

A comparison of two electoral systems: Single Member Plurality and Mixed Member Proportional Representation from 1957 to 2016

**Jerry D. Kovacs
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Power Point Presentation

Key Findings:

**Single Member Plurality: 11 Majority / 9 Minority Governments
Mixed Member Proportional Representation: 3 Majority / 17 Minority Governments**

Adding MPs to the House of Commons results in additional fixed operating and personnel costs

Reconfiguration of electoral boundaries will be time consuming and cost money and resources

Democracy requires public hearings

A national referendum on the type of system may be needed

Time is required to study alternative forms of elections and voting

MMPR benefits smaller parties receiving popular votes not translated into seats

The greatest positive impact is on smaller parties such as the Green Party

The greatest negative impact is on the Bloc Quebecois

Majority governments will be minority governments

The vast number of governments will be minorities

This will affect the way Canada is governed

See power point presentation for detailed analysis of all federal elections from 1957 to 2015

Electoral Systems

A comparison of two electoral systems:
Single Member Plurality and
Mixed Member Proportional Representation
1957 - 2016

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Electoral Systems

A comparison of two electoral systems:
Single Member Plurality and
Mixed Member Proportional Representation
1957 - 2016

Jerry D. Kovacs

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Learning Objectives

- During this presentation participants will:
 - Appreciate the nature of both systems
 - Recognize the differences between them
 - Understand the pros and cons of each system
 - Apply them to recent Canadian electoral results
 - Use a simple calculation model for comparison
 - Determine which system produces the best results
 - Decide which system is the most fair and best one

Single Member Plurality

- “First past the post”
- Party candidates receiving the most votes win
- The party winning the most seats forms the government in Parliament
- Used in Canada, the USA, UK, France

Advantages

- System used in Canada since 1867
- Well-established and widely accepted
- Easy to organize and calculate the results
- Results are tabulated quickly: no uncertainty
- Cost effective and administratively efficient
- Well-organized parties with clear platforms and popular leaders and candidates have a greater chance of winning seats in Parliament

Disadvantages

- Not an accurate reflection of popular vote
- Governments formed with 35% of popular vote
- If voter turnout is 60%, a party can form the government with 25% of eligible votes cast
- This is not good for “representative democracy”
- Voters supporting candidates who lost are not represented by Members of Parliament in Ottawa
- Smaller parties are under-represented in parliament

Mixed Member Proportional Representation

- A number of candidates are elected according to SMP and a number according to percentage of popular vote received by political parties
- “Mixed system” where candidates are elected by ridings and from approved “Party Lists”
- Used in Germany, Italy, Scotland

Advantages

- More accurately reflective of popular vote
- Advantageous for small parties and those failing to elect representatives under SMP
- Voters more fairly represented in Parliament
- Promotes cooperation amongst politicians
- Compromise is considered a positive result

Disadvantages

- More complicated procedure
- More confusing for voters to understand
- More expensive electoral process
- Results in more fractured/divided parliaments
- Significant cost to convert in Canada
- Will it truly reflect regional differences?

Preliminary observations and conclusions

- Most persons, especially those feeling unrepresented, initially favour MMPR to redress the electoral distortion of popular votes
- However, upon closer examination, MMPR poses a number of challenges for democracy, the most notable being the prevalence of vote splitting and fractured legislatures
- Province-based parties suffer the most

Vote

- By a show of hands, who favours the Single Member Plurality System?
 - _____
- By a show of hands, who favours the Mixed Member Proportional Representation System?
 - _____

Application Options

- Mixed Member Proportional Representation:
 - Half elected directly; half elected from national party lists based on percentage of popular vote
 - Half elected directly; half elected from regional party lists based on percentage of popular vote
 - Half elected directly; half elected from provincial party lists based on percentage of popular vote
 - Other variations

Simple Calculation Model

- For comparative purposes
- A group activity for discussion and analysis
- See how MMPR applies with different results
 - Each group has a different federal election year
 - Half of the seats SMP; half of the seats MMPR
 - Divide by half the number of seats for each party
 - Calculate the other half of seats each party receives on the basis of their percentage of popular vote
 - Add both numbers. Compare results with SMP

19 October 2015

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Official Turnout: 68.3 %				
Cons	99	332	31.89	29.81
Lib	184	332	39.47	55.42
BQ	10	78	4.66	3.01
NDP	44	332	19.71	13.25
Green	1	332	3.45	0.30
Other				
TOTAL	332			

Government 184 ; Opposition 144 ; Majority 40

SMP vs. MMMPR (2015)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMMPR	Variation
Cons	99	31.89	103	+ 4
Lib	184	39.47	158	- 26
BQ	10	4.66	20	+10
NDP	44	19.71	55	+11
Green	1	3.45	7	+ 6
Other				
TOTAL	332		332	

Government 158; Opposition 185 ; Minority 27

2 May 2011

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Official Turnout: 61.1%				
Cons	166	288	39.62	54.25
Lib	34	288	18.91	11.11
BQ	4	78	6.04	13.07
NDP	103	288	30.63	33.66
Green	1	288	3.91	0.33
Other				
TOTAL	306			

Government 166; Opposition 142 ; Majority 24

SMP vs. MMMPR (2011)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMMPR	Variation
Cons	166	39.62	143	- 23
Lib	34	18.91	46	+12
BQ	4	6.04	20	+16
NDP	103	30.63	98	- 5
Green	1	3.91	9	+ 8
Other				
TOTAL	306		304	

Government 143; Opposition 173; Minority 30

14 October 2008

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Official Turnout: 59.1%				
Cons	143	306	37.6	46.4
Lib	76	306	26.2	24.7
BQ	50	75	10.0	16.2
NDP	37	306	18.2	12.0
Green	0	305	6.8	0.0
Other	2		1.2	
TOTAL	306			

Government 143; Opposition 165; Minority 21

SMP vs. MMMPR (2008)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMMPR	Variation
Cons	143	37.6	129	-14
Lib	76	26.2	78	+ 2
BQ	50	10.0	40	-10
NDP	37	18.2	46	+ 9
Green		6.8	10	+10
Other		1.1		
TOTAL	306		304	

Government 129; Opposition 175; Minority 44

23 January 2006

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Official Turnout: 64.7%				
Cons	125	307	36.27	40.39
Lib	102	307	30.23	33.22
BQ	51	75	10.48	16.61
NDP	29	307	17.48	9.44
Green	0		4.50	0.0
Other	1	237	0.52	
TOTAL	307	1,634		

Government 124; Opposition 184; Minority 60

SMP vs MMMPR (2006)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMMPR	Variation
Cons	124	36.3	118	- 6
Lib	103	30.2	98	- 5
BQ	51	10.5	41	- 10
NDP	29	17.5	41	+12
Green		4.5	7	+ 7
		0.5		
TOTAL	308		305	

Government 118; Opposition 187; Minority 69

28 June 2004

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Official Turnout: 60.9%				
Lib	135	308	36.7	43.8
Cons	99	308	29.6	32.1
BQ	54	75	12.4	17.5
NDP	19	308	15.7	6.2
Green		308	4.3	0.0
Other	1	378	1.4	0.3
TOTAL	308	1,865		

Government 135; Opposition 173; Minority 38

SMP vs MMPR (2004)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMPR	Variation
Lib	135	36.7	124	- 11
Cons	99	29.6	95	- 4
BQ	54	12.4	46	- 8
NDP	19	15.7	34	+ 15
Green		4.3	7	+ 7
Other				
TOTAL	308		306	

Government 124; Opposition 182; Minority 58

27 November 2000

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Official Turnout: 61.2% (Actual turnout: 64.1%)				
Lib	172	301	40.8	57.1
CA	66	298	25.5	21.9
BQ	38	75	10.7	12.6
NDP	13	298	8.5	4.3
PC	12	291	12.2	4.0
Other		545	2.3	0.0
TOTAL	301	1,808		

Government 172; Opposition 129; Majority 43

SMP vs MMMPR (2000)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMMPR	Variation
Lib	172	40.8	148	- 24
CA	66	25.5	72	+ 6
BQ	38	10.7	35	- 3
NDP	13	8.5	25	+12
PC	12	12.2	24	+12
Other		2.3	4	+ 4
TOTAL	301		308	

Government 148; Opposition 160; Minority 12

2 June 1997

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Voter Turnout: 67%				
Lib	155	301	38.5	51.5
Reform	60	227	19.4	19.9
BQ	44	75	10.7	14.6
NDP	21	301	11.0	7.0
PC	20	301	18.8	6.6
Other	1	467	1.6	0.3
TOTAL	301	1,672		

Government 155; Opposition 146; Majority 9

SMP vs MMPR (1997)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMPR	Variation
Lib	155	38.5	144	- 11
Reform	60	19.4	62	+ 2
BQ	44	10.7	35	- 9
NDP	21	11.0	29	+ 8
PC	20	18.8	34	+14
Other	1	1.6	2	+ 1
TOTAL	301		306	

Government 144; Opposition 162; Minority 18

25 October 1993

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Voter Turnout: 69.6%				
Lib	177	295	41.3	60.0
BQ	54	75	13.5	18.3
Reform	52	207	18.7	17.6
NDP	9	294	6.9	3.1
PC	2	295	16.0	0.7
Other	1	989	3.6	0.3
TOTAL	295	2,155		

Government 177; Opposition 118; Majority 59

SMP vs MMMPR (1993)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMMPR	Variation
Lib	177	41.3	150	- 27
BQ	54	13.5	47	- 7
Reform	52	18.7	54	+ 2
NDP	9	6.9	19	+10
PC	2	16.0	25	+23
Other	1	3.6	6	+ 5
TOTAL	295		301	

Government 150; Opposition 151; Minority 1

21 November 1988

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Official Turnout: 75.3%				
PC	169	295	43.0	57.3
Lib	83	294	31.9	28.1
NDP	43	295	20.4	14.6
SC		9	0.03	
Other		681	4.7	
TOTAL	295	1,574		

Government 169; Opposition 126; Majority 43

SMP vs MMPR (1988)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMPR	Variation
PC	169	295	148	- 21
Lib	83	294	89	- 6
NDP	43	295	52	+ 9
SC		9	0	
Other		681	9	+ 9
TOTAL	295	1,574	296	

Government 148; Opposition 148; Majority/Minority ?

4 September 1984

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Official Turnout: 75.3				
PC	211	282	50.0	74.8
Lib	40	282	28.0	14.2
NDP	30	282	18.8	10.6
Other	1	552	3.9	0.4
SC		51	0.1	
TOTAL	282	1,449		

Government 211; Opposition 71; Majority 140

SMP vs MMMPR (1984)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMMPR	Variation
PC	211	50.0	176	- 35
Lib	40	28.0	60	+20
NDP	30	18.8	42	+12
Other	1	3.9	6	+ 5
SC		0.1		
TOTAL	282		284	

Government 176; Opposition 108; Majority 68

18 February 1980

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Official Turnout: 69.3				
Lib	147	282	44.3	52.1
PC	103	282	32.5	36.5
NDP	32	282	19.8	11.3
SC		84	1.7	0.0
Other		574	1.7	0.0
TOTAL	282	1,504		

Government 147; Opposition 135; Majority 12

SMP vs MMMPR (1980)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMMPR	Variation
Lib	147	44.3	134	- 13
PC	103	32.5	97	- 6
NDP	32	19.8	34	+ 2
SC		1.7	2	+ 2
Other		1.7	2	+ 2
TOTAL	282		269	

Government 134; Opposition 135; Minority 1

22 May 1979

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Official Turnout: 75.7%				
PC	136	282	35.9	48.2
Lib	114	282	40.1	40.4
NDP	26	282	17.9	9.2
SC	6	103	4.6	2.1
Other		475	1.5	0.0
TOTAL	282	1,424		
Government 136; Opposition 146; Minority 10				

SMP vs MMPR (1979)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMPR	Variation
PC	136	35.9	119	- 17
Lib	114	40.1	114	
NDP	26	17.9	38	+12
SC	6	4.6	9	+ 3
Other				
TOTAL	282		280	

Government 119; Opposition 161; Minority 42

8 July 1974

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Official Turnout: 71.0%				
Lib	141	264	43.2	53.4
PC	95	264	35.4	36.0
NDP	16	262	15.4	6.1
SC	11	152	5.1	4.2
Other	1	267	0.9	0.4
TOTAL	264	1,209		
Government 141; Opposition 123; Majority 18				

SMP vs MMPR (1974)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMPR	Variation
Lib	141	43.2	128	- 13
PC	95	35.4	94	- 1
NDP	16	15.4	28	+12
SC	11	5.1	17	+ 6
Other	1	0.9	2	+ 1
TOTAL	264		269	

Government 128; Opposition 141 ; Minority 13

30 October 1972

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Official Turnout: 76.7%				
Lib	109	263	38.5	41.3
PC	107	264	35.0	40.5
NDP	31	251	17.7	11.7
SC	15	166	7.6	5.7
Other	2	173	1.2	0.8
TOTAL	264	1,117		

Government 109; Opposition 155; Minority 46

SMP vs MMPR (1972)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMPR	Variation
Lib	109	38.5	105	- 4
PC	107	35.0	98	- 9
NDP	31	17.7	39	+ 8
SC	15	7.6	18	+ 3
Other	2	1.2	3	+ 1
TOTAL	264		263	

Government 105; Opposition 158; Minority 53

25 June 1968

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Official Turnout: 75.7%				
Lib	155	263	45.5	58.7
PC	72	263	31.4	27.3
NDP	22	263	17.0	8.3
Other	15	147	1.7	5.7
SC		31		0.0
TOTAL	264	967		

Government 155; Opposition 109; Majority 46

SMP vs MMPR (1968)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMPR	Variation
Lib	155	45.5	138	- 17
PC	72	31.4	77	+ 5
NDP	22	17.0	33	+ 11
Other	15	1.7	8	- 7
SC				
TOTAL	264		256	

Government 138; Opposition 118; Majority 20

8 November 1965

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Official Turnout: 74.8%				
Lib	131	265	39.8	49.4
PC	97	265	32.1	36.6
NDP	21	255	17.7	7.9
Other	11	140	5.8	4.2
SC	5	86	3.6	1.9
TOTAL	265	1,011		

Government 131; Opposition 134; Minority 3

SMP vs MMMPR (1965)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMMPR	Variation
Lib	131	39.8	118	- 13
PC	97	32.1	91	- 6
NDP	21	17.7	34	+13
Other	11	5.8	13	+ 2
SC	5	3.6	7	+ 2
TOTAL	265			

Government 118; Opposition 145; Minority 27

8 April 1963

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Official Turnout: 79.2%				
Lib	129	264	41.7	48.7
PC	95	265	32.9	35.9
SC	24	224	11.9	9.1
NDP	17	232	13.1	6.4
Other		38	0.4	0.0
TOTAL	265	1,023		
Government 129; Opposition 136; Minority 7				

SMP vs MMMPR (1963)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMMPR	Variation
Lib	129	41.7	120	- 9
PC	95	32.9	91	- 4
SC	24	11.9	28	+4
NDP	17	13.1	26	+9
Other		0.4		
TOTAL	265		265	

Government 120; Opposition 145; Minority 25

18 June 1962

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Official Turnout: 79.0%				
PC	116	265	37.3	43.8
Lib	99	263	37.4	37.4
SC	30	230	11.7	11.3
NDP	19	218	13.4	7.2
Other	1	40	0.2	0.4
TOTAL	265	1,016		
Government 116; Opposition 149; Minority 33				

SMP vs MMPR (1962)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMPR	Variation
PC	116	37.3	108	- 8
Lib	99	37.4	99	
SC	30	11.7	31	+ 1
NDP	19	13.4	32	+13
Other	1	0.2		- 1
TOTAL	265			

Government 108; Opposition 182; Minority 74

31 March 1958

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Official Turnout: 79.4%				
PC	208	265	53.7	78.5
Lib	49	264	33.8	18.5
CCF	8	169	9.5	3.0
SC		82	2.6	0.0
Other		51	0.4	0.0
TOTAL	265	831		

Government 208; Opposition 57; Majority 151

SMP vs MMPR (1958)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMPR	Variation
PC	208	53.7	174	- 34
Lib	49	33.8	70	+ 21
CCF	8	9.5	17	+ 9
SC		2.6	4	+ 4
Other				
TOTAL	265		265	

Government 174; Opposition 91; Majority 83

10 June 1957

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Official Turnout: 74.1%				
PC	112	256	39.0	42.3
Lib	105	264	42.3	39.6
CCF	25	162	10.8	9.4
SC	19	114	6.6	7.2
Other	4	66	1.3	1.5
TOTAL	265	862		
Government 112; Opposition 153; Minority 41				

SMP vs MMPR (1957)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMPR	Variation
PC	112	39.0	109	- 3
Lib	105	42.3	109	+4
CCF	25	10.8	27	+2
SC	19	6.6	18	- 1
Other	4	1.3	4	
TOTAL	265		267	

Government 109; Opposition 158; Minority 49

SMP

MMPR

Majority		Minority	
2015	Trudeau (Justin)		
2011	Harper		
		2008	Harper
		2006	Harper
		2004	Martin
2000	Chretien		
1997	Chretien		
1993	Chretien		
1988	Mulroney		
1984	Mulroney		
1980	Trudeau (Pierre)		
		1979	Clark
1974	Trudeau (Pierre)		
		1972	Trudeau (Pierre)
1968	Trudeau (Pierre)		
		1965	Pearson
		1963	Pearson
		1962	Diefenbaker
1958	Diefenbaker		
		1957	Diefenbaker
<u>Total:</u>	<u>11</u>		<u>9</u>

Majority		Minority	
		2015	
			2011
			2008
			2006
			2004
			2000
			1997
			1993
			1988 (tie)
		1984	
			1980
			1979
			1974
			1972
			1968
			1965
			1963
			1962
		1958	
			1957
<u>Total:</u>	<u>3</u>		<u>17</u>

1957 to 2015

- Single Member Plurality
- 11 majority governments
- 9 minority governments
- Mixed Member Proportional Representation
- 3 majority governments
- 17 minority governments

Observations

- Add MPs to House of Commons. Additional costs for fixed, operating, personnel, etc.
- Reconfiguration of electoral boundaries that will take time, resources, and cost money
- Democracy requires public hearings and input into the type of system Canadians prefer
- Time to study alternative forms of elections
- Majority of governments will be minorities and affect the way Canada is governed
- MMPR benefits smaller parties receiving popular vote that is not translated into seats
- The greatest negative impact affects the Bloc Quebecois
- The beneficiaries are the New Democratic and Green parties

Vote

- By a show of hands, who favours the Single Member Plurality system?

- _____

- By a show of hands, who favours the Mixed Member Proportional system?

- _____

Conclusion

- If your preference remained the same, why?
- If your preference changed, why?
- If you have no preference, why?
- Can we improve democracy in Canada without changing our electoral system or institutions?
- How?

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Single Member Plurality

- “First past the post”
- Party candidates receiving the most votes win
- The party winning the most seats forms the government in Parliament
- Used in Canada, the USA, UK, France

Advantages

- System used in Canada since 1867
- Well-established and widely accepted
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 - Half elected directly; half elected from regional party lists based on percentage of popular vote
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 - Other variations

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- For comparative purposes
- A group activity for discussion and analysis
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 - Each group has a different federal election year
 - Half of the seats SMP; half of the seats MMPR
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Government 143; Opposition 173; Minority 30

14 October 2008

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Official Turnout: 59.1%				
Cons	143	306	37.6	46.4
Lib	76	306	26.2	24.7
BQ	50	75	10.0	16.2
NDP	37	306	18.2	12.0
Green	0	305	6.8	0.0
Other	2		1.2	
TOTAL	306			

Government 143; Opposition 165; Minority 21

SMP vs. MMMPR (2008)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMMPR	Variation
Cons	143	37.6	129	-14
Lib	76	26.2	78	+ 2
BQ	50	10.0	40	-10
NDP	37	18.2	46	+ 9
Green		6.8	10	+10
Other		1.1		
TOTAL	306		304	

Government 129; Opposition 175; Minority 44

23 January 2006

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Official Turnout: 64.7%				
Cons	125	307	36.27	40.39
Lib	102	307	30.23	33.22
BQ	51	75	10.48	16.61
NDP	29	307	17.48	9.44
Green	0		4.50	0.0
Other	1	237	0.52	
TOTAL	307	1,634		

Government 124; Opposition 184; Minority 60

SMP vs MMMPR (2006)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMMPR	Variation
Cons	124	36.3	118	- 6
Lib	103	30.2	98	- 5
BQ	51	10.5	41	- 10
NDP	29	17.5	41	+12
Green		4.5	7	+ 7
		0.5		
TOTAL	308		305	

Government 118; Opposition 187; Minority 69

28 June 2004

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Official Turnout: 60.9%				
Lib	135	308	36.7	43.8
Cons	99	308	29.6	32.1
BQ	54	75	12.4	17.5
NDP	19	308	15.7	6.2
Green		308	4.3	0.0
Other	1	378	1.4	0.3
TOTAL	308	1,865		

Government 135; Opposition 173; Minority 38

SMP vs MMPR (2004)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMPR	Variation
Lib	135	36.7	124	- 11
Cons	99	29.6	95	- 4
BQ	54	12.4	46	- 8
NDP	19	15.7	34	+ 15
Green		4.3	7	+ 7
Other				
TOTAL	308		306	

Government 124; Opposition 182; Minority 58

27 November 2000

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Official Turnout: 61.2% (Actual turnout: 64.1%)				
Lib	172	301	40.8	57.1
CA	66	298	25.5	21.9
BQ	38	75	10.7	12.6
NDP	13	298	8.5	4.3
PC	12	291	12.2	4.0
Other		545	2.3	0.0
TOTAL	301	1,808		

Government 172; Opposition 129; Majority 43

SMP vs MMMPR (2000)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMMPR	Variation
Lib	172	40.8	148	- 24
CA	66	25.5	72	+ 6
BQ	38	10.7	35	- 3
NDP	13	8.5	25	+12
PC	12	12.2	24	+12
Other		2.3	4	+ 4
TOTAL	301		308	

Government 148; Opposition 160; Minority 12

2 June 1997

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Voter Turnout: 67%				
Lib	155	301	38.5	51.5
Reform	60	227	19.4	19.9
BQ	44	75	10.7	14.6
NDP	21	301	11.0	7.0
PC	20	301	18.8	6.6
Other	1	467	1.6	0.3
TOTAL	301	1,672		

Government 155; Opposition 146; Majority 9

SMP vs MMPR (1997)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMPR	Variation
Lib	155	38.5	144	- 11
Reform	60	19.4	62	+ 2
BQ	44	10.7	35	- 9
NDP	21	11.0	29	+ 8
PC	20	18.8	34	+14
Other	1	1.6	2	+ 1
TOTAL	301		306	

Government 144; Opposition 162; Minority 18

25 October 1993

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Voter Turnout: 69.6%				
Lib	177	295	41.3	60.0
BQ	54	75	13.5	18.3
Reform	52	207	18.7	17.6
NDP	9	294	6.9	3.1
PC	2	295	16.0	0.7
Other	1	989	3.6	0.3
TOTAL	295	2,155		

Government 177; Opposition 118; Majority 59

SMP vs MMPR (1993)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMPR	Variation
Lib	177	41.3	150	- 27
BQ	54	13.5	47	- 7
Reform	52	18.7	54	+ 2
NDP	9	6.9	19	+10
PC	2	16.0	25	+23
Other	1	3.6	6	+ 5
TOTAL	295		301	

Government 150; Opposition 151; Minority 1

21 November 1988

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Official Turnout: 75.3%				
PC	169	295	43.0	57.3
Lib	83	294	31.9	28.1
NDP	43	295	20.4	14.6
SC		9	0.03	
Other		681	4.7	
TOTAL	295	1,574		

Government 169; Opposition 126; Majority 43

SMP vs MMPR (1988)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMPR	Variation
PC	169	295	148	- 21
Lib	83	294	89	- 6
NDP	43	295	52	+ 9
SC		9	0	
Other		681	9	+ 9
TOTAL	295	1,574	296	

Government 148; Opposition 148; Majority/Minority ?

4 September 1984

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Official Turnout: 75.3				
PC	211	282	50.0	74.8
Lib	40	282	28.0	14.2
NDP	30	282	18.8	10.6
Other	1	552	3.9	0.4
SC		51	0.1	
TOTAL	282	1,449		

Government 211; Opposition 71; Majority 140

SMP vs MMMPR (1984)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMMPR	Variation
PC	211	50.0	176	- 35
Lib	40	28.0	60	+20
NDP	30	18.8	42	+12
Other	1	3.9	6	+ 5
SC		0.1		
TOTAL	282		284	

Government 176; Opposition 108; Majority 68

18 February 1980

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Official Turnout: 69.3				
Lib	147	282	44.3	52.1
PC	103	282	32.5	36.5
NDP	32	282	19.8	11.3
SC		84	1.7	0.0
Other		574	1.7	0.0
TOTAL	282	1,504		

Government 147; Opposition 135; Majority 12

SMP vs MMPR (1980)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMPR	Variation
Lib	147	44.3	134	- 13
PC	103	32.5	97	- 6
NDP	32	19.8	34	+ 2
SC		1.7	2	+ 2
Other		1.7	2	+ 2
TOTAL	282		269	

Government 134; Opposition 135; Minority 1

22 May 1979

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Official Turnout: 75.7%				
PC	136	282	35.9	48.2
Lib	114	282	40.1	40.4
NDP	26	282	17.9	9.2
SC	6	103	4.6	2.1
Other		475	1.5	0.0
TOTAL	282	1,424		
Government 136; Opposition 146; Minority 10				

SMP vs MMPR (1979)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMPR	Variation
PC	136	35.9	119	- 17
Lib	114	40.1	114	
NDP	26	17.9	38	+12
SC	6	4.6	9	+ 3
Other				
TOTAL	282		280	

Government 119; Opposition 161; Minority 42

8 July 1974

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Official Turnout: 71.0%				
Lib	141	264	43.2	53.4
PC	95	264	35.4	36.0
NDP	16	262	15.4	6.1
SC	11	152	5.1	4.2
Other	1	267	0.9	0.4
TOTAL	264	1,209		
Government 141; Opposition 123; Majority 18				

SMP vs MMPR (1974)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMPR	Variation
Lib	141	43.2	128	- 13
PC	95	35.4	94	- 1
NDP	16	15.4	28	+12
SC	11	5.1	17	+ 6
Other	1	0.9	2	+ 1
TOTAL	264		269	

Government 128; Opposition 141 ; Minority 13

30 October 1972

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Official Turnout: 76.7%				
Lib	109	263	38.5	41.3
PC	107	264	35.0	40.5
NDP	31	251	17.7	11.7
SC	15	166	7.6	5.7
Other	2	173	1.2	0.8
TOTAL	264	1,117		

Government 109; Opposition 155; Minority 46

SMP vs MMPR (1972)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMPR	Variation
Lib	109	38.5	105	- 4
PC	107	35.0	98	- 9
NDP	31	17.7	39	+ 8
SC	15	7.6	18	+ 3
Other	2	1.2	3	+ 1
TOTAL	264		263	

Government 105; Opposition 158; Minority 53

25 June 1968

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Official Turnout: 75.7%				
Lib	155	263	45.5	58.7
PC	72	263	31.4	27.3
NDP	22	263	17.0	8.3
Other	15	147	1.7	5.7
SC		31		0.0
TOTAL	264	967		

Government 155; Opposition 109; Majority 46

SMP vs MMPR (1968)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMPR	Variation
Lib	155	45.5	138	- 17
PC	72	31.4	77	+ 5
NDP	22	17.0	33	+ 11
Other	15	1.7	8	- 7
SC				
TOTAL	264		256	

Government 138; Opposition 118; Majority 20

8 November 1965

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Official Turnout: 74.8%				
Lib	131	265	39.8	49.4
PC	97	265	32.1	36.6
NDP	21	255	17.7	7.9
Other	11	140	5.8	4.2
SC	5	86	3.6	1.9
TOTAL	265	1,011		

Government 131; Opposition 134; Minority 3

SMP vs MMMPR (1965)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMMPR	Variation
Lib	131	39.8	118	- 13
PC	97	32.1	91	- 6
NDP	21	17.7	34	+13
Other	11	5.8	13	+ 2
SC	5	3.6	7	+ 2
TOTAL	265			

Government 118; Opposition 145; Minority 27

8 April 1963

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Official Turnout: 79.2%				
Lib	129	264	41.7	48.7
PC	95	265	32.9	35.9
SC	24	224	11.9	9.1
NDP	17	232	13.1	6.4
Other		38	0.4	0.0
TOTAL	265	1,023		
Government 129; Opposition 136; Minority 7				

SMP vs MMMPR (1963)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMMPR	Variation
Lib	129	41.7	120	- 9
PC	95	32.9	91	- 4
SC	24	11.9	28	+4
NDP	17	13.1	26	+9
Other		0.4		
TOTAL	265		265	

Government 120; Opposition 145; Minority 25

18 June 1962

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Official Turnout: 79.0%				
PC	116	265	37.3	43.8
Lib	99	263	37.4	37.4
SC	30	230	11.7	11.3
NDP	19	218	13.4	7.2
Other	1	40	0.2	0.4
TOTAL	265	1,016		
Government 116; Opposition 149; Minority 33				

SMP vs MMPR (1962)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMPR	Variation
PC	116	37.3	108	- 8
Lib	99	37.4	99	
SC	30	11.7	31	+ 1
NDP	19	13.4	32	+13
Other	1	0.2		- 1
TOTAL	265			

Government 108; Opposition 182; Minority 74

31 March 1958

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Official Turnout: 79.4%				
PC	208	265	53.7	78.5
Lib	49	264	33.8	18.5
CCF	8	169	9.5	3.0
SC		82	2.6	0.0
Other		51	0.4	0.0
TOTAL	265	831		

Government 208; Opposition 57; Majority 151

SMP vs MMPR (1958)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMPR	Variation
PC	208	53.7	174	- 34
Lib	49	33.8	70	+ 21
CCF	8	9.5	17	+ 9
SC		2.6	4	+ 4
Other				
TOTAL	265		265	

Government 174; Opposition 91; Majority 83

10 June 1957

Party	Elected	Running	% vote	% seats
Official Turnout: 74.1%				
PC	112	256	39.0	42.3
Lib	105	264	42.3	39.6
CCF	25	162	10.8	9.4
SC	19	114	6.6	7.2
Other	4	66	1.3	1.5
TOTAL	265	862		
Government 112; Opposition 153; Minority 41				

SMP vs MMPR (1957)

Party	SMP	% vote	MMPR	Variation
PC	112	39.0	109	- 3
Lib	105	42.3	109	+4
CCF	25	10.8	27	+2
SC	19	6.6	18	- 1
Other	4	1.3	4	
TOTAL	265		267	

Government 109; Opposition 158; Minority 49

SMP

MMPR

Majority		Minority	
2015	Trudeau (Justin)		
2011	Harper		
		2008	Harper
		2006	Harper
		2004	Martin
2000	Chretien		
1997	Chretien		
1993	Chretien		
1988	Mulroney		
1984	Mulroney		
1980	Trudeau (Pierre)		
		1979	Clark
1974	Trudeau (Pierre)		
		1972	Trudeau (Pierre)
1968	Trudeau (Pierre)		
		1965	Pearson
		1963	Pearson
		1962	Diefenbaker
1958	Diefenbaker		
		1957	Diefenbaker
<u>Total:</u>	<u>11</u>		<u>9</u>

Majority		Minority	
		2015	
			2011
			2008
			2006
			2004
			2000
			1997
			1993
			1988 (tie)
		1984	
			1980
			1979
			1974
			1972
			1968
			1965
			1963
			1962
		1958	
			1957
<u>Total:</u>	<u>3</u>		<u>17</u>

1957 to 2015

- Single Member Plurality
- 11 majority governments
- 9 minority governments
- Mixed Member Proportional Representation
- 3 majority governments
- 17 minority governments

Observations

- Add MPs to House of Commons. Additional costs for fixed, operating, personnel, etc.
- Reconfiguration of electoral boundaries that will take time, resources, and cost money
- Democracy requires public hearings and input into the type of system Canadians prefer
- Time to study alternative forms of elections
- Majority of governments will be minorities and affect the way Canada is governed
- MMPR benefits smaller parties receiving popular vote that is not translated into seats
- The greatest negative impact affects the Bloc Quebecois
- The beneficiaries are the New Democratic and Green parties

Vote

- By a show of hands, who favours the Single Member Plurality system?

- _____

- By a show of hands, who favours the Mixed Member Proportional system?

- _____

Conclusion

- If your preference remained the same, why?
- If your preference changed, why?
- If you have no preference, why?
- Can we improve democracy in Canada without changing our electoral system or institutions?
- How?