



electoralchange.ca *Let's leave a legacy*

Fairness and inclusion in democracy

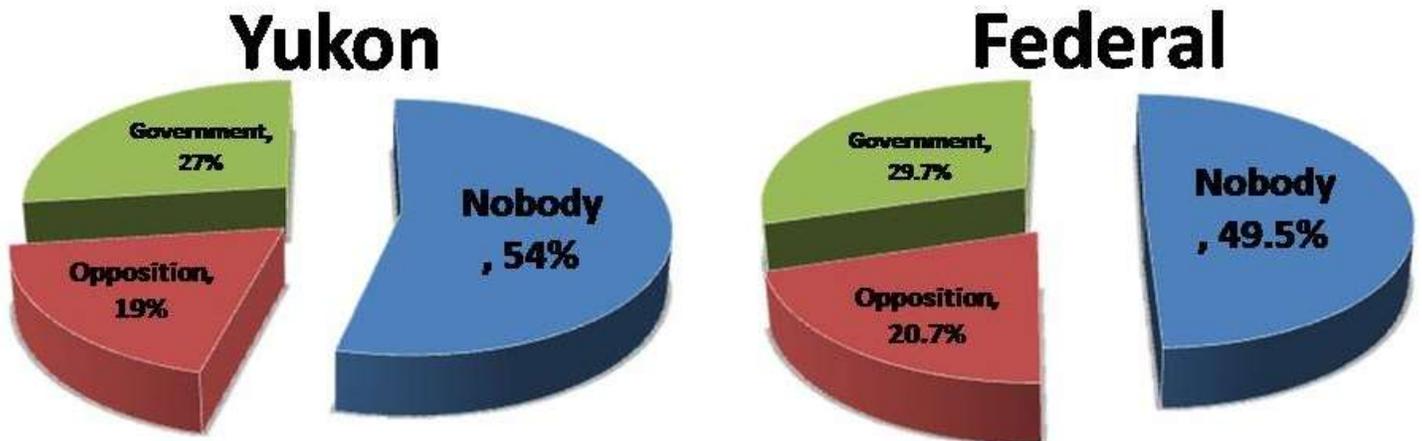
Pictorial Discussion Starters for Canada's election system

Posted on April 21, 2016

As Dave Nash told me, First Past the Post (FPTP) is sometimes described as promoting the election of strong, stable governments. Indeed, it does lead more often to majority governments, but not long-term stability.

[Printable copy](#)

In the 2011 elections, the following percentages of votes cast elected:



Is This Democracy?

Be Heard

Preferential Ridings Proportional (PRP) Electoral System

New combination electoral system, Preferential Ridings-Proportional (PRP) was developed from what interested people said they wanted in elections:

- Fair and Representative results
- Their vote to count in a meaningful way
- Simple for voters to use
- All winners of riding seats winning with more than half the votes
- No Party lists
- No more or very few additional politicians

As well as governance:

- Trustworthy, fair, respectful, open and accountable
- Collaborative Government and Opposition legislating laws reflecting the overall well being of society
- Have at least one elected Member who represents their vote living relatively close.

With the Preferential Ridings Proportional (PRP) system, almost all voters would be included in election results. Their votes would count in a meaningful way. When all votes count in elections, false majority governments don't occur. Truly representative minority government would require Members to work collaboratively in their legislative bodies and would not be taken down by a false majority government as has often happened in the past. Far more effective and inclusive governance would have a high probability of happening.

The white paper that explains PRP, how to use it, and what it's capable of doing can be explored at <http://electoralchange.ca> .

PRP's proportional effect on past Canadian, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec and Yukon election results can be seen as well as a comic discussion starter by Ken Briggs.

A short description of the PRP system, Democracy in Canada, and/or a new report on the Whitehorse Fireweed Market Mock Election can also be seen.

Thank you for your interest. Hope you find it interesting,
Dave

DEMOCRACY IN CANADA

Why the concern?

Video - 5 minutes – “Do you want your vote to count?” <https://goo.gl/NLIVbg>

1 Canada’s current, “First-Past-The-Post” electoral system (FPTP) has often resulted in election of governments that represent the needs, wants and values of less than half of the voters.

2 Probably because of this, the system has disengaged Canadian voters to such a degree that in the 2011 federal election, only 61% of eligible Canadians voted. (Elections Canada, 2011).

3 The Preferential Ridings Proportional (PRP) system proposed here would make Canada a more inclusive and representative democracy. PRP would allow almost all, if not all, votes cast in an election to have some impact on the resultant legislative body.

4 PRP is a hybrid system that incorporates elements from Canada’s present riding-based system, but includes both preferential voting, and proportional representation.

5 The development of the PRP system is based on what people interested in improving our electoral system said they wanted in a new system.

6 The PRP system reorganizes the country, province or territory into ridings roughly twice the size of our current ridings, each electing a single representative using preferential voting.

7 The other half of the representatives, will be elected to Proportional Seats to give representation to voters who did not vote for the winner in their riding.

8 The allocation of proportional seats will reflect relative popularity of the Parties in geographically coherent "Electoral Areas." The proportional representatives will be usually the most successful unelected candidates from their Political Party within the electoral area.

9 The effect of the allocation of proportional representatives will be a parliamentary distribution of seats that fairly represents the distribution of political opinion among voters.

Thank you, Dave Nash, for adding the very important 'equality of votes' to reduce the effect and motivation for strategic voting. Voters will be able to vote very effectively using all the choices they want with this combination Preferential Ridings Proportional (PRP) system, voting with their hearts and minds. Thanks also to four others who played a major roll in PRP's development - Ted Dean, Bill Mills, Marlene Rusk and Heather Rusk.

If this PRP system helps make inclusive and truly representative democracy happen in Canada, I will have many to thank for their help with my 10 year quest that began while serving on a committee giving feedback on proposals to increase voter turnout in 2005. Initially I was shocked when one RO said, "*What are we looking at this stuff for? Why aren't we looking at the voting system?*" It was a political question so Elections Canada said we couldn't discuss it. Evenings is when I learned why Canadians should be looking at and improving our electoral system. Fair Vote Canada was formally organized and has been working on the problem since 2000.

Thanks again for your interest,
Dave Brekke, very concerned former Federal Returning Officer (RO) for Yukon

Before venturing into this document, I urge you to invest 5 minutes in the following short video, "Do you want your vote to count"? <https://goo.gl/NLIVbg>

For more, explore the website <http://electoralchange.ca>

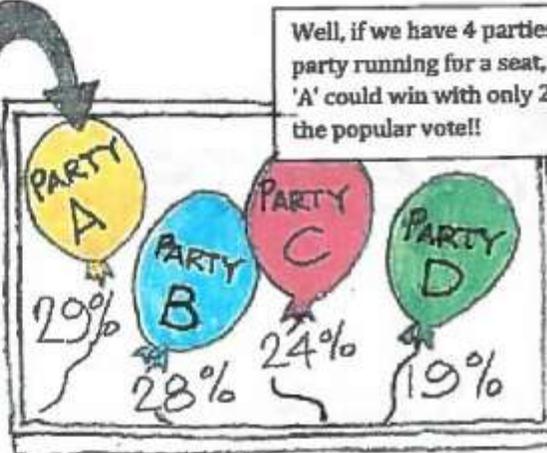
OUR ELECTORAL SYSTEM



How can the government have a majority when it only represents 29% of the voters?

DID YOU KNOW?

PARTY 'A' WINS WITH 29%



Well, if we have 4 parties, each party running for a seat, Party 'A' could win with only 29% of the popular vote!!



Hey, if 29% of the voters can get a majority government that means 71% of the voters get no say!! This isn't fair!! Doesn't my vote count too?!!



IT TURNS OUT WE CAN DO BETTER!

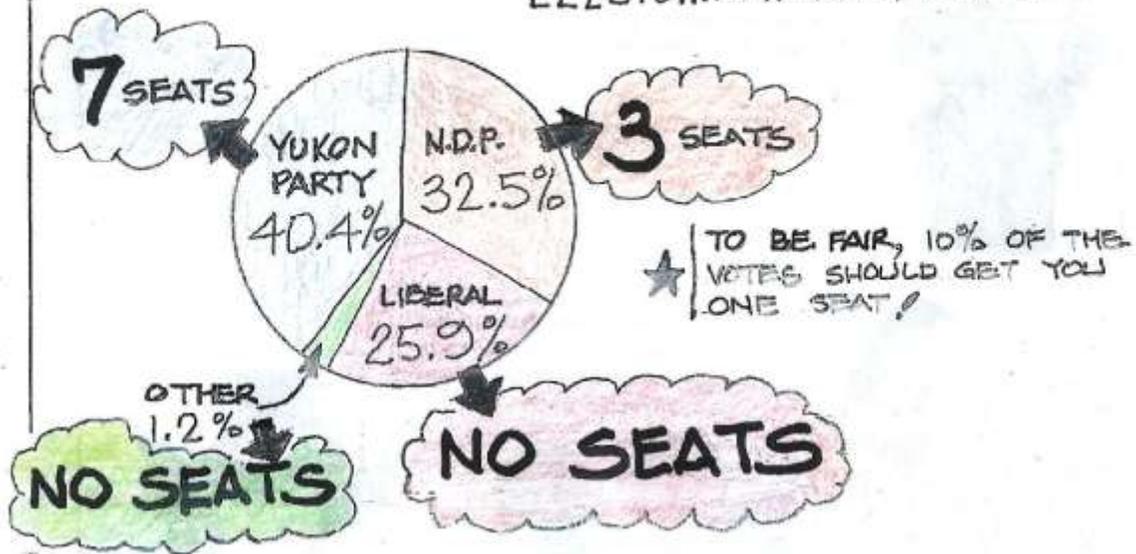
www.fairvote.ca

www.electoralchange.ca

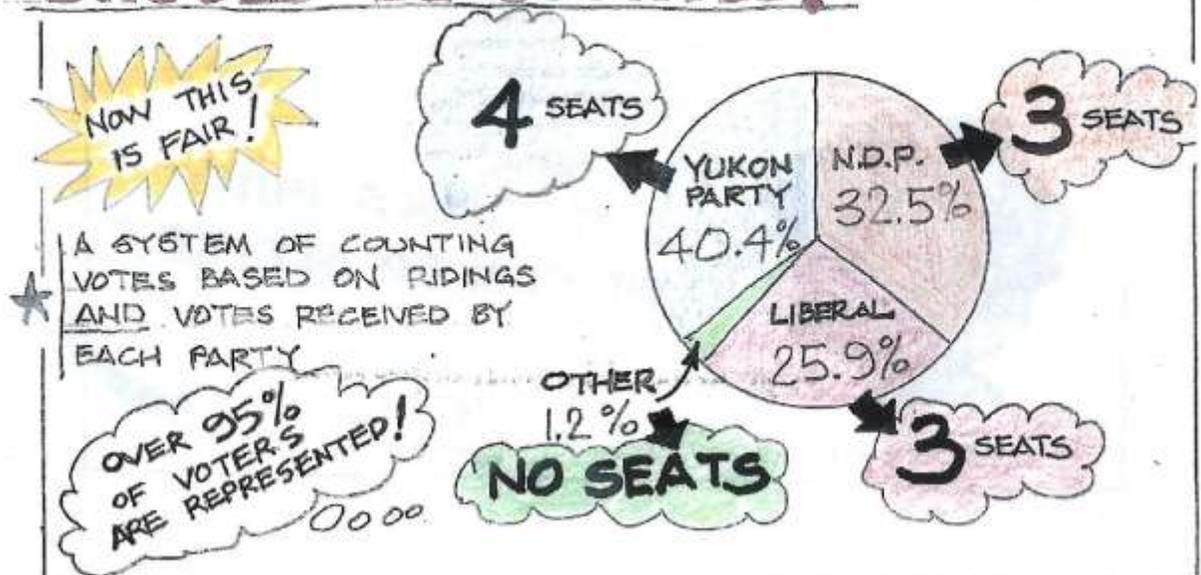
READ ON

HOW YOUR VOTES WERE COUNTED

IN A RECENT ELECTION IN THE YUKON'S
ELECTORAL AREA OF WHITEHORSE



HOW YOUR VOTES SHOULD BE COUNTED!



For the more technically inclined: How the system works

Accountable, Inclusive, collaborative, connected and stable governance during a government's term of office is possible with change to the system.

How the Preferential Ridings Proportional (PRP) System would work in the Yukon Territory

Why the Concern? Canada's Electoral System in Yukon

You may not know that Canada's FPTP election system results in half the votes not counting yet were counted. Voters are from all parties. Their votes have no more effect on the election results than if they had not bothered to vote.

"Do you want your vote to count?" (5 minute video) <https://goo.gl/NLIVbg>

Think about it. As I think you would agree, effective communities encourage all citizens to both be included and feel included. Change to a more effective electoral system could help that inclusive feeling of community to happen.

Yours truly,

Dave Brekke, very concerned former: Federal Returning Officer for Yukon, and

School principal in the isolated community of Old Crow, 1966-68; the years of the Centennial Project and the change to one far more effective community from three sub-communities through: **Inclusion in Governance**

The Preferential Ridings Proportional (PRP) system's effect on the Yukon

There would be three electoral areas totalling 9 paired riding seats + 9 proportional seats. There would also be 1 individual seat for a total of 19 seats – the same as the present number.

Yukon's Three Electoral Areas

I South Centre and East Yukon Electoral Area

4 riding seats become: 2 Paired-riding seats + 2 Proportional seats

Mount Lorne - Southern Lakes and Copperbelt South

Pelly-Nisutlin and Watson Lake

II Whitehorse Electoral Area

10 riding seats become: 5 Paired-riding seats + 5 Proportional seats

Riverdale South and Riverdale North

Porter Creek South and Takhini - Kopper King

Whitehorse Centre and Mountain View

Copperbelt North and Whitehorse West

Porter Creek North and Porter Creek Centre

III North Centre and West Yukon Electoral Area

4 riding seats become: 2 Paired-riding seats + 2 Proportional seats

Kluane and Lake Laberge

Klondike and Mayo-Tatchun

Individual seat: To have proportional seats and avoid additional seats, the first simple conversion to PRP requires an even number of ridings to join into paired ridings. With 19 ridings, we recommend that the isolated Vuntut Gwitchin riding stay as it is, an individual riding with no proportional seats. However, it can have preferential voting like paired-ridings to have its most wanted and/or accepted representative (MLA), elected. Their voters will also be able to avoid splitting votes by using preferential voting.

Info: <http://www.electoralchange.ca>

<http://www.fairvote.ca> and/or Law Commission of Canada: <http://goo.gl/tECTc2>

NOTE: Vuntut Gwitchin originally became a separate riding to have a representative of the people on the land.

CANADA'S PRESENT ELECTORAL SYSTEM IN YUKON

Do you know how Government justifies not fixing the electoral system?

I don't - Yukon's illusory majority government does not represent Yukoners.

The majority Yukon Party Government represents 27% of votes. 54% of votes elected nobody. Government Members unanimously agreed that the way to deal with electoral reform is to refuse to discuss it.

2011 Yukon Election results in Whitehorse using the present FPTP system

10 Riding seats

Popular vote of the electoral area	40.40%	25.90%	32.50%	1.20%
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Seats won under present system	7	0	3	0
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Total effective voters using the present system **46.4%**

Out of 8842 voters	2743	1363
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HOW PROPORTIONAL SEATS ARE WON USING THE PRP SYSTEM

Example: The Preferential Ridings Proportional PRP System: *simple enough?*

Electoral Area of Whitehorse, Yukon 10 seats - each seat to represent 10% of votes

10 seats: 5 Paired riding seats + 5 Proportional seats	<u>POLITICAL PARTIES</u>			
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	YukonP	LiberalP	NDP	Other
Popular Vote of electoral area	40.40%	25.90%	32.50%	1.20%

Number of paired riding seats won	3	0	2	0
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50 % Representational value	30%	0	20%	0
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50 % Unrepresented votes remaining	10.40%	25.90%	12.50%	1.20%
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Fully supported Proportional seats	1	2	1	
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% Unrepresented votes remaining	0.40%	5.90%	2.50%	1.20%
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Partially supported proportional seat		1		
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Total seats in electoral area: 10	4	3	3	0
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Total effective voters using Preferential Ridings Proportional system **95.9%**

Voters need a system so they can vote with their hearts, minds and confidence.

Would you like to be one who helped change to happen through your **MP/MLA?**