



The basic democratic principle that every Canadian's vote should be **equal and effective**, regardless of where you live or for whom you vote, remains unfulfilled in our current electoral system.

The Problem:

First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) inevitably distorts overall election results, usually giving Canada "false majority" governments. It also denies half of all voters representation when they don't pick a "winner".

Over and over, our current system delivers 100% of the power to parties who obtain less than 40% of the vote. It's the nature of the system. Canada is one of only three OECD countries still using an antiquated, 12th century Winner-Take-All system. 80% of OECD countries use some form of proportional representation.

Winner-take-all voting

- False majorities where Parties with less than 50% of the vote can obtain 100% of the power. Since WWI, 12 out of 17 majority governments have been false majorities.
- In every election half of all voters are unable to elect a representative aligned with their values
- Political division is artificially exaggerated, making regions appear more partisan and politically opposed
- Low voter turn-out with troubling low levels among young people
- Staggering public apathy and indifference
- False majorities promote hyper-partisan competition and the excessive concentration of political power in the Prime Minister's Office
- Strategic voting becomes an imperative where you 'hold your nose' to vote for 'the lesser of two evils'
- Distorts voter intention and leaves many communities without a real voice in their government.
- Some Canadians will never have a representative
- False majority governments can fail to reflect the priorities of most Canadians

The Solution:

Proportional Representation is about fairness. Everyone should have equal and effective votes for equal and fair representation.

Peer-reviewed research has shown that countries using PR tend to outperform those using winner-take-all systems on measures of democracy, quality of life, income equality, environmental outcomes and economic growth.

Why? Because the electorate had more power to effect change.

Proportional Representation

- Most votes counts toward electing a representative
- People are more encouraged to vote and turnout can be up to 7.5% higher
- False majorities should no longer occur
- Voter intention is respected - 39% of the vote should equal 39% of the seats
- More women and minorities are elected and Parliament reflects a wider range of political views
- Abuses of power are curtailed and Parliament is less adversarial
- Voters are more satisfied with the quality of their country's democracy
- Higher scores on health, education, environment and standards of living
- More fiscally responsible and stable
- As degree of proportionality increases, income inequality decreases
- Reduces the need for strategic voting
- Delivers policy supported by the majority with greater continuity and stability

The Campaign to Make Every Vote Count

It's time for a 21st Century voting system that will address Canadian Priorities.

To determine the best model of Proportional Representation for Canada, while respecting the need for all MPs to face the voters and be accountable to voters, we call on federal parties to commit to:

1. Conducting a multi-partisan process involving citizen and expert consultation to determine the best model. (Making the Special Committee membership proportional to the vote was a great first step.)
2. Implementing the model in time to Make Every Vote Count in the 2019 election.

2 Families of Voting Systems

MAJORITARIAN (winner-take-all)

False Majorities (39%) • Single-member district
1/2 of Voters unrepresented

First-Past-The-Post (FPTP)

Alternative Vote or
Instant Run-off Voting (AV/IRV)

PROPORTIONAL

Seats proportional to votes • Multi-member district
Provides representation for most voters

Mixed-Member-Proportional (MMP)
Single-Transferable Vote (STV)

EQUALITY • FAIRNESS • DIVERSITY • EFFECTIVENESS • CHOICE • ACCOUNTABILITY
STABLE & EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT • REGIONAL BALANCE • LOCAL REPRESENTATION

Talk to your MP! We need 170 votes to pass legislation
for proportional representation

Any new electoral system must address our democratic deficit and change to reflect
Canadian values where all voters are equal and all votes count.

Important points:

Voter intention needs to be respected where 39% of the Votes equal 39% of the Seats.
All Canadians deserve equal & effective representation aligned with their values.
We need to make every vote count equally.

Get Involved!

Change Does Not Happen by Itself. Politicians will often not push very hard for proportional representation if the current system benefits their party. Here's what you can do to support fair voting in Canada:

- Sign Fair Vote Canada's Declaration of Voters' Rights & tell your friends about the declaration: www.fairvote.ca.
- Make an appointment with your MP. Let them know that it's important to make every vote count equally.
- Write letters to newspaper editors, local MPs or Party leaders and use social media to spread the word.
- Join or start a Fair Vote Canada Chapter or Team: www.fairvote.ca/contact
- Talk to your friends and neighbours. You can download campaign materials at www.fairvote.ca

HELP US MAKE EVERY VOTE COUNT EQUALLY

www.fairvote.ca

Please sign the Declaration of Voters' Rights!