



Electoral Justice Now!

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

©2017 ElectoralJusticeNow.ca

EJN Newsletter #9: Announcing the “*Simpler PR is Better*” Campaign!

- **Why are voting systems so difficult for most people to understand?**
- **Why should the people ever need to know anything about any voting system?**
- **Why are there so many different voting systems?**
- **Why is our voting system so unfair, and why is electoral reform such a partisan issue?**
- **Why are BC voters being dragged through this for the third time since 2005?**

Most people never want to think about voting systems. They don't want to make confusing choices between them. They just want a voting system that's fair to all voters and parties, and it should be as simple as possible.

Most Canadians know that our 'First-Past-The-Post' (FPTP) voting system is unfair to voters and parties, which is why it has been rejected by Australia, New Zealand and the entire non-English speaking world. Everyone also knows it forces many of us to vote for a party we don't really want, as our best defense against getting another party that we really don't want as government. And the reason for such 'strategic voting' is that all votes for losing candidates (about half of the votes) are effectively thrown away by FPTP.

Most Citizens see this as a serious defect of FPTP, and they understand that this is what Proportional Representation (PR) is designed to fix. **The goal of PR is to make every vote count.** But until now there has been no PR system that can truly make every vote count. And all of the standard forms of PR come with imperfections and complexity. That's why there are so many complicated PR alternative voting systems.

Electoral reform is such a partisan issue because FPTP is so unfair. FPTP distortions always give the winners a major unearned advantage by equally disadvantaging losers. Parties that are the usual winners under FPTP never want to lose that winner's bonus (routinely resulting in 'false-majority' governments with far less than 50% vote-share), whereas FPTP's usual victims only want a system that's fair. That's why Liberals fiercely oppose PR, while the NDP and Greens have called for PR. It's also political payback for the Greens, who demanded the PR referendum in their agreement to support the NDP.

BC's NDP government has revealed its plan for a limited form of public consultation before their cabinet decides the PR alternative(s) and question(s) for their PR Referendum in Nov. 2018. The types of PR, and questions posed in their online survey, exhibit the mind-numbing PR complexity that most people don't understand or care about.

Electoral Justice Now (EJN) is a new organization advocating for a simpler form of PR (called '**Simpler-PR**'), and a simpler referendum question, which have so far been ignored by the political parties and other PR advocacy groups. Nonetheless, EJN is confident that it can play a positive role in moving BC and Canada forward with its simpler PR solution and simpler referendum campaign, which are fair to all parties and voters everywhere. It would give us a much better chance to win the referendum!

Electoral Justice Now is proud to announce its “***Simpler PR is Better***” campaign!

It's based on the premise that:

'No Citizen should ever need to know anything about any voting system but they should be assured that their voting system truly **'makes every vote count—equally'!**

Our proposed '**Simpler is Better**' Referendum question would call on the Government to:

"Make every vote count, equally and always, with every vote in the legislature—**without changing anything else**".

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**?

While there's no need for Citizens to understand how '**Simpler-PR**' can be accomplished, many people would probably like to know. Here's how it works:

- **Make the Citizen's vote** (not the Representative's vote) the **basic unit of voting in the legislature**.
- Each party's voting power in the legislature would come directly from (and be equal to) their total number of Citizen's votes, including votes for defeated candidates (that are always thrown away under FPTP). These votes would be equally distributed amongst their Representatives.
- In the legislature, each Representative's vote would be automatically converted by computer into their assigned number of Citizen's votes.
- **Perfect proportionality** is automatic, based on total Citizen's votes for each party.
- **No need to change the ridings or voting procedures**.
Absolutely fair to all voters (rural and urban), as well as all parties and incumbents.

With Citizen approval, the “**Simpler PR is Better**” campaign should send a clear message to the Government: **'Just do it' — 'Just make every vote count—equally'!**

And just do it the simpler, better and obvious way—**by assigning each Citizen's vote to an elected Representative of their chosen party**—without changing the ridings, or how people vote, or accountability of local representatives!

This isn't the track the Government is now on. So, if we want to save ourselves from all the nasty fighting about political motives and problems with other forms of PR, '**we the People**' need to rise up and take control by rallying around the “**Simpler PR is Better**” campaign!

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