

Special Committee on Electoral Reform

House of Commons

Ottawa, Ontario

Canada

K1A 0A6

Vancouver BC

September 2016

RE Electoral Reform

Dear Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to your deliberations.

I have made an effort to become informed on the various systems of voting. I attended the meeting at the Sandman Hotel in Vancouver on 9 September 2016 arranged by the Honourable Maryam Monsef and the meeting arranged by Fair Vote Canada on Saturday 10 September 2016 at the house of Tim Louis in Vancouver. I have also reviewed the material on different voting systems provided by Fair Vote Canada.

As you know, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau promised that the last federal election would be the last one held under the first-past-the-post system. The alternative vote (AV) preferred by the prime minister would be a modest improvement over the current system but would not solve the fundamental flaw in the current system of leaving unrepresented the preferences of voters who did not vote for the eventual winner.

My informed preference is for a proportional-representation system, specifically the system known as the single transferable vote (STV), which ensures a high degree of **proportionality**¹ and an **effective**² system for accounting for most of the voters' preferences. It would ensure that a country's leadership and policies **reasonably reflect**³ the values and choices of a voting majority by providing representation in proportion to votes cast. This is the most **effective**⁴ way to **respect**⁵ the **right**⁶ of each citizen to equal representation in the House of Commons. It would also **engage**⁷ more voters, many of

¹ Inclusiveness.

² Effectiveness and legitimacy.

³ Accessibility and inclusiveness.

⁴ Effectiveness and legitimacy.

⁵ Integrity and local representation.

⁶ Legitimacy.

⁷ Accessibility and inclusiveness.

whom now think that their votes will be wasted or feel that they must vote strategically, i. e., vote against a candidate rather than for their preferred candidate.

I am also in favour of any changes in Canada's voting system being decided by a vote in the House of Commons rather than by a referendum.

Yours truly,

Gerald Sandy