

# A Proposal for Proportional Representation for the Government of Canada Submitted by Ross Hermiston

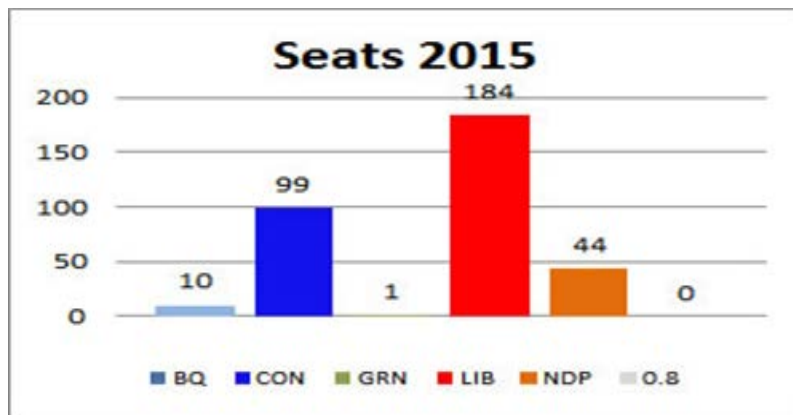
As a citizen, I am delighted that I am invited to participate in making recommendations for a form of proportional representation. I am also pleased the Minister of Democratic Institutions Ms. Maryam Monsef has stated that Canada can do better than the present first past the post system (FPTP) and she is open-minded with ‘no preconceived notion’ of the best system.<sup>i</sup>

Over 90 countries around the world use a proportional voting system, including 85% of OECD countries such as Germany, New Zealand, Sweden, and Denmark. Mixed Member Proportional Representation, (MMPR) Single Transferable Vote (STV), Alternative Vote (AV), (also known as Instant Runoff Voting, Preferential Voting, Ranked Choice Voting or Ranked Ballot is a majority voting system that allows voters to rank candidates on the ballot.)

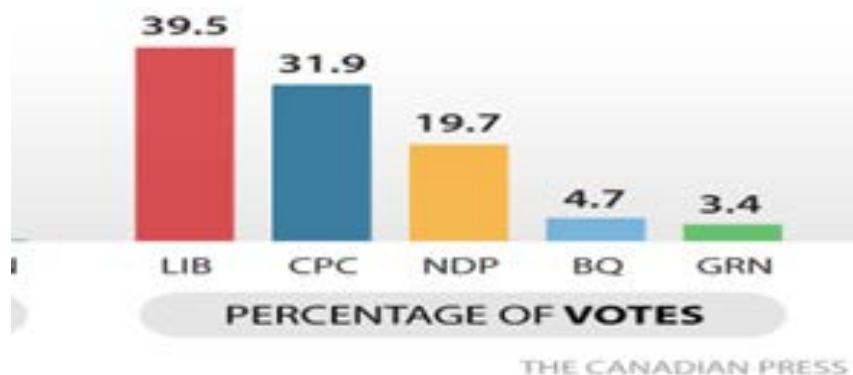
## Proportional Representation Determined by Voters’ Preference PRVP

Each voter makes one choice on his or her ballot – for the preferred candidate.

Election Canada would award seats according to the present First Past The Post system. (The following results are from the 42<sup>nd</sup> Parliament election records)



Election Canada would then record the percentage of votes for each party.



Election Canada would then compute the number of seats to reflect voter's party preferences.

Party	% age votes X seats	Ideal Seats to reflect voting data	FPTP Results	Additional seats to be added
Green	3.4 x 338 =	11	1	10
BQ	4.7 x 338 =	16	10	6
NDP	19.7 x 338 =	67	44	23
CPC	31.9 x 338 =	108	99	9
Liberal	39.5 x 338 =	134	184	0

Election Canada would provide a list of unsuccessful candidates' results in descending order.

The 48 additional seats would be filled with candidates with the highest percentage of possible votes.

For example, the following top 6 BQ Party members would be appointed as a Second MP in their own riding.

Riding	Candidate	Votes	Electors	% of possible votes
Montarville	Fournier, Catherine	16450	75181	21.9%
Laurentide-Labelle	Regimbald, Johanne	18,792	95907	19.59%
Therese de Blainville	Marginean, Alain	15258	78804	19.36%
Salaberry-Suroit	Debellefeuille, Claude	17452	91444	19.08%
Laurier-Sainte-Marie	Duceppe, gilles	15699	83730	18.7%
Longueils- Saint Hubert	Trudel, Denis	15873	85657	18.5%

The other additional extra seats will be similarly awarded to those with the top candidates from the other parties (Results of ridings which would have two MP's are attached)

The advantages of this proposal (PRVP) follow:

1. There are no complicated decisions to make: the voter is voting for the candidate of his or her choice.  
  
The voter does not need to rank his candidates, or indicate a preference for one party over another. There are no run-off elections.
2. The principal of every vote counting is achieved as the percentage of votes for each party results in an equal percentage of seats. The choice of which additional seats to be awarded depends on the voter, not the party bureaucracy.
3. As additional MP's required would be selected from those of the particular party who got the highest percentage of votes within that party, every candidate would strive to achieve as high a result as possible, even in what would be considered a 'safe' riding under First Past the Post system. The voter would also be encouraged to vote for the best person, even in what is considered a safe riding.
4. Having two MPS representing one riding would provide the constituents in that riding with more representation of their views and more efficient services from the local MP offices. At the present time, the demands on our MPs are much greater than most Canadians realize. Under other systems, some MP's would not represent a riding and not have an understanding of local issues or the communication with their neighbours.
5. Two MPs from different parties representing one riding would probably result in more cooperation between MPs and reduce the wrangling that frequently prevents sober thought about various issues. PR would likely mean more coalition governments, which gives politicians an incentive to work together and cooperate.
6. Although the 2015 election resulted in the highest voter turnout in two decades almost a third of registered voters did not bother to vote. Knowing that every vote counts will probably improve that statistic.<sup>ii</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/monsef-says-canada-can-do-better-than-first-past-the-post/article28476520/>

<sup>ii</sup> [http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2015/10/20/canada-voter-turnout\\_n\\_8335662.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2015/10/20/canada-voter-turnout_n_8335662.html)