

Electoral Reform Brief Submission

I am Bronwen Ariadne Merle from Pender Island, BC. I would like to begin by thanking the committee for its service and commitment. It is indeed honorable work.

I whole heartedly support Proportional Representation, (either STV+ or MMP would be a vast improvement on FPTP.) It is no small matter to routinely appropriate the voices of others. Nine million voices were silenced in our last federal election alone. The First-Past-the-Post is a rigid and antiquated system with all its attendant baggage created in a bygone era to serve the narrow interests of the leaders of our parent nation. It frequently yields false majorities. I do not want my country to continue to complacently shore up falsehood, while simultaneously and perversely deluding ourselves into believing we are engaging in democracy. We are not. This weakens us all, a false inflation for the winners, demoralization for the *actual* majority of voters. Is a form of sanctioned elitism. True democracy values everyone. Let us extend our circle of respect and inclusion. To look around at each other and say, "what you think and feel *really* matters to me. It matters enough that I will willingly transcend party protectionism that we may uplift each other into full sovereignty." This kind of sovereignty can only be honored by full and honest representation.

I believe this is a moral imperative, a human rights issue, and one that is crucial to the maturation of our nationhood. There

will be a death rattle and birth pangs; no system is perfect. Yet, *this* is our time. The moment has arrived to embrace positive change. Let us believe in each other enough to jettison our current voting system, a false and cruel one. May we have the courage and compassion to become equal partners in an engaged and liberated citizenry. How lovely, how nutritive, to cross this new threshold together and reinvigorate our beloved Canada.

Thank you.

Bronwen Ariadne Merle