

ERRE Brief. Peter D Zavitz BA Universite' St Anne. MEd  
Harvard

### P5Zero. Dual Member Plus (Electoral system proposal)

Maximum party proportionality is most easily achieved via apportioning the seats in parliament in relation to a Canada wide popular party vote. This equalizes the value of every vote , which I believe is the best incentive for voting that a democracy need offer.

Maximum choice is much more than a single referendum. Building a plebiscite into every election, choosing between a majoritarian system and a proportionally representative system can be done with the first question on a 3 part ballot. The second part of the ballot is a preferential party vote to determine a Condorcet winner. Using an instant runoff count may exclude the rightful winner. Though usually very unlikely, it is possible that the party which received the smallest number of first place selections, could be the one preferred by the majority over every other party . When a majority of the electorate votes to have a majority Parliament, the party preferred by a majority over every other party should form the government. Regardless of the percentage of first choice votes that that party received, it will have a legitimate majority with 51% of the seats in parliament.

157 dual member and 8 urban three member ridings will do this while maintaining a very close connection between the MPs and their constituents. In each constituency parties could nominate two candidates (or 3 in the 8), gender balanced if party policy chose to. 165 constituencies can be formed using existing boundaries and simply combining adjacent constituencies. Population discrepancies between constituencies become far less significant

when the overall composition of parliament is determined through a national vote in which every vote counts equally.

The first of the members in each constituency would be elected based on a preferential/ranked ballot, counted so that the most preferred person is the one elected. The party affiliation of each constituency winner has no impact on the overall proportional party numbers in Parliament. There is a high probability that there would be a Condorcet winner. ( However being aware of the Condorcet paradox, like the rock paper scissors circularity, though the probability of this happening in a Canadian election is minute, nevertheless a method for resolving such an event would need to be part of the election rules.)

The second, and sometimes third, MPs are selected from the best runners up. If the electorate voted for proportional representation, then the final 173 seats, in proportion to the first choice party vote % , will create a proportionally representative parliament. Although a party may win a disproportionately high number of seats in the first 165, the majority of seats are still allocated proportionally. There is a zero possibility of a false majority or anything close to it. But if the electorate chose a majoritarian Parliament, then the preferred party's Best runner up would get the second seat in every constituency where they did not already have one, and two seats in the 8 three member constituencies. The remaining seats allocated proportionately would mean that every constituent would have at Least one MP in government and another in opposition. If a party had 7% of the popular vote it would always get almost 7% of the seats in parliament.

Sample P5Zero Ballot:(wording is very tentative)

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## Part one -PLEBISCITE

Circle A or B to indicate your choice for the next Canadian Parliament.

A. a Government where the most preferred party has a majority of the members of parliament as determined by the preferential party vote and where the other parties' members of Parliament are equally proportional to the popular vote.

Or

B. a Government where the members of parliament are proportional to the first party choices in the preferential party vote .

## Part two -PREFERENTIAL PARTY VOTE

Rank your preferences as to the party you choose to form the next government. The party names are listed in Alphabetical order. Write 1 on the line beside your first choice preference. , a 2 to indicate your second choice and a 3 beside your third choice.

----- Conservative

----- Green.

----- Liberal

----- New Democratic Party

(The BQ would also need to be listed in those constituencies where it fielded candidates so that it could get its proportional share of seats in parliament)

## Part three -PREFERENTIAL CANDIDATE

### VOTE

Rank your preferences as to the person you choose as Member of Parliament for this constituency. Names are listed in alphabetical

order. Write the numbers 1, 2, 3 and so on beside the names to indicate your order of preference.

-----	Anderson, Julia.	Green
-----	Bilco, Sargeant.	Independent
-----	Dremozvist, Yuri.	Conservative
-----	Framro, Angelice.	Liberal
-----	Jenkins, Francis.	Conservative
-----	Kwa, Kyung.	NDP
-----	Linge, Franco.	Green
-----	Lloyd, George.	Independent
-----	Moyers, Zoe.	NDP
-----	Proudfoot, Ben.	Liberal

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To avoid confusion and encourage serious consideration, elections Canada should send to every eligible voter a working copy of the ballot that will be seen in each constituency. If they chose to, voters could take this with them on election day and just copy their decisions onto the official ballots.

This will be a bigger and more complicated, but eminently doable job for Elections Canada. This ballot, though longer, greatly simplifies the decision making aspect of voting; voting now becomes a straight vote your conscience.

No more strategic voting. No more, "should I vote for the person or for the party,"

No more "why bother, my vote's just going to be wasted anyway."

No more False majorities.

Legitimate majorities, even with four or five party vote splitting, become much more attainable, but only when the majority of the electorate has voted that that is what it wants.

P5Zero. Plebiscite: preferential; both party and personal; and highly proportional.

Zero possibility of a False majority, zero possibility of a parliament significantly different from voters' intent.

Apart from sheer resistance to change, my understanding of the rationale for many Canadians' desire to maintain the present system, is that it frequently delivers majority governments, which means stability. Along with that is an aversion to the thought of becoming something like Italy or Israel, with their history of short-lived, quarrelsome, unstable coalition governments. What I have tried to do with this proposal is to maintain and improve on the positives of FPTP; the possibility of a majority government which possibly has the support of the electorate, and a Close connection between MPs and their constituents; while ridding us of the negatives; false majorities, substantial disproportionality, strategic voting, conflicting decisions and voter disillusionment; all of which lead to a low level of voter participation. I have tried to accommodate the stated goals and criteria of all four national Canadian parties and I believe P5Zero does that. I hope that the committee can all agree that an ongoing plebiscite offers a far greater level of choice to the Canadian electorate than a single referendum.

I understand the concern by some that introducing any form of preferential voting may favour one party over the others. The very nature of preferential voting is that it will naturally move towards a center. That does not favour any particular party, it favours whatever party is closest to the centre of public opinion whenever there is an election. Surely government policy and parliament should always reflect that center. However public opinion changes as do party positions and party leadership. Every party has the right and perhaps even the obligation to position itself in that center.

Parties can move their positions toward the center, or move public opinion towards their own policies, or both. In a working democracy, government, whether it is a majority or a coalition, should best reflect the centre of public opinion at that time, and any electoral system that this committee recommends should ensure that outcome after every election. Other party supporters also are entitled to fair representation, meaning that parliament should be as proportional as possible. That almost certainly will not happen if all or most of our M P s are elected with ranked ballots, which would result probably in even less proportionality than FPTP.

Committee members: thank you for your participation in this enormously important and arduous task. Peter

An earlier, much longer and more detailed version of this proposal will be sent on request