

BRIEF

to the attention of
the Special Committee on Electoral Reform

Francis Scarpaleggia, MP

Scott Reid, MP
Nathan Cullen, MP

John Aldag, MP
Alexandre Boulerice, MP
Matt DeCoursey, MP
G rard Deltell, MP
Elizabeth May, OC MP
Blake Richards, MP
Sherry Romanado, MP
Ruby Sahota, MP
Luc Th riault, MP

**PANEL DISCUSSION
ON PROPORTIONAL
REPRESENTATION**

Concordia University,
Monday, September 19, 2016
7pm-9pm

an event organized by

Concordia University Young Greens
McGill University Young Greens
Fair Vote Canada Montreal Chapter

brief prepared by William Gagnon
President, Concordia University Young Greens



Concordia University



McGill University



Montreal Chapter

PARTICIPANTS

Krzysztof Majewski, Representative, Fair Vote Canada

19h15-19h30

What is the current situation and why an electoral reform?



Mr. Majewski informed the public of the current voting system in Canada along with its pros and cons. He presented his views – also the views of the organization he represents, Fair Vote Canada – of what a reformed electoral system meant for Canadians. On a more personal note, he said he prefers STV.

Daniel Green, Deputy Leader, Green Party of Canada

19h30-19h45

Proportional representation and the views of the Green Party of Canada.



Mr. Green quickly resummarized what proportional representation means in an electoral context. He then used Lego™ blocks to make a comparative analysis of the results of the 2015 Canadian federal elections under a FPTP system versus a system using proportional representation. He introduced the concept of vote-poubelles, or lost votes (garbage votes in French), which, to him, disengages Canadian voters.

Henry Milner, PhD, Research Chair in Electoral Studies, Université de Montréal

19h45-20h00

Mixed-Member Proportional (MMP) representation : what it is and why it would be beneficial for Canada



Dr. Milner provided a very detailed definition of the MMP voting system to an attentive audience. He explained its mechanisms along with pros and cons and demystified many of the questions the public had. He expressed his opinion against a referendum.

Antony Hodgson, PhD, President, Fair Voting BC

20h00-20h30

Single Transferable Vote (STV) and STV+ : What they are and why they would be beneficial for Canada.

The path to PR in 2019 : Do we need a referendum?



Dr. Hodgson presented a very detailed version of the STV system. He caught the attention of the audience with his clear visuals using Smarties™. He also explained why a referendum is not necessary for electoral reform to happen in Canada and its potential negative effects.

20h30-21h15

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

The Q&A period generated a lot of interest amongst the audience. Many members of the public that came to speak at the microphone made long comments on their personal experiences with election issues. Some suggested new, unthought of, voting systems for Canada, while some supported or disapproved other proposed systems. The moderator had to cut their interventions since some of them were lengthy. Some questions asked, either in Q&A period or to panelists after the official time was over :

- How can we have more impact on the electoral reform, how can we make sure we get a new voting system?;
- Why would citizens be against a proportional voting system?

REACH

Advertising

Due to very low budget, advertising of the event was limited to Facebook (\$8 USD spent on Facebook ads) and printed posters inside Concordia University. The organizers used their organizational and personal Instagram, Twitter and Facebook accounts to share the event.

The event was also advertised in the mailing lists of the Young Greens of Canada, the Green Party of Canada and Fair Vote Canada.

Physical presence

A total of 44 tickets were reserved online using a tickets reservation platform. Out of these 44 tickets, 29 showed up and around 10 additional people got in without any ticket.

Virtual presence

The event was livestreamed on Facebook and got more than 964 views. It was also shared and retweeted on Twitter.

OUTCOMES

The audience demonstrated a very clear interest for an electoral reform for proportional representation and did not question Dr. Milner and Dr. Hodgson on the relevancy of a referendum. It seemed that most participants were very involved emotionally in the issue. Conversations between panelists and the public continued even after the panel was officially over. A group also exchanged contact information in the idea of organizing a demonstration march in Ottawa in favor of proportional representation.

SUMMARY

From conversations heard during the debate, the majority of participants – maybe unanimity – supported the following statements :

- 1. Yes to a proportional voting system**
where the number of parliamentary seats assigned to each party matches the proportion of the popular vote received by each party
- 2. Referendum is not necessary**
as it could potentially create more confusion among unaware public and that there is no violation of the constitution.
- 3. MMP preferred**
There was a strong tendency to support MMP over STV.
- 4. Ranked ballot fails .**
Participants agreed that ranked ballot was a false solution if not coupled to a proportional representation system.
- 5. Consensus-based decision making preferred.**
Participants agreed that they wanted to see all political parties work together in a consensus-based decision making process rather than winner takes all. Some suggested that it could be beneficial for all Canadians.

ORGANIZATIONS

The Young Greens of Canada, Concordia and McGill universities chapters

The Young Greens of Canada is the youth wing of the Green Party of Canada. The Concordia University and McGill University Young Greens are each a chapter under the Young Greens of Canada. Their intent is to build a prosperous and sustainable future for Canada.

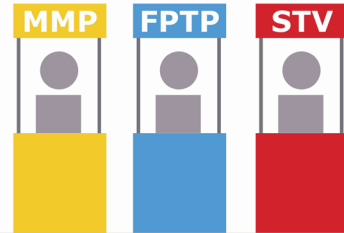
Fair Vote Canada Montreal

Fair Vote Canada is a national, multi-partisan citizens campaign for proportional representation. There is over 30 local teams and more than 64 000 people have signed their Declaration of Voters' Rights.

MARKETING
MATERIAL

PANEL

RÉFORME ÉLECTORALE POUR LE VOTE PROPORTIONNEL



LUNDI 19 SEPTEMBRE 2016

19h00, Université Concordia, salle H-763

BILLETS : bit.ly/ERREConU

**DANIEL
GREEN**

Chef Adjoint
Parti Vert du
Canada

**TONY
HODGSON**

Président, PhD
Fair Voting BC

**KRZYSZTOF
MAJEWSKI**

Représentant
Représentation Équitable
au Canada

**HENRY
MILNER**

**Chercheur Associé,
PhD**
Université de
Montréal



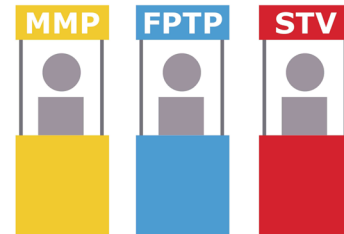
événement organisé et approuvé par
Représentation Équitable au Canada et les
Jeunes Verts des universités McGill et Concordia



more info at gpc@csu.qc.ca

PANEL DISCUSSION

ELECTORAL REFORM FOR PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION



MONDAY SEPTEMBER 19, 2016

7 PM, Concordia University, room H-763

TICKETS : bit.ly/ERREConU

**DANIEL
GREEN**

Deputy Leader
Green Party of
Canada

**TONY
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President, PhD
Fair Voting BC

**KRZYSZTOF
MAJEWSKI**

Representative
Fair Vote Canada

**HENRY
MILNER**

**Research Fellow,
PhD**
Université de
Montréal



event organized and endorsed by Fair Vote
Canada and the Young Greens of Canada of
Concordia University and McGill University.



more info at gpc@csu.qc.ca