

Brief to ERRE

Why is this important to me?

I am very interested in the possibility of a new electoral system because it will improve and strengthen our country.

Right now, my vote doesn't count because I vote for the Green Party. This is the same for millions of other Canadians who should have a voice, but don't under the first past the post system.

If my vote doesn't count, "why bother voting"? people may well ask. Our present system leads to voter apathy, not a good thing.

Our strength in Canada is our diversity, and everyone should have a voice in a democracy, I believe. Every vote should count.

Full representation will create a stronger Canada. I favour a system where the proportion of party representatives in Parliament reflects the proportions in the population.

The Mandate of ERRE: No Referendum Please

I believe this government and this committee has a mandate to come up with a better electoral system. I do not believe this should be done by going back out to the Canadian public at large, for example by a referendum. Why not?

In reviewing the options in your survey, I found it somewhat confusing, and some of the questions not clear. And I have an excellent education, with a post graduate degree.

When faced with unknowns, such as the complexities of the different voting options, the majority of people will opt for the known. We saw this in Ontario. This is human nature, to stay with the familiar. It's safer.

You (ERRE) have a mandate to come up with a better system, and I don't have the skill and knowledge to understand the subtleties, and neither will 99% of the population, so please don't go to a referendum. A referendum will create a big political football to kick around, with lots of mis-information.

I believe your mandate is to study, receive input, and come up with a recommendation. I hope in the end that every vote will count.

That's my brief. Thank you for your consideration.

Douglas Hart