

A Fair Way to Implement a Fairer Voting System

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Monsef,

I support your government's promise to make 2015 the last first-past-the-post election. Together, we can create a strong, fair and inclusive voting system for Canada. I'm writing today to tell you that I support proportional representation. The evidence shows that proportional representation will lead to fair elections, a more inclusive and representative Parliament, and more collaboration between political parties.

But I also think the question of the process for making the decision is important. A referendum is not a good idea. However neither is a simple majority vote in Parliament. My own suggestion is to weight the votes of the MPS according to the per cent of popular vote that their party received. Thus, for example, the weight of the Liberal votes should reflect the proportion of the popular vote that the Liberal party received in the election. If the Liberals collectively received 40% of the vote, their MPs votes, collectively, should be worth 40% of the votes on this issue. That way we would be assured the system proposed should have gained the support of parties with a majority of the popular vote in the last election. This is a fair system to make the decision that honours the goal of the fairer voting system that we wish to implement. It would not be possible to say that one party alone, that did not alone receive a majority of popular vote, changed the system just to benefit themselves.

David Hahn