

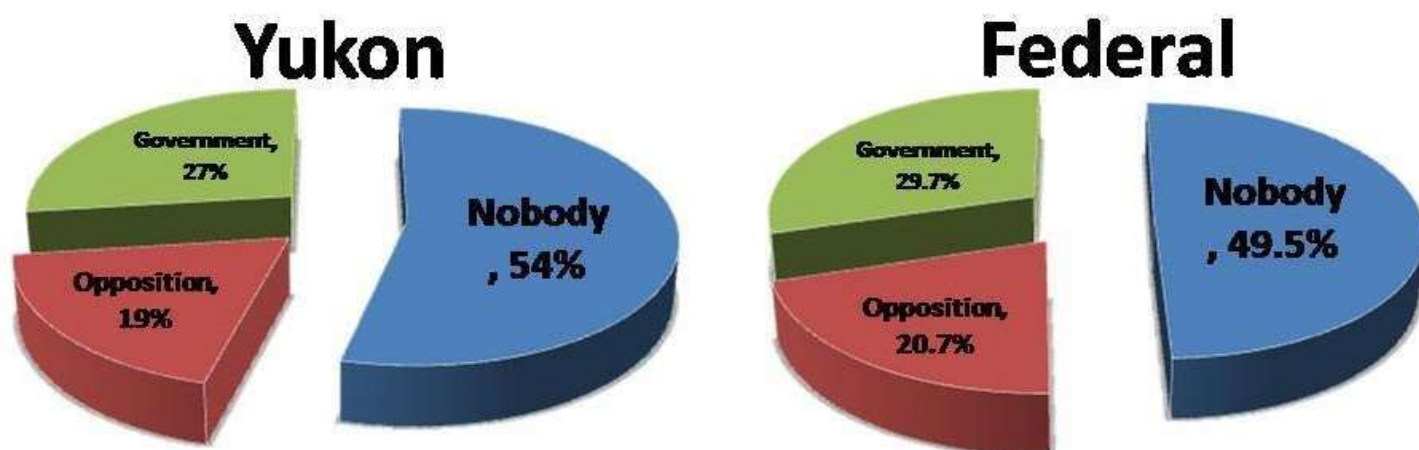


electoralchange.ca *Let's leave a
legacy*

Fairness and inclusion in democracy

As Dave Nash said, 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.

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



Is This Democracy? **Let's make it count!**

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 combination Preferential Ridings Proportional (PRP) system, almost all voters would be included in election results, and could point to an elected Member whom their vote helped to elect. Their votes would count in a meaningful way, being able to vote preferentially and separately for their favorite riding candidate and Party for proportional seats. When all votes count in elections, illusory majority governments don't occur. Truly representative minority Government could be held accountable and would require Members to work collaboratively in Parliament or the Legislature. Government would not be taken down by Opposition, expecting to receive an easily won false majority government as has often happened under the FPTP system. Far more effective and inclusive governance would have a high probability of happening. When almost all voters elect a representative, there should be more readiness for engagement between voters and representatives, more probability that constituent knowledge and wisdom will reach Government.

Effect of Preferential Ridings Proportional (PRP) system on past election results.

Effective votes: *Votes which enable voters to point to an elected Member whom their vote helped to elect.*

CANADA

PROVINCE/TERRITORY

VOTE EFFECTIVENESS

	Present system	PRP system
CANADA Sample of 138 Members in 19 electoral areas – PEI and cities across Canada with 4 or more present ridings		
2006	52%	92%
2008	51%	93%
ALBERTA (2008)	54%	93%
YUKON (2011)	45%	92%
QUEBEC (2014)	48%	88%
ONTARIO (2014) -sample of 48 Members in 6 electoral areas	50%	93%

Details of the results for larger Canadian cities and provincial/territorial electoral areas:

electoralchange.ca

Preferential voting makes it possible for all voters to have an effect on the election of one representative to Parliament or the legislature even if their 1st choice did not elect a candidate.

Executive summary of the Preferential Ridings Proportional (PRP) electoral system, September 30, 2016

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, Dave Brekke will have many to thank for their help with his 11year quest that began while serving on a committee giving feedback on proposals to increase voter turnout in 2005. Initially he was shocked when one RO angrily 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 staff said it couldn't even be recorded and definitely not discussed. Evenings is when he 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.

Your Special Committee's engaging questions and kind comments when you visited Whitehorse were greatly appreciated and encouraging. We hope this brief will be

seriously considered, when you develop Canada's new electoral system for presentation to Parliament.

This PRP system was designed to increase inclusion of, and connection to, voters; and stay as close to the present system as possible to make transition as simple and economical as possible by:

- establishing paired riding and electoral area boundary lines using present riding boundary lines. This also gave us the opportunity to accurately apply the PRP system to see its effect on past election results.
- Having the voting and ballot structure similar to the present, could increase comfort of voters and Elections Canada personnel.
- Less training and shorter days for election officials would be required. Counting the votes after 12 hours of voting was a difficult task for some officials.

However, vote counting tabulators would be an additional cost. For more information, here is the contact information for the company that the city of Whitehorse used in their recent election. The Whitehorse Returning Officer, Norma Felker, had praise for their service. They can be reached at Toronto:

1.866.654.VOTE (8683) X242

JOHN.MCKINSTRY@DOMINIONVOTING.COM

Below is an example of how the Preferential Ridings Proportional system would have worked to change the Ottawa election results in the 2008 general election.

2008 Ottawa Election results using the present FPTP system					
6 Riding seats		Conserv.	Green	Liberal	NDP
Popular vote of the electoral area		38.93%	8.29%	35.94%	16.18%
Seats won under present system		3	0	2	1
Percent of seats		50.00%		33.33%	16.67%
Total effective voters using the present system				47.15%	
170,656	out of 361,905 voters	92,274		52,983	25,399

HOW PROPORTIONAL SEATS ARE WON USING THE PRP SYSTEM					
<u>Example:</u> The Preferential Ridings Proportional PRP System - <i>simple enough?</i>					
Electoral Area of Ottawa, Ontario 6 seats - each seat to represent 16 2/3 % of votes					
6 riding seats = 3 Paired riding seats + 3 Proportional seats			<u>POLITICAL PARTIES</u>		
		Conserv.	Green	Liberal	NDP
Popular Vote of electoral area		38.93%	8.29%	35.94%	16.18%
Number of paired riding seats won		2	0	1	0
% Representational value		33%	0	17%	0
% Unrepresented votes remaining		5.60%	8.29%	19.27%	16.18%
Fully supported Proportional seats				1	
% Unrepresented votes remaining		5.60%	8.29%	2.60%	16.18%
Partially supported proportional seat			1		<u>1</u>
Total seats in electoral area		2	1	2	1
Total effective voters using Preferential Ridings Proportional system				91.14%	
Paired ridings in Ottawa for 2008 election:					
Ottawa Vanier + Ottawa Orleans					
Ottawa South + Nepean Carlton		Ottawa Centre + Ottawa West Nepean			

Proposal for consideration of Special Committee on Electoral Reform

The Preferential Ridings Proportional, PRP, Electoral System

We hope that you give the A I R test to the new combination electoral system that results in more truly representative democracy with more probable connection between voter and elected representative.

A I R test: Accept it – Improve it – Replace it

Presently this system has no history of usage, other than how winners of proportional seats are chosen. That process is presently used in Baden-Wuerttemberg province in Germany. That was learned from the Special Committee on Electoral Reform on September 26, 2016 in Whitehorse. Hopefully it will add credibility to this PRP system.

Should Canada try it? At this time, we think so!

Ken Briggs, Chair of Fair Vote Yukon Group

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