

A PROPOSAL FOR DEMOCRATIC REFORM IN CANADA

I believe that public service is a sacred trust, and individuals seeking political office, like those serving jury duty, should be motivated only by a desire to serve the public interest.

Whereas our parliamentary system is now widely viewed as having become dysfunctional, non-representative of, and non-responsive to the overall population, and various proposals for change are being considered, I respectfully submit the following proposal for a new approach to politics:

1. Application

Individuals wishing to represent their constituents would gather a required number of signatures, and pass a background check and basic competency test in order to become eligible as candidates for Member of Parliament. During this application process, prospective candidates would also indicate their skills, expertise, personal views and primary areas of interest in national and regional affairs.

2. Selection

The prospective MP for each riding would then be randomly selected from this group of applicant/candidates through a lottery.

3. Confirmation

Constituents in each riding would then approve or reject their randomly selected prospective MP in a referendum, and the confirmed Member of Parliament would swear an oath of office. If an applicant were to be rejected, a new one would be selected through the same process.

4. Executive

Confirmed MP's from all ridings would be allowed to affiliate along ideological lines, and would convene periodically to choose from among their ranks, any number of prospective leadership teams. MPs would seek cabinet positions based on their individual experience. A general election would then be held within a prescribed time period, with the electorate choosing whichever leadership team it would prefer to lead the government.

5. Term

MPs would serve one paid term only (potentially 6 years, for example), after which they would be entitled to certain retirement benefits in

recognition of their service, and would be replaced through this same process.

6. Evaluation/Recall

A recall referendum could be held in any riding where a set percentage of dissatisfied, registered constituents petition for it, after which the MP would again need to win a majority vote to remain in office. Recalled MPs would not be entitled to any retirement benefits. Another lottery would be held to replace a recalled MP.

I believe that this framework would provide the following positive solutions:

1. Proportional representation and gender equality would be statistically guaranteed, based on the pool of applicants;
2. The toxic influence of partisanship would be eliminated from the electoral process;
3. The influence of lobbyists would be limited;
4. Dysfunctional and obstructionist political tactics would be discouraged;
5. Expensive, divisive election campaigns and electoral fraud would be greatly reduced;
6. A higher degree of public participation in government would be encouraged.

These reforms could be implemented relatively easily, with no major changes to the existing bureaucracy and no great upheaval in the day-to-day business of government.

In this way, I believe public faith could be restored in our democratic institutions, and the most dysfunctional elements of our existing system could be permanently eliminated, without destabilizing the country.

In addition to the above, I wish to add that I think allowing online voting would be a terrible idea, since the potential for fraud can never be eliminated. I am also strongly opposed to the idea of lowering the voting age below the age of majority.

I thank you for your attention to this, and for your good work.