

Hello,

It is my firm belief that the promise of electoral reform is one of the most important issues to be raised in a very long time. For too long, our country has suffered a democratic deficit (by which I mean, intent translating to votes, translating to representation in the Commons), under-representing (or sometimes not representing at all) the wishes of many voters, and more dangerously, often electing over-inflated majority governments. Too often, 40% of the vote translates to 100% of the power. While I believe that your current government wishes to wield this power responsibly, there have been governments in the past (such as the one which was recently ousted) which simply take the opportunity to do whatsoever they please, while completely disregarding the wishes of most Canadians, and what is best for the country in the long term. The result of this cycle has led to many people feeling disenfranchised and disengaging themselves from the political process.

I believe that the best solution is to implement an electoral system which has some component of proportionality, while still keeping elements of simplicity and local representation. Attached here is a proposal drafted by a friend of mine, John Bidochka, which I believe addresses all of these issues. While his proposal does not completely erase the democratic deficit (which I feel is unacheivable by any practical system), it does help for many "wasted" votes to actually turn into seats, while keeping the voting process simple, the results easily explainable, and including an element of proportionality, without resorting to the dreaded cronyism of "party lists". Another feature, which I feel is important, is that a person would still be able to run for parliament without being affiliated with a party.

There has been rumour that the Liberal Party of Canada favours a simple instant-runoff ranked-ballot system. While I feel that, at the very least, that sort of system would at least be better than the one we currently have, I feel that it still has dangerous potential to distort voter intent and further marginalize parties whose views are not of the status quo, thereby potentially excluding constructive new ideas from being presented in debate. Therefore, it is my hope, that if an instant-runoff system were implemented, that at least, somehow, an element of proportionality were included.

However, I still feel that the best idea is something like the one presented in the attached letter. It is a modified MMP system, which assigns "topup seats" by province, and elects the winners of those seats by selecting the most popular "defeated" candidates in that province. I hope that you will strongly consider what he has put together, as I feel it is a simple, elegant solution.

Thanks,

- Colin Reid  
Oakville, ON