

To: ERRE

Subject: Electoral Reform and how it will change my democratic experience

My name is Adam Pattison and I am tired of Canada's democratic system. I have started to lose faith in the system and feel we are moving closer and closer to the HORRIBLE two party system that the American's have. Due to the beliefs and values I hold, I am unable to make a difference within the current first past the post system. I have lived in various neighborhoods across BC and I have always voted Green. The only time I steered away from this was last federal election when I “strategically voted” for NDP. I have voted in every Federal and Provincial election since I was eligible, yet not once has my vote led to a member being elected. Additionally, since the removal of \$1 being given to the party you vote for, I no longer support the Greens financially either. How does a system that groups us by geography best represent the population of Canada? Why do I, as a Green supporter, get penalized because my neighborhood supports more right wing parties? Why should that matter to what my vote is and how I want my voice to be heard? The first past the post system came with colonialism and we have had very limited innovation within our democratic system since. How can a system that creates “strategic voting” give our democratic system the results of what Canadians ACTUALLY want? Canadians have created websites so they can swap votes with each other so they have a better chance of their vote making a difference. That is how poorly our system is letting these people be heard. Proportional representation would remove this problem. It would remove people “strategically voting” for the lesser of two evils, rather than the positive change they want to see. Proportional representation will change the face Canada as we see our multiculturalism, diversity, and differences shine. Canada will be stronger when we embrace our differences, rather than let the common powers stay forever in control. Canada has never had majority federal government made up of anything other than Liberal and Conservatives in my entire lifetime, with the NDP being the major opposition once. That is what I call a two party system. Let's change. Let's grow. Let's innovate. But please do not keep up the status quo.