



The basic democratic principle that every person'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 British Columbians "false majority" governments. It also denies half of all voters effective 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 First Past the Post voting 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. British Columbia has had 17 elections since 1953, of which 15 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 polarized than actual voting patterns show.
- Low voter turn-out with troubling low levels among young people.
- Public disengagement from process due to unrepresentative results.
- False majorities promote hyper-partisan competition and the excessive concentration of political power in the Party Leader'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 voters will never have a representative who shares their views.
- False majority governments can fail to reflect the priorities of most voters.

## 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.

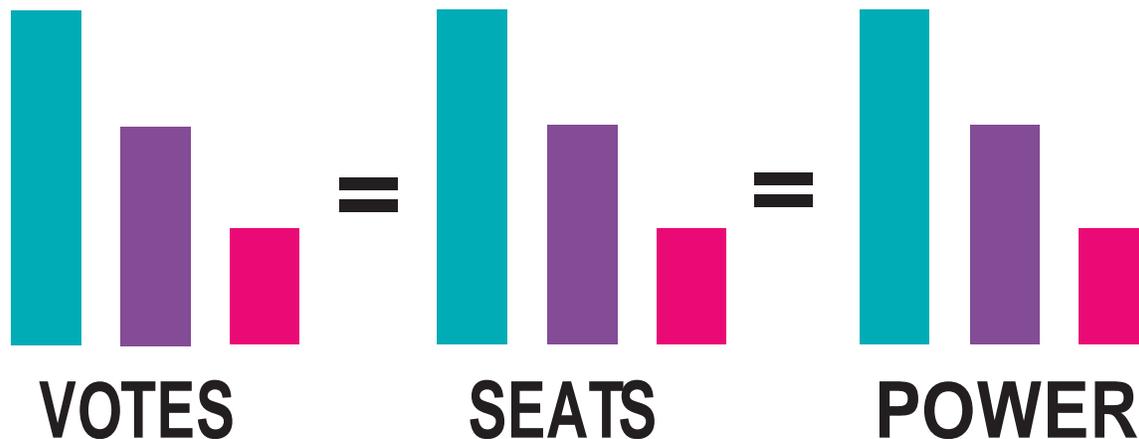
**Why? Because the electorate had more power to effect change.**

## Proportional Representation

- Most western democracies use proportional representation.
- Most votes (often over 95%) count toward electing a representative.
- People are more motivated to vote and turnout is higher, on average.
- False majorities no longer occur.
- Voter intention is respected - 39% of the vote equals 39% of the seats.
- More women and minorities are elected and the Legislature reflects a wider range of political views.
- Abuses of power are curtailed and Legislatures are 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.
- Reduced need for strategic voting.
- Delivers policy supported by the majority with greater continuity and stability.

# Let's Make All Our Votes Count in BC!

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



## BC has certainly had its share of controversial, unfair elections.

British Columbia has had 17 elections since 1953. Of those, 15 have been false majorities where the winning party's overall share of the vote is considerably lower than their share of the seats.

1996 - NDP received only 39% of the votes, the Liberals 42% but the second place NDP formed a false 'majority' government!

2001 - Liberals won 57% of the vote but they took 97% of the seats, leaving virtually no opposition to hold them accountable and excluding the Green Party despite it receiving 12% of the vote.

2005 and 2009 - Liberals win a false majority with 46% of the vote.

2013 - Liberals receive a false majority with 44% of the vote.

BC has been slowly moving toward electoral reform, holding 2 referenda (2005 & 2009) on introducing proportional representation, initially polling a strong majority in favour (57%) but falling short of the ruling party's required 'super-majority' (60%).

## Thanks to the hard work of fair minded-citizens, BC will have another opportunity to switch to a fairer voting system in 2018.

There is a lot of misinformation floating around. When you hear arguments against proportional representation, consider the source. Ask yourself what those people stand to lose if every vote counts.

**Get the facts! All three proportional systems on the 2018 referendum ballot share the following criteria:**

- Retain MLA accountability to a specific geographic area (local or regional)
- Ensure that no region will have fewer MLAs than now (No MLAs moving from rural areas to Vancouver!)
- No significant increase in number of MLAs: a max of 95 MLAs only if needed (up from current 87)
- Threshold: Minimum 5% of support across the province, to address concerns about "extreme" parties getting in.

**Get more details on the choices at [www.fairvote.ca/pr4bc](http://www.fairvote.ca/pr4bc)**

## You can help us make voting fair in BC!

- Share our posts on social media
- Like us on Facebook: Fair Vote Canada-BC and Fair Vote Canada (many local chapters also have pages)
- Follow us on Twitter: @FairVoteBC and @FairVoteCanada
- Get involved with your local campaign team or start one!

Sign the BC Voter's Pledge [www.fairvote.ca/bcvotepledge](http://www.fairvote.ca/bcvotepledge)