

TO THE ELECTORAL REFORM COMMITTEE

September 23, 2016

1. The present Electoral System in Canada has been in operation for nearly 150 years. It has worked well; why fix something that has worked for and been accepted by Canadians for so long. Also, continue to use the paper system of voting.
2. Our Parliamentary Democratic System is patterned after the British System which has been in operation for much longer than 150 years. Why fix something that is an historic proven fact and working. Attempts to change our Senate have proven to be in itself a struggle and pursuit to change it should therefore be dropped. The purpose of the Senate is to do a second reading or analysis of all bills and their ability to make amendments has proven to be a necessary aspect of our system. Senate sub-committees have also proven to be a very functional and necessary instrument in our system.
3. Our Canada is a multi-party system which allows for political and platform views and policies from different perspectives. This type of pluralistic system cannot be changed or improved from the first-past-the-post concept.

Changing the first-past-the-post system can only be seen as working during a Political Party Convention choosing a new leader of the Party. The desire here is to unite the vote or bring it all together, if possible, under the agreement to support one leader.

You would never want to implement such a strategy for a general Canadian Election. Having many opposing views or alternative perspectives brings questions and debate into our Party System in Parliament which is an absolute necessity and it works.

4. Always thinking that we can elect more of a majority government each time we vote will only lead to heavy handedness and closer to a dictatorship.
5. Minority governments in Canada have most often been proven to be very effective although teetery at times. They have often led to compromise and general agreement amidst Party differences. Discussions in Parliament, compromise and adjusting policies to obtain the passage of a bill is part of the Canadian Way.
6. From an Educator's view and knowing a little bit about how a 16 year old thinks, lowering the voting age is plain ridiculous. A 16 year old has not yet had an opportunity to live and accept real responsibility ; let alone choose a government.
7. We must strive to keep our Parliamentary Democratic System as Canadian as possible and very distinctively different from the majority of countries in the world. Any attempt to make our system more Americanized would be a total move in the wrong direction.
8. We must also strive to not move in the direction of a personal combative system of dialogue but always remember that the Canadian Way is peaceful, respect for one another, allowing equal voice and opinion from all people.

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