros (i.e. the beneficiaries of the many electoral injustices of our 18th Century made-in-England voting system, called First-Past-The-Post or FPTP). These are the evil geniuses of negative campaigning, and they know exactly how to attack the defects of each of the standard forms of PR—with devious arguments spreading fear, uncertainty and doubt amongst the majority of disinterested and confused voters.

We've seen this disheartening Electoral Reform movie too many times before, and so far the script and outcomes have always been the same.

***Electoral Justice Now*** is a newly formed organization to advocate for PR. We will work for the adoption of whatever form of PR is chosen for BC's 2018 Referendum on PR.

But first we will strongly advocate for Core-PPR to be selected for the referendum, with our proposed question based on principle (*'The Primacy of the Citizen's Vote'*)—which does not require a voter to know anything about any voting system.

Core-PPR is completely fair to all voters (urban and rural), and to all political parties and their supporters—since every vote everywhere always counts equally.

Core-PPR would *not* change the ridings, and would *not* change how Citizens vote, or how their local Representative is elected, or their accountability to the electorate.

**Core-PPR would change only one thing—whose votes are counted in the legislature.**

Core-PPR, and the referendum on PR, are all and only about one thing—Political POWER!

Core-PPR would give the vote of each Citizen the power it should always have had (by contrast, about half of all votes are effectively 'thrown away' by FPTP). And Core-PPR does this by recapturing the power that's always unjustly given to the governing party by FPTP distortions (in violation of the expressed *'will of the People'*). The normal result of an FPTP election is a 'false-majority' government—with 100% of the power based on less than 50% of the votes (often less than 40%). Worse, a 'false-majority' usually results in a quasi-dictatorship where all power resides in the Premier's Office, enabling the 'backroom boys' to do backroom deals with their patrons and special friends—the lobbyists.

Core-PPR is simply much too important to the future of democracy in BC (and Canada) to jeopardize losing it in a referendum by combining it with complicating factors.

*Hence, for these practical considerations (i.e. to minimize changes and to make the referendum as clear and simple as possible), it's recommended that PPR should be implemented in two stages—with the initial implementation limited to Core-PPR—and other PPR options carefully considered for implementation in a second stage.*

{Refer to "[Announcing PracticalPR](#)" for more details.}