

# NOT Re-inventing The Wheel

From 1997-2015 I voted in seven elections. In the first six elections my vote was totally wasted. The successful candidate had little interest in matters that were politically, socially, or environmentally relevant to my beliefs, aspirations, and values.

In the seventh election, I strategically voted for a party that was not my first choice. That candidate squeaked in. That elected candidate is closer to my values and is willing to listen to different ideas. My vote wasn't completely wasted.

I believe it is time for electoral reform.

However, I am afraid the process will bog down in competing political interests, competing formats, excessive explanations, and delay.

In 2004 the Law Commission of Canada completed a report entitled:

## **Voting Counts: Electoral Reform for Canada**

“Beginning in 2001, the Law Commission of Canada conducted extended research and a multifaceted public consultation and engagement strategy to gather the insights and opinions of a broad cross-section of Canadians on electoral system reform.”

The Commission held Public Consultations in Toronto, Ottawa, Vancouver, Charlottetown, Montreal, London, Calgary, and Edmonton; sponsored many special events and forums; attended many conferences, meetings, and presentations. Examined six different Electoral Reform systems. Conducted an Internet consultation questionnaire that “asked citizens their opinions...on electoral system reform”. The Report contains a Bibliography of 148 items—including many describing and critiquing other countries’ Electoral Reform systems.

“The engagement might proceed more smoothly if presented with one particular model...”

Electoral Reform has been “studied enough”. The federal Liberal government should fulfill its election promise by accepting the Law Commission’s well-thought-out and comprehensive recommendation that “Canada adopt a mixed member proportional electoral system as proposed in this Report.” They recommended a “flexible” list that offers voters more and easily understood voting options. They proposed that Parliament “should review the new electoral system after three general elections have been conducted under the new electoral rules.”

We don't need to re-invent the electoral wheel. Let's tweak if necessary but let's VOTE under the Law Commission of Canada's proposed system in the next election. Then we can assess whether the new system has reduced (or hopefully eliminated) the wastage of millions of votes as has happened to mine for the last 18 years.

(All quoted material is from the Law Commission Report)

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