

## Canadian proportional representation voting system proposal

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Proposed system names: Party Transferable Vote, PTV  
District Transferable Vote, DTV  
Voting District Transferable Vote, VDTV  
Regional Transferable Vote, RTV

### Features and assumptions:

- The current riding boundaries remain untouched. If it is deemed redistribution is required to attain accurate proportional representation the riding boundaries can be adjusted.
- Voting districts are comprised of 5 ridings. The number of ridings per voting district may be more or less than 5 depending on the region.
- The political parties list their candidates in order of preference as in the Closed Party List system.
- The parties must designate one candidate per riding for the number of ridings in the district. Smaller parties may not have candidates in all ridings.
- Voting is similar to the STV system where the voter ranks the political parties, or the party of their preferred candidate, in order of preference (see attached ballot).
- The attached ballot shows a simple layout. The back side of the ballot can be used for more detailed information.
- Many voters may not have the time or may not have the interest to learn about individual candidates, their values and the value they would bring to government. More voters do know the values of the parties and what they would bring to government. In addition, because of our type of democracy many voters vote to elect a prime minister, not necessarily a riding representative. As such, the party list may provide the best balance of representation for all members of a riding. Not all voters will agree, but in a democracy this is always the case.

#### How it works:

- The party list is created through internal referendum and/or negotiation with the party riding candidates, best represents the party values and best represents the voting district. The assumption is that more voters will know and understand the values of the party rather than the local candidate. This may not always be true, but overall would be.
- The political parties put forth one candidate for each riding in the voting district.
- The political parties rank their candidates in order of preference. The party fixes the order in which the candidates are listed.
- Winning candidates are selected in the exact order they appear on the list, but only one candidate per riding is elected.
- Voters rank from 1 to 5 on their ballot the party or party of preferred candidate.
- Voters can vote for the party, the party for their preferred candidate from their riding, or the preferred candidate from any riding in the district.
- The party with the most votes elects their candidates first, the second most votes second, and so on. For example if the Liberals had the most votes, the New Democrats second and the Green party third then the Liberals would get first choice, New Democrats second choice and Green party third choice.
- For example if the Liberals elect 2 candidates, New Democrats elect 2 candidates and the Green elects one candidate, then on the attached ballot the Liberals would elect Johnston and Scott, the New Democrats would elect Sundhu and Gingras, and the Green party would elect Troy. The result is full proportional and regional representation.
- An alternative to all candidates from the party with the most votes being elected first is the members are elected one at a time across all parties.
- For example if the Liberals elect 2 candidates, New Democrats elect 2 candidates and the Green elects one candidate, then on the attached ballot the Liberals would elect Johnston, the New Democrats Sundhu, the Green party Troy, the Liberal Scott, and the New Democrats Gingras.
- The votes are counted and the quotas for elected members is calculated the same as in the STV system.
- The counting of votes and the redistribution of votes is the same as the STV system.

- The first step in the process is to establish the threshold: the minimum number of votes necessary to win a seat. The threshold consists of the total number of valid votes divided by one plus the number of seats to be filled, plus one vote. The formula looks like this:  $\text{Threshold} = (\text{valid votes}/1+\text{seats}) + 1 \text{ vote}$ . So in a five-seat districts with 10,000 voters, a candidate would need  $10,000/1+5$  (which is 1,667) plus one more vote, for 1,668.
- The transfer of votes is the same as in the STV system.
- The transfer process is complicated, but reduces the problem of wasted votes. The transfer process in STV is designed to ensure that the fewest votes are wasted and that the maximum number of people get to elect a party/representative to office. It acknowledges that there are two kinds of wasted votes: votes for candidates that stand little chance of winning, and votes in excess of what a winning candidate needs. Transferring these votes to their next ranked choice makes it more likely that they will actually contribute to the election of a candidate.

#### Difficulties to be discussed:

- Discussion and brainstorming on other ways of creating the party list should be engaged.
- The ballot as proposed may be able to be simplified.

#### Advantages:

- The size of government remains the same as the current size at 338 seats.
- The riding sizes and boundaries remain the same.
- The political parties put forward candidates who best represent party values and upon election who will best represent the voting district in government.
- One vote per voter is required, the ballot is not split and does not require you to place two votes on a ballot for example as in the MMP or the Dion P3 system.
- Party candidates only have to canvass in their own riding unless they chose to canvass in other ridings within the district.
- Every riding is represented in parliament.
- Representation in parliament is truly proportional.

- Voters can vote by candidate, therefore smaller parties have the same chance of being elected as in the STV system.
- The ballot is designed to be clean and simple, and vote counting is possible with automated counting systems.
- No votes are wasted

Disadvantages:

- The vote counting and member election process is more complicated than the FPTP system and some PR systems; however this is transparent to the voter and only dealt with by elections Canada.
- Voters may not get the candidate they prefer, however they do get the party they prefer. The assumption is most voters are voting for the party and not the riding candidate; but it is recognized that this is not always the case.

## OFFICIAL BALLOT

rank your preferred party or party of preferred candidate, only one vote per party, 5 members to be elected

CONSERVATIVE	LIBERAL	NEW DEMOCRAT	GREEN	INDEPENDENT
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5
<b>Mel Arnold</b> north okanagan-shuswap	<b>Don Johnston</b> kootenay-columbia	<b>Bill Sundhu</b> kamloops-thompson-cariboo	<b>Samantha Troy</b> south okanagan-west kootenay	<b>Brian Gray</b> south okanagan-west kootenay
<b>Cathy McLeod</b> kamloops-thompson-cariboo	<b>Karley Scott</b> central okanagan-similkameen-nicola	<b>Angelique Wood</b> central okanagan-similkameen-nicola	<b>Chris George</b> north okanagan-shuswap	INDEPENDENT <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5
<b>Dan Albas</b> central okanagan-similkameen-nicola	<b>Steve Powrie</b> kamloops-thompson-cariboo	<b>Jacqui Gingras</b> north okanagan-shuswap	<b>Matthew Greenwood</b> kamloops-thompson-cariboo	name riding
<b>David Wilks</b> kootenay-columbia	<b>Cindy Derkaz</b> north okanagan-shuswap	<b>Richard Cannings</b> south okanagan-west kootenay	<b>Robert Mellaieau</b> central okanagan-similkameen-nicola	INDEPENDENT <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5
<b>Marshall Neufeld</b> south okanagan-west kootenay	<b>Connie Denesiuk</b> south okanagan-west kootenay	<b>Wayne Stetski</b> kootenay-columbia	<b>Bill Green</b> kootenay-columbia	name riding