

August 2016

Electoral Reform Committee

Re: How proportional representation would benefit Canadians

Dear Sir or Madam:

Canada is one of three OECD countries that still has the archaic first-past-the-post voting system.

In my opinion, the current voting system does not treat Canadian voters equally. The result is lack of respect for the will of the voters and mounting inter-regional tension. Voters become winners or losers, and those in swing ridings have more control over who takes power in Parliament than those in the parties' electoral fiefdoms. Worst of all, a minority of voters and an even smaller proportion of Canadians—since not all Canadians vote—are able to grant a parliamentary majority.

Personally, I think that some form of proportional representation is the fairest voting system.

Proportional representation gives each voter a true vote equal to that of all other voters. Studies show that countries with proportional representation perform better than others in terms of democracy, quality of life, income equality, environmental outcomes and economic growth.

In short, proportional representation offers the following benefits:

- People are motivated to vote, which results in higher voter turnout.
- The will of the voters is respected. The percentage of votes should equal the percentage of seats (at least according to established thresholds).
- More women and minorities will be elected, and Parliament will reflect a broader range of political and cultural points of view.
- Voters will be more satisfied with the quality of democracy in their country.
- Canada will do better in terms of health, education, the environment and standard of living.
- Canada will have a more responsible tax system and be more stable.
- Income inequality will decline.
- Strategic voting will become a thing of the past.
- Governments will adopt policies supported by the majority, resulting in enhanced continuity and stability.

Thank you in advance for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Cliff Wallis
Calgary AB