

To the Special Committee on Electoral Reform:

It was my resolute intention to attend today's ERRE meeting in Toronto, including the witness panels and the open mic sessions. I sincerely wished to hear what others had to say about voting and electoral systems, and to make plain my own stance on the issue. However, last minute work requirements are regretfully preventing my attendance.

In lieu of speaking to the committee in person, I ask that you accept these written comments, and take them into consideration when making your report.

I staunchly support Proportional Representation, and encourage the committee to embrace some befitting version of it.

Personally, I am still learning of and weighing the differences between the various PR systems: MMP, STV, and hybrids like P3 and Rural-Urban PR. As all of us become more familiar with our options, I hope that we can tailor-fit a system for Canada.

I cannot think of a valid reason to oppose Proportional Representation. The arguments against such voter reform seem to be summed up by the opposition's catch phrase, "Keep Voting Simple." I find this very notion offensive, as it suggests that Canadians are unable to think with any complexity. After all, the simplest voting system is one in which no dissension is allowed. I hope we agree that dictatorship should not be our aim, any more than we should "Keep Voting Simple-minded."

I have also seen arguments made against ranked ballots, as if they are a voting system in and of themselves. As you know, they are not. They can be included as a tool in voting systems across the electoral spectrum, and safeguards can be put in place to address any worries. To suggest they are a substantive matter is a diversion from the real issue.

The liberal government promised that 2015 would be our last First-Past-The-Post election. They and two other Canadian political parties publicly endorse proportional voting. I ask that they be held to their promises and assertions; that you fully recommend PR this December; and that we as a nation finally progress to an electoral system that improves fairness, diversity, equality, and collaboration. Multiple PR options exist to reach such a goal, and one major stumble—FPTP—stands in the way.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Kristian Truelsen
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