

Fair Vote Canada
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Fair Vote Canada **Représentation équitable au Canada**

Voters in Rural and Small Urban Areas Want Votes that Count, Too

Every voter should be equal. No matter where you live, whether you live in a rural area or urban area, your vote should count. Rural and small urban voters are not second class citizens. You should be able to elect someone who shares your values to represent you.

Proportional Representation and Rural Ridings

- Rural constituencies with first-past-the-post are often safe seats where a single party wins every seat in the entire region, leaving no voice for voters of other parties. We want the seats in each region to reflect the political diversity of its voters.
- With winner-take-all voting, half of all voters do not feel like they have a local representative aligned with their values. Proportional Representation will provide local leadership for all voters. Almost everyone will have someone they voted for to listen and give voice to their views and problems.
- Instead of just one MP, each area will have a team of MPs competing to serve you. **Competition and collaboration between MPs means more responsive service for local voters.**
- With PR, a voter is much more likely to have an MP responsive to the concerns of the voter and his/her community, whether due to party affiliation, roots in the community, or simply the MP's willingness or ability to work to find solutions.
- No matter which proportional model is chosen, your region will not lose representation: it will have just as many MPs as it does today. You will very likely have an MP as close to your home as you do now, and services will be accessible as they are now.

- Teamwork between MPs in a riding promotes good regional decision making, problem solving and governance for the benefit of everyone in the region, not just the riding whose MP happens to be in the government.
- PR does not require adding more MPs to Parliament. Multi-member ridings or local regions designed for Canada will consist of communities which are naturally grouped together. Boundaries will continue to be determined by community of interest, community of identity, historical pattern, and manageable geographic size, as Boundaries Commissions are required to do.
- MPs will use branch offices to serve voters in different parts of the riding or local region. Branch offices are already already common in rural areas.
- Telephone, email, and Skype allow voters and constituents to stay connected.
- With any proportional system, the size of the riding and how many MPs are elected may be adjusted to account for geography. There is no “one size fits all” solution, but rural voters want votes that count, too.