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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 #6: PracticalPR's surprise advantages!

PPR is both 'geography neutral' and 'population neutral'!

PracticalPR (PPR) was conceived to achieve one specific goal—the goal of **perfectly proportional representation**—i.e. a balance of voting power in the legislature that's a perfectly proportional representation of the 'will of the People', as expressed by their total votes for each party! And PPR achieves this goal of perfection through the only possible way to do so—i.e. proxy voting in the legislature, based directly on the Citizens' votes.

But there's more to balanced representation than perfect overall proportionality by parties. Ideally there should also be balance by party within each region. And balance by gender, age, diversity and other demographic criteria are also important objectives.

Clearly some imbalances in election results are inevitable—as Citizens cannot possibly distribute themselves geographically so as to simultaneously produce political as well as several dimensions of demographic balance. Hence, it's a major advancement in electoral democracy to have the flexibility to remedy the imbalances in representation that naturally occur—without changing the political balance of power. And PPR is also the only electoral system with a perfect score on this criterion!

With PPR, it's possible to add any reasonable number of 'At-large' or 'regional' seats to provide more balanced representation—without impacting its perfect proportionality. This is because, under PPR, the voting power of each party in the legislature depends only on the total number of votes it received—not on its number of Representatives.

Under PPR, voting in the legislature is not based on each Representative's single vote—but rather on the number of Citizen's votes entrusted to them. The large reservoir of votes for all defeated candidates are retained by each party, and equitably reassigned among their Representatives (hence, adding regional seats only changes the reassignment of votes within a party—and not the total votes of any party).

Politically, the most serious imbalances are high levels of regional polarization and under-representation due to electoral distortion. With PPR, it's recommended that a legislature should objectively review the results after each election—to determine the appropriate number and allocation of additional seats for more balanced representation—according to a set of pre-established rules. Also, it's recommended that these seats should be filled by the top candidate of that party in the region, with consideration of demographic factors.

Hence, a major collateral benefit is **PPR's flexibility to provide much more balanced representation** through the addition of a comparatively small number of 'regional' seats, which could be done as a decision of the legislature without impacting the political balance of power. [EJN Newsletter #5](#) presented an example based on the BC2017 election with 10 regional seats added for balanced representation, with the following benefits:

- Both Government and Official Opposition would have representation from all regions.
- The Green party would become considerably more effective, with representation more commensurate to their vote-share—their average votes per seat would be 33,239 (now 110,796), much closer to the two major parties (about 18,000 each).
- Better demographic representation.

Of course different regions could well be established under PPR, and it might be better to allocate more than one additional seat per region for more balanced representation.

It will be a great democratic advance to escape the shackles of so-called 'rep-by-pop', and the +/-25% rule that is significantly exceeded where needed. These are manifestations of the fundamental limitations and misguidedness of seat based political power, and they run right through the existing electoral map.

Regarding rural voting power, it's presumed that each party would probably want to assign equal voting power to each Representative. This can easily be accomplished by differential reassignment of the votes for defeated candidates—such that each Representative would hold the same number of proxy votes. In particular, this would ensure that the rural and urban Representatives of each party would have equal voting power—as has always been the case. [Of course the proxy votes held by Representatives of different parties would perfectly offset their degree of under-representation or over-representation.]

PPR also offers other significant yet unexpected advantages:

- **PPR is 'geography neutral'**—i.e. **every vote always counts equally**.
 - Urban and rural votes are always equal.
 - **Riding boundaries cannot impact voting power in the legislature** (i.e. no 'gerrymandering' effect—whether intentional or unintentional).
 - All votes count equally—even in 'safe seats'—and no vote is ever 'wasted'. Hence, every Citizen has an equally good reason to vote!
- **PPR is 'population neutral'**.
 - **No need to ever add seats or change riding boundaries** due to population change.
 - No constraint to design electoral districts to equalize their populations.

Notes:

- *The BC legislature has added 30 seats in the last 34 years due to population growth, which is projected to continue increasing at the same or higher rate over the next 25 years.*
- *Hence, a one-time increase of about 10 seats for more balanced representation would be well justified—especially given that **PPR would eliminate the need for any future increase in seats due to population growth.** Over the long term, this might be the greatest advantage of PPR!*
- *A one-time redistricting is recommended—to align with natural boundaries and make better use of seats—by freeing up some urban seats for more balanced representation (maybe also reduce some rural riding sizes).*

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