

**Friday, October 7, 2016**

## **Members of the ERRE Sub Committee**

Would you consider the 338 MPs in Canada's 42<sup>nd</sup> Parliament to be a fair representation of the Canadian population? I don't. A foreigner watching a vote on CPAC, for the 1<sup>st</sup> time would think Canada was a nation of old, white males. We are not.

We currently elect a Parliament that is not a fair representation of voter's intentions. Actual seat allocations do not match popular vote by Party. It is my opinion, based on expert testimony evidence at ERRE, that Party affiliation & not the Candidate, is a key factor in a Voter's intended vote. So if Voters vote for Parties, then we should allocate seats in proportion to actual popular vote.

I would define the fairness of elections by how close the percentage (or proportionality) of seats in a legislature reflects the percentage of the popular vote. I would rank the fairness to be my most important characteristic for evaluating an electoral model.

I'd rather have a MP who shared my values, who lived 500km away, then one who lived next door, who did not. Technology has made geographic distance an irrelevant issue, when considering a ballot reform. If I want a face-to-face with my MP, I can use Skype.

The greatest barrier to proportionality is the use single member electoral district electoral systems. These single member, winner take all models distort electoral outcomes, due to the high degree of wasted votes or votes that elect no one.

For the reason of the "disproportionality" of single member electoral models, that the Parliament of Canada should reject any ballot reform with a "District Magnitude"  $\leq 1$  MP.

I would recommend the Parliament of Canada, in order to achieve a proper degree of proportionality, adopt a proportional voting system with a "District Magnitude"  $\geq 5$  MPs.

**I would also recommend the following:**

1. That future elections be held on Saturdays, like they are in Australia & Australians use Election Day as a day to celebrate Democracy;
2. That we make voting mandatory;
3. That we lower the voting age to 16 years;
4. For security & integrity reasons, that we not consider online voting (I always vote by Special Ballot – yet too many Canadians are unaware of this option); and
5. Given our fixed election law, that Canadians residing in Canada should be able to apply to vote by Special Ballot, outside of the Writ Period (as is the right of Canadians residing outside of Canada, have the ability to do);
6. That no Canadians residing outside of Canada no be denied their right to vote, for any reason;
7. That the Prorogation of Parliament require the consent of Parliament;
8. That the Dissolution of Parliament automatically trigger the Writ Period;
9. That Parliament be deemed dissolved no more than 7 days after the date of Summer Adjournment, in the year an election is to be called (ie forces the campaign during sunny summer days);
10. That the Writ Period to be restricted to  $< 40$  days;
11. That Parliament be recalled no later than 60 days after an election;
12. That the rules governing Leaders debates be codified & in place at least 365 days prior to the next election date.

**Sincerely,**

**Ken Szijarto**

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