Brief from Jad Haeffely

Hi, I would just like to start by saving how pleased I am that the government has put together a Committee on Electoral Reform. As a younger voter, I know that myself and a vast majority of my friends have felt apathetic with our current system of voting. I have just finished reading your two Background Papers and would like to suggest a different way of thinking about reforming our current system. Before I explain the system to you I have to say that I have no political or statistical background. I am just a Canadian who enjoys efficiency in life.

To continue using the FPTP system so that geographic link between constituents and members is preserved. I believe that this point is important to most Canadians.

1) Introduce a 10 Member Ranked Closed List for each Party in case of a requirement to increase number of seats in Parliament.

To introduce the actual proportional presentation in the House fo Commons. Here is my example for this last election by changing the actual quantatative value of each members vote based on the actual % of vote they won.

Party	% Vote Won	Seats Won	Adjustments	Total Seats
LIB	39.5%	184		184
CON	31.9%	99		99
NDP	19.7%	44		44
BQ	4.7%	10		10
GP	3.5%	1	+3*	4

*No one person can represent more than 1% of the Canadian population in theory

New Total # of Seats in House=341=341 Votes
Actual Voting Power= #Total Seats in House **x** %Vote Won **/Divided By** Total # Won

Party	% Vote Won	Total Seats Won	Actual Voting Power in House per Member
LIB	39.5%	184	341 x .395 / 185 =0.728
CON	31.9%	99	341 x .319 / 99 =1.10
NDP	19.7%	44	341 x .197 / 44 =1.53
BQ	4.7%	10	341 x .047 / 10 =1.60
GP	3.5%	4	341 x .035 / 4 =2.98

So for example even though there are 184 Liberal elected officials are representing their 184 ridings where they won with the most votes. In the House of Commons their total vote only amounts to the proportion that their party represents the entire voting population. I think in this way we can introduce proportional representation in a very simple manner without increasing the costs of introducing too many new officials or introducing complicated new methods.

Also some other points on political reform in Canada.

1) We have yet to see much progress in the reform of our Senate, because in reality they have an abundance of power, yet have not in the recent past used it in the benefit of Canadians. Now abolishing the senate may recreate the problems in which the Senate was created to discourage, but I believe that there needs to be a Committee on Senate Reform to investigate a more sufficient manner of electing, selecting, and overall role of the Senate.

2) Lowering the voting age to 16. Not to encourage younger voters into developing the habit of voting, but to capture the passion and desire of youngsters to relay their beliefs in what is and what is not working in our political system. On the topic of maturity, and whether younger voters would be informed, I believe that 16 year olds can be as informed if not more on electoral parties and our electoral system than maybe the more aged populations.

3) A definite no on Mandatory Voting, although I don't believe that your considering it.

4) You should definitely consider online voting, and online polls/referendums. If not to increase turnout, to reduce the cost of the tax payers.

Sincerely,
Jad Haeffely