

Electoral Reform Brief

Oct. 4 2016

I am writing to express my discomfort with the idea of Proportional Representation (P.R.) voting system. I believe it is a poison pill for any Canadian government to undertake. I am of the belief that our First Past the Post (F.P.P.) is and will remain the most ideal voting system with some additions and tweaks. My reasons are as follows.

I do not see any outstanding examples anywhere around the world that can be said, "this is what Canada needs". Many Canadians think this is a new idea and grab at it blindly, but it is not. It has been around since 1816. It had been given credit for the allowing the rise of Hitler. Germany has since made improvements but not enough to satisfy me as a Canadian copy.

95 countries around the world use this P.R. voting system and the vast majority have failing governments, economies and social ethics. 21 of the 28 European nations use the P.R. system and all have major issues, Russia for one with its phony P.R. system. I want to focus on some of the worse E.U. nations that employ the P.R. voting systems. Greece, Spain, Italy and Ireland each having at least 4 or more of the following faults, excessively large governments where they are too over governed, they never get a majority and make corrupt deals with fringe parties, their legislature and law passing is continually staled and many important issues never get passed, extremist fringe parties get seats in parliament and end up directing the legislation, and most are always on the verge of collapsing. Once a country has switched to the P.R. system it is virtually impossible to change back. In order to change back to a F.P.P. system it would require a clear majority government with the ambition to change. They would need to be prepared for the riots from the fringe parties which would lose their seats in government.

Countries like Ireland have 11 political parties and have been on the verge of collapse almost every month this year. Spain has 28 political parties many seem to have won seats in parliament and nothing gets passed, they can't decide between democracy or socialism, have a 50% unemployment rate, massive debts which will never be paid off and an inept government.

Many of the E.U. nations, because of the voting systems, no-longer could survive outside the E.U. on their own and it is spreading.

One of the things I don't like is the idea of having to fill out multiple pages at a voting booth. This does not encourage voter turnout. I don't like waiting a month or so to find out who gets to sit in parliament. I don't like the idea of the winning minority party making the sole decisions on who gets to sit in parliament from the fringe parties. I don't like the possibility of opening up corrupt deal-makings.

It seems that the P.R. system opens the door to everyone who has a fringe thought, to form a political party. I feel that Canadians are over governed now and adding to those numbers will only slow parliament down from crawl to a stop. It is important for a democracy to have majority governments now and then in order to act as quickly as possible when times call for it.

It is also just as important to ensure that majorities change hands at governing when one party fails its people. The P.R. system does not support that idea, only a F.P.P. system does.

I would like to see changes to our current F.P.P. system, not scrap it. Canada's own Elections office has put forth ideas that seem credible and worth considering. My own addition to those ideas is a statement such as, "All political Parties must be open to memberships of all peoples without discrimination regardless of beliefs, color, age or sexual orientation."

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