

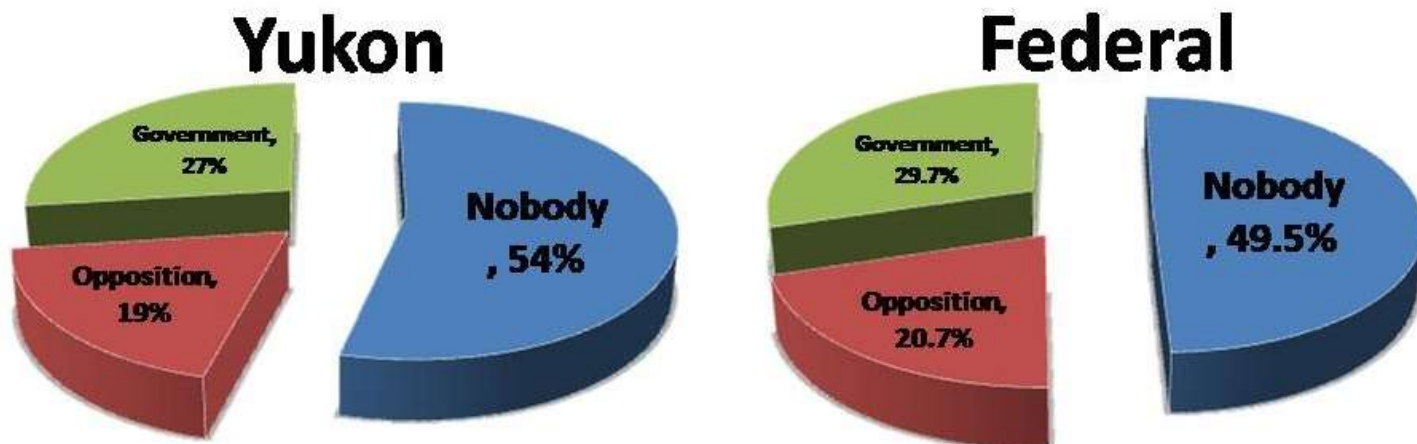


electoralchange.ca *Let's leave a legacy*

Fairness and inclusion in democracy

As Dave Nash said, First Past the Post (FPTP) is sometimes described as promoting the election of strong, stable governments. Indeed, it does lead more often to majority governments, but not long-term stability.

In the 2011 elections, the following percentages of votes cast elected:



Is This Democracy?

Be Heard

Preferential Ridings Proportional (PRP) Electoral System

New combination electoral system, Preferential Ridings-Proportional (PRP) was developed from what interested people said they wanted in elections:

- Fair and Representative results
- Their vote to count in a meaningful way
- Simple for voters to use
- All winners of riding seats winning with more than half the votes
- No Party lists
- No more or very few additional politicians

As well as governance:

- Trustworthy, fair, respectful, open and accountable
- Collaborative Government and Opposition legislating laws reflecting the overall well being of society
- Have at least one elected Member who represents their vote living relatively close.

With the combination Preferential Ridings Proportional (PRP) system, almost all voters would be included in election results, and could point to an elected Member whom their vote helped to elect. Their votes would count in a meaningful way, being able to vote separately for their favorite riding candidate and favorite Party for proportional seats. When all votes count in elections, illusory or false majority governments don't occur. Truly representative minority Government could be held accountable and would require Members to work collaboratively in their legislative bodies. Government would not be taken down by Opposition, expecting to receive an easily won false majority government as has often happened under the FPTP system. Far more effective and inclusive governance would have a high probability of happening.

The white paper that explains PRP, how to use it, and what it's capable of doing can be explored at <http://electoralchange.ca> .

PRP's proportional effect on past Canadian (partial), Alberta, Ontario (partial), Quebec and Yukon election results can be seen as well as a comic discussion starter. We hope you find it interesting and useful.

Executive summary, October 18, 2015

DEMOCRACY IN CANADA

Why the concern?

Video - 5 minutes – “Do you want your vote to count?” <https://goo.gl/NLlVbg>

1 Canada’s current, “First-Past-The-Post” electoral system (FPTP) has often resulted in election of governments that represent the needs, wants and values of less than half of the voters.

2 Probably because of this, the system has disengaged Canadian voters to such a degree that in the 2011 federal election, only 61% of eligible Canadians voted. (Elections Canada, 2011).

3 The Preferential Ridings Proportional (PRP) system proposed here would make Canada a more inclusive and representative democracy. PRP would allow almost all, if not all, votes cast in an election to have some impact on the resultant legislative body.

4 PRP is a hybrid system that incorporates elements from Canada’s present riding-based system, but includes both preferential voting, and proportional representation.

5 The development of the PRP system is based on what people interested in improving our electoral system said they wanted in a new system.

6 The PRP system reorganizes the country, province or territory into ridings roughly twice the size of our current ridings, each electing a single representative using preferential voting.

7 The other half of the representatives, will be elected to Proportional Seats to give representation to voters who did not vote for the winner in their riding.

8 The allocation of proportional seats will reflect relative popularity of the Parties in geographically coherent "Electoral Areas." The proportional representatives will be usually the most successful unelected candidates from their Political Party within the electoral area.

9 The effect of the allocation of proportional representatives will be a parliamentary distribution of seats that fairly represents the distribution of political opinion among voters.

Thank you, Dave Nash, for adding the very important 'equality of votes' to reduce the effect and motivation for strategic voting. Voters will be able to vote very effectively using all the choices they want with this combination Preferential Ridings Proportional (PRP) system, voting with their hearts and minds. Thanks also to four others who played a major roll in PRP's development - Ted Dean, Bill Mills, Marlene Rusk and Heather Rusk.

If this PRP system helps make inclusive and truly representative democracy happen in Canada, Dave Brekke will have many to thank for their help with his 11 year quest that began while serving on a committee giving feedback on proposals to increase voter turnout in 2005. Initially he was shocked when one RO said, "*What are we looking at this stuff for? Why aren't we looking at the voting system?*" It was a political question so Elections Canada said it couldn't be discussed. Evenings is when he learned why Canadians should be looking at and improving our electoral system. Fair Vote Canada was formally organized and has been working on the problem since 2000.

We hope this brief will allow us time to discuss this PRP system further when you visit Whitehorse on September 26, 2016.

Ken Briggs, Chair of Fair Vote Yukon Group

For more, explore the website <http://electoralchange.ca>

Ps. Proposal for consideration of Special Committee on Electoral Reform

The Preferential Ridings Proportional, PRP, Electoral System

Come see the new combination electoral system that results in more truly representative democracy with more probable connection between voter and elected representative.

Help give it the

A I R test: Accept it – Improve it – Replace it

Presently this system has no history of usage. Should Canada try it?

At this time, we think so!