

Submission to the Special Committee on Electoral Reform

Dear Electoral Reform Committee Members,

First of all, thank you for taking on this task. In my opinion, it is not only one of the most important issues facing our Democracy (ie: ensuring that every vote counts) but it is, again in my opinion, something that is urgently needed.

Please accept this and what follows as my Electoral Reform Submission to you.

Attached is an Electoral Reform PowerPoint presentation which I have put together and which has been shown to my Almonte Roundtable Think Tank (last March 2015) and will be shown to those attending the Almonte Lecture Series being held on September 30, 2016. The attached is not only submitted for your information BUT it is also integral to my Electoral Reform Submission in that I refer to some of the slides therein as an explanation of some of the points that I wish to make.

All that being said, I would like to see our electoral system changed as follows:

- 1 - I would like to retain the 338 Seats in the House of Commons;
- 2 - I would like to see our Riding Boundaries changed to only have 170 Riding MPs elected directly;
- 3 - I would like these directly-elected MPs to be elected using a Preferential (Ranked) Voting system. Going this way will ensure that the MP being voting in will have the majority of votes in that riding, albeit made up of perhaps 1st, 2nd and 3rd preference votes.
- 4 - I would like the remaining 168 Seats in the House of Commons to be filled proportionally - and that the selection of those MPs filling these Proportional Seats to come from Lists of Unsuccessful Candidates (Please see my PowerPoint Slides #84 to #92 for a more in-depth explanation of what and why I am proposing such Lists.);
- 5 - I would like a Threshold of having to achieve at least 5% of the vote before any such MP to be recognized and be proportionally-selected;
- 6 - I would like to have a One Ballot/ Two Vote System - something similar to that used by Germany (Please see my PowerPoint Slide #67) - but with the 'directly-elected' side of the Ballot being changed to accommodate Preferential (Ranked) Voting;
- 7 - I would like to see Mandatory Voting implemented;
- 8 - I would not require a Majority (ie: a formal Coalition) in order to govern (ala the UK convention or the German Model). I would be OK with having Minority Governments through which legislation would have to be passed by compromise - issue by issue.
- 9 - I would like to see Online Voting implemented (along with the retention of the Mail-in and Paper Ballot) provided that assurances can be given that the system will be secure and that the server capacity(ies) will be able to handle any last minute voting surge without crashing; and lastly,
- 10 - I do NOT want to see a Referendum on this topic before the next election - and if one is to be held that the First-Past-the Post (status quo) not be listed as a choice. Not only do we not

have enough time for such a Referendum before the next election (and still get a new voting system in place) but having the FPTP choice on that Referendum Ballot is tantamount to ensuring that the status quo remains in place. I would much prefer the following: a) Choose a new voting system (other than the FPTP status quo) to be tried for the next election; b) After two elections with this new system, hold a Referendum asking the public if it accepts the new voting system - Yes or No - If Yes, is chosen, so be it. HOWEVER if a voting person chooses the No Option, then a second, two-part question needs to be completed asking: Do You want to Revert back to the FPTP system? or Do you want to try another (Preferential (Ranked) Voting System?; If the FPTP is chosen by the majority of voters, then so be it. HOWEVER if the majority want to try a third (Preferential (Ranked)) Voting system, then, after a further two elections using that 3rd system, another Referendum will be held to have to the public decide between the FPTP, the MMP (Mixed Member Proportional) or the Preferential (Ranked) Ballot. Going this rather drawn-out way will at least ensure that the public is better educated and informed and that it will have had its say. (PS: For each and every Referendum, a federally-funded Committee should be established for each of the Voting Options in question to solicit support for the option it is espousing and to ensure a vigourous debate between the options in question. This longer educational time frame is somewhat akin to how New Zealand brought in its electoral reform - a respectful process that ensured an informed and educated vote from its public.)

Again, I would be pleased if you accept the above and the attached as my Electoral Reform Submission to you - and again, Thank You for taking on this important task. I am most grateful.

PS: I am not affiliated with any organization pushing for one voting option over another. I am just a concerned citizen who wants to ensure that our voting system is changed to ensure that all our votes count - and that our values and views (above a certain threshold) are represented in the House of Commons.

Sincerely.

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