

The Single Transferable Vote Proportional Representation System, (also called Alternative Voting as well as Voter Choice) which also includes within it the Ranking ballot, along with a modified Mixed-Proportional Representative Electoral System, similar but not exactly the same as that employed in Ireland, New Zealand and Germany should be adopted by the Canadian Government and Parliament. It is judged by most political scientists as by far the most democratic and just system, therefore ideal for Canada. It is the system that would reinvigorate the electorate and would increase both interest and participation in government and public policy by the Canadian public, especially by new and young voters and it would go a long way to diminishing both the general apathy and contempt and cynicism to the present political process in Canada that many if not most feel to the present system of electing members to parliament. This is one of the major reasons, out of many, for the democratic deficit felt by the general public in Canada, that is the distrust and indifference to government.

Thus, the Single Transferable Vote, alongside with a Modified Mixed Proportional Representational system would work as following:

In each district the ballot would include the names of many candidates from different parties, including independents, and each party could even put up multiple candidates to run in the electoral district. However, instead of choosing just a single candidate on the ballot to win, the voter ranks them in preference from one (his or her favorite) to the last number (or least preferred) of the last name on the list.

If the most preferred candidate fulfills the allocated quota, let us say 30,000 thousand votes, the candidate wins. If he or she wins more than 30,000, let us say 15,000, these 15,000 votes are distributed to the next candidate with the highest votes till he/she fulfills the requisite quota of 30,000, and then the remainder goes on to the next one till he or she fulfills the quota. However, the the one with the least votes is eliminated and the votes further distributed to the rest. Thus, the vote is not wasted and thus it goes a long way to creating representative proportionality of views of the electorate in the district.

However, just a plain RANKED BALLOT, whereby the candidate who won with only a plurality but not a majority of 50 plus one, and who then can go on and simply add the votes of those that had voted for him/her only as their second preference, is simply unfair and unjust not to mention undemocratic. This amounts to just simply manipulating the vote for him or herself in order to get elected and thereby further wasting the vote of those electorates who voted as their first preference other candidates as these candidates will not be represented in parliament. In fact this plain Rank Voting simply amounts to a modified and rigged First Past the Post System grafted onto the old Plurality-Majoritarian system, that is the First Past the Post or what is more aptly called in the U.S. the Winner Takes All System. Although appropriate for inner Party elections for leadership or members of cabinet; however, in national and local elections, it robs the electorate of choices and representation and empowers arrogance and unaccountability on the part of the winner.

The Mixed-Member Proportional Representation System with the Single Transferable Vote System embedded within it does away with the unaccountability and arrogant aloofness and even contempt that a potential candidate may have towards his/her local electorate. Thus, in the old First Past The Post, the candidate does not feel any concern that he is also a servant to the electorate that elected him but an omnipotentate, but in the Mixed Member Proportional Representation with Single Transferable Vote, he/she must be both accountable and responsible to their needs and concerns and in Parliament try and seek out alliances and reasonable compromises and accommodations with other parties.

In the Mixed Member PR system for Canada, a ballot would have two lists: one list would be for the local constituency with multiple seats like, for example, two to five seats depending on what number is set, that would be decided on with the Single Transferable Vote Method as outlined above. The second list (which overall could constitute anywhere from 30% to half the members of Parliament) that the voter selects from would be from a list of various names that the various parties put forth, one to three members that each party puts forth, the voter only selects **one name from one party only. This would be the Party list.** This would decide the party preferences and as the Party list is **open** and not closed, the voter can select the most suitable Party candidate that he believes represents his/her interests. The closed list is a rigid and set ranking of Party favorites that the voter has no control over and indeed this closed list is unjust and encourages cronyism and the parachuting of well-connected Party

members with no ties or sentiments to the constituents. It is indeed an unaccountable and undemocratic method that is fed by cronyism and corruption at the top with favorites placed or parachuted in constituencies where they have with no relations, and indeed at times harbour utter contempt, to the local electorate.

The government ought to implement **On-Line Voting** by facilitating both the placing of Internet Computers at various locales like shopping centers, schools, banks, supermarkets, central locations, etc. as well as by implementing the application of I-Phone Voting. Mandatory Voting should be instituted by making it easier for the public to vote by having a longer earlier voting for people such as a week long period just a week or two before the election.

The First Nations and the non-Reserve Indians, along with the Metis nation should have at least 10 seats allocated to them, matching their demographic percentage in the Canadian population with their percentage of seats in parliament. The elections would again be like the general modified mixed-member proportional representation with the two ballots with the Single Transferable Vote embedded in it for First Nations and non-Reserve Natives and Metis to vote on for their own representatives. They would also have a **veto** on any legislation that affects or touches upon First Nations, otherwise they would vote according to their Party affiliations.

Citizen-initiated Referendums should be included in the electoral reform package. Citizens who garner 300,000 or 500,000 signatures, depending on what number is to be required can call for a referendum on various major issues, establishing National Parks, Highways through agricultural lands, even Trade Deals that they view as harmful, Pollution issues, etc., but **not** Defence Issues or Foreign Policy Questions. This would invigorate political debate and participation by the Canadian public and democratize the active debate and participation of the electorate in the Canadian political scene.

The Abolition of the Senate must be part and parcel of the debate for electoral debate. There is no institution that is so unrepresentative and undemocratic as the Senate which is seen by almost all Canadians as a financial burden to pay already **super wealthy** members for doing little or nothing and as payoffs for favoritisms to cronies while there are cut-backs and austerity measures for the rest of the Canadian population. The issue, finally of the monarchy is important. Queen Elisabeth has served Canada well; however, the breaking of ties should take place after her reign is over. This is an indication of maturation for Canada as a nation and its symbolic break with an antiquated institution. It would forge the large new immigrant population with no ties to the British monarchy into viewing itself as part of a true Canadian nation with an independent identity and not as an artificial country or entity still paying homage to a foreign sovereign, which may have been true in the past but is no longer essential with Canada today looking towards Europe, and Asia and elsewhere for its markets. In fact, including the Quebecois population,

numerically the vast majority of Canadians have no sentimental ties to the British monarch.

In Conclusion, the **Single Transferable Vote** *embedded* within a modified **Mixed-Proportional Representative System** is the best choice for Canada and the Canadian people. It would reinvigorate active political participation and motivate an ever more lively and dynamic political debate by the public over issues that truly matter. It must be noted that today the Canadian population, and especially the younger generation, is ever better educated with a greater number holding university degrees, are computer and technologically knowledgeable and savvy, are internationally well-travelled and informed, and are ever more increasingly concerned not just about local and national issues but about international issues, such as global warming, human rights, against child and female sexual trafficking; they are concerned about the plight of refugees around the world, animal rights and environmental issues, and the list goes on. This modified Mixed Proportional Representation with the embedded Single Transferable Vote, not just the plain and simple Ranked Vote, is the future for Twentieth-First Century Canada and for this generation of Canadians of all ages.

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