

Dear Members of Parliament:

I submit my idea on election reform.

Some countries have a 'run-off' system where an initial vote is held and, if no one gets 50% of the vote, then the top two candidates are voted on again – usually a few weeks later. I like this idea because it respects our party and regional system, yet would have each MP elected with at least 50% of the vote.

I suggest the 'Advance Poll' dates be used for the initial vote as people are already used to voting then and the infrastructure is in place already. In the last several elections, about 1/3 of the MPs received 50% or more of the vote, so we can estimate that in 1/3 of the ridings, a candidate will 'win on the first ballot'. This allows the parties to concentrate their efforts in the 'swing' ridings for the final weeks of the election.

Canadians would know what the break-down of seats would be after the Advance Poll and would create excitement, because they may want to vote so an alternative party has a seat. This would save money in ridings where one party's candidate often wins handily, and create attention in swing ridings. I might not normally vote for Party C, but if Party A or B already has a lot of seats and C is still in my riding after the Advance vote, maybe I'd be tempted to vote that way.

All Elections Canada would have to do is provide TWO enumeration cards instead of one – one to show at the Advance Poll and one on (final) Election Day. Any extra costs for that are off-set by the 1/3 of ridings who will not need to hold the final Election vote. Some people will choose not to vote in the Advance but then get excited and vote in the final vote.

I hope you find my idea helpful.

Sincerely

Myles Hildebrand

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