

To the Committee on Electoral Reform, Canada

Submitted by :
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I am an old man, a retired General Systems Analyst. I submit this as an Individual...

I make reference to ideas explored in a 1953 book by author Neville Shute, 'In the Wet'. It was an idea of putting multiple votes in the hands of Australians, up to a total of 7 votes maximum for those qualifying to meet the next level. Behind it is the idea that democracy among all is subject to abuse and influences that can not be controlled. Big money and repetitive advertising will 'buy opinions'. Those of low experience, IQ or circumstance will vote for their own advantage at the expense of the rest. That makes 'democracy' a vulnerable and weak idea. Somehow 'merit' needs to be reflected in the vote. Shute suggested that additional votes should be based on an individual's profile of experience, education, values and social (in the broadest sense) experience. Each of these levels was spelled out. The idea was to harness local wisdom to good purpose. The 7th vote was an honour bestowed by the Queen upon those people who are 'National Treasures'.

I regard Voter System Reform as an ongoing experiment, needing adjustment as we gain experience with it. Almost any reform is better than what we have. But to make politics a normal part of each adult life, it has to have a local relevance. Rural circumstance requires a different system from urban. Remote and Northern a third style and system. We will need time to explore, test runs (as businesses do in going from manual Accounting systems to computer technologies). We know from the Bush Elections experience that electronic systems of voting are readily subject to fraud and manipulation.

Cost is irrelevant. Critics can whine that any deeper system than 'one vote one time every 4 or 5 years' will increase the cost in a zero sum economy. Absolutely wrong. Consulting our own Public fairly is one of the most important investments in ourselves. Coupled with that could be a better knowledge of ourselves. A companion Reform could be in expanding the outreach of Statscan. As every town has a Post Office, so every town could have a branch of Statscan that processes local information week by week and feeds it to governments at every level, and to Parliament. (No commercial business can run on management information more than two weeks old. Why think a Parliament can do so on 4 year old Census or voter data? Perhaps then we could have a usefully informed Public and an informed freer Parliament.)

We are to learn how better to govern ourselves for the next 1000 years. It isn't about elitism and degrees. It is about local awareness set against a broader Fairness in a world of rapidly changing circumstance, waste and damage.

Members of your committee staff should read Douglas Rushkoff's March 2014 book 'Throwing Rocks at the Google Bus'. It explains the deeper issues behind Capitalism and its devastating failures. There truly is a time bomb of collapse on many levels in the offing. We make pacts with the devil. We need a whole new theory of how to manage the Earth (and Canada as a significant part of it). The wise and the moral among us should have the power to sway the public. You yourselves must learn to be creative, immediate and reflective. I would suggest that you all get thoroughly familiar with General Systems Analysis. (That has nothing to do Computer Analysis... it is the logic of practical things in life... what happens both upstream and downstream of what is apparently the issue before you. Where does 'good' and 'harm' lie? The sciences of knowing at one part per million. THERE is where wisdom can be found.

The whole world still runs on gasoline, including how you get to school or work and get home. You are already in the clutches of Zuckerman's Monster... 'facebook' that tells several billion people 4 times a day 'what is trending'... Mind management most of you can't resist. (Put the smart phone down and read real paper books while talking face to face with real informed people).

History... you have to learn the basics from history. The 'rub' is in choosing whose version... People of my age know the truth... we lived it. A few of us can tell you much that you need to know. The rise of International Corporatism is the monster in the room. The trouble is its own self interest. We vote once every 4 years and they get back to running it all their way every day between.

So in summary...

- Consider Multiple Votes based on various kinds of merit
- This should not be a one shot all-or-nothing Reform, but a creeping betterment as we gain experience in modernization
- Be sensitive to local circumstance. One size cannot fit all. 3 million square miles.
- Capitalism needs major reform. Read Douglas Rushkoff. It is about the End of Growth.
- Evidence through informed Science should be the basis of reason and representation
- Shut 'social media' and the banks out of the process... electronic business is too shallow and too easy to manipulate by clever hackers