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SUMMARY

The essence of my presentation is that as a nation founded on the democratic principle that supreme power rests with the people it is important that the electoral system we employ encourages rather than reduces the possibility of Canada actually being governed according to the wishes of the people. Although Canada operates as a representative democracy, it is still the wishes of the majority, while continuing to respect the rights of minorities, which should dictate the policies of government. Substituting the preferences of our elected representatives in the place of the will of the people in determining government policy, as I indicate in my brief, has set us down a path which threatens to negate any real democracy. As to the question as to which voting system is superior, whether it is first past the post, mixed member proportional or ranked ballot, it doesn't really matter that much as long as constituents can be assured that their elected representatives are committed to first, informing them of the relevant factors to be considered on issues to be dealt with, second, to discovering what their informed preferences are and, third, supporting these preferences in parliament. A political system which encourages the people's representatives to spend much of their time telling the constituents what their party wants rather than helping the constituents to discover what they feel is in their best interests, results in democratic dictatorship rather than true democracy

To improve the electoral system in any significant way, we must first, weaken the power that political parties have over their members, second, strengthen the power of constituents to force their representatives to actually represent their wishes rather than the dictates of their party and third, eliminate the influence of money in the election process by requiring all funding to come from government to candidates but not to political parties. The amount each candidate receives will depend upon how many taxpayers indicate their support when they file their annual tax returns. Strict limits will be set on how much each candidates can spend between election dates.

Additionally, an organized, statistically significant sampling system will be set up to discover the viewpoints of constituents on the many issues that arise during the sittings of parliament. Under this system, anyone will be permitted to make a presentation, either in writing, video or in person which will be available to individuals selected from a pool of willing constituents. Presentations will be viewed randomly by these individuals with provisions to exclude essentially duplicate presentations. Under the assumption that the quality of one's conclusions

improve with the range of material examined, the number of votes each individual has increases with the number of presentations he or she review.

The results of these samples will be available for all to see how closely these representatives actually vote according to the wishes of their constituents .