

August 2016

Electoral Reform Committee

Re: How ranked ballots would benefit Canadians

Dear Sir or Madam:

Canada's archaic first-past-the-post voting system is not a system widely used worldwide. In my opinion, the possibility of someone being elected when the majority in the riding don't want that candidate has always seemed counter intuitive. Even more disturbing is the majority party in parliament will not be the actual choice of the majority of Canadians. So since a minority of voters and also since so few Canadians actually vote in elections, an even smaller proportion of Canadians are able to grant a parliamentary majority.

Personally, I think that some form of proportional representation is also not the fairest voting system. Proportional representation affords the possibility of radical fringe parties and frivolous parties that would inevitably form to hold seats and possibly control the balance of power. I personally find that prospect frightening.

Ranked ballots are used at party conventions and seem to be seen as a fair and equitable voting system by all major parties in Canada. If it is fair enough for Canadian internal politics then it would be hypocritical to suggest that the system is unfair. It would only be prudent to examine the ranked ballot systems throughout the world and benefit from the successes in other countries and avoid their mistakes.

We can no longer let vote splitting along ideological lines subvert the will of the Canadian voters. We also cannot allow fringe parties to potentially control the balance of power in parliament based upon their meager support.

Thank you in advance for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Mark E Burningham
LaSalle, ON