

PROPOSAL FOR REGIONAL MEMBERS AT LARGE

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PROPOSAL

This proposal is a system for adding regionally-based seats to the legislature in addition to the normally elected members. This is a minimalist change which still alleviates the problems which have plagued our system no effective opposition, no representation for parties with a significant vote percentage; and anomalies like /96 where a majority government was achieved with a lower popular vote than the second party.

This system recognizes the unique regions of this Province and allows 'Members at Large' to be elected to represent their region and party where otherwise regional perspectives would be under-represented. Five regions are suggested North, Interior, Island, Vancouver, Fraser.

All candidates would have two ways of being elected greatest number of votes in the riding as normal or as a Regional 'Member at Large' (M@L). An M@L seat is won if a candidate or party attains a given threshold percentage of tallied votes in the Region. A party without a candidate in a riding would still have the party name on the ballot with the designation M@L. Independent candidate names would also appear on all ballots within the Region not only in their home riding (again the designation M@L would appear with the name in a non-home riding). The suggested threshold is 6%. If a party or individual achieves at least 6.0% of the total votes tallied within the Region then a seat is won as a M@L. In the case of a party the candidate with the greatest number of votes among fellow party candidates in the Region gets the seat.

Two other threshold levels are suggested to add a second and third M@L by Region for each party. These are suggested at 14% and 24% of tallied votes in the Region progressively, a little

more difficult test. (The North would be an exception and be restricted to two possible M@L at 14% because of their low number of regular seats.) The maximum number of M@L for a party province-wide would therefore be 14. Note that a M@L seat is not won if the party has achieved the representation level with regular seats. This system mainly helps smaller parties but also helps governing parties on the way down particularly at the 2nd. and 3rd. M@L level.

it is estimated that a range of 10 to 20 M@L would be elected in any given election. It is entirely voter-driven. Regular constituent seats are suggested to be reduced to 70 seats. This will make it easier for the electorate to accept 10-20 or more M@L members. Majority government is still readily achievable when the winning party wins a significant majority of regular seats.

Other advantages of this system besides those of opening paragraph : provides incubation period for new parties where otherwise it is almost impossible to get started and get elected; provides realistic opportunity for independent candidates who have something to contribute but otherwise must work the party system; provides softer landing for governing party getting shot-down by the electorate .these people would be the most effective opposition members; provides regional representation for parties where otherwise would be shut-out; voters always decide which individuals get elected not designated party hacks; and finally .it will add a real dynamic and a lot of fun to elections and the legislature.

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Ballot Suggested

A small anomaly can arise under this proposal. A party will appear on the ballot even if they do not have a candidate in that riding (although they must have at least one candidate in the Region). Also, independent candidate names will appear in non-home ridings within their Region. A problem would occur if one of these M@L candidates received the largest number of votes within the riding. The ballot below is suggested to solve this problem. It will allow voters who have selected an M@L candidate to cast a secondary vote for a non-M@L candidate. In the circumstance of a M@L candidate attaining the largest vote .the secondary votes would be added to the other non-M@L votes to establish the winning riding candidate. This avoids the need of a run-off election.

Primary Ballot		
	<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Party</u>
1	Gordon Nobody	Liberal
2	Mary Labour	NDP
3	Joe Black	Green
4	Dave Reefer	BCMP
5	Freda Choose	FC

6	Al Alone	NA
7	M@L	Unity
8	John Smith M@L	NA
9	Bill Vanderzalm M@L	NA

Secondary Ballot

If you have voted for a M@L candidate on the Primary Ballot, you may vote for a non-M@L in a secondary vote. Mark the number of your non-M@L secondary candidate here: ____

The secondary vote will only be tallied when a M@L candidate has received the highest number of votes in this riding.

E

E Party has no riding candidate.

U

U Independent candidates running in
U another riding of this Region.

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Regions Defined

Island

Alberni-Qualicum

Comox Valley

Cowichan-Ladysmith

Esquimalt-Metchosin

Malahat-Juan de Fuca

Nanaimo

Nanaimo-Parksville

North Island

Oak Bay-Gordon Head

Powell River- Sunshine Coast

Saanich North and the Islands

Saanich South

Victoria-Beacon Hill

Victoria-Hillside

Total Current Ridings : 14

Proposal : 14

Election

<u>2001</u>	<u>1996</u>
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Average votes tallied
per riding :

24.0k*	23.9k
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* numbers derived from Elections BC summaries.

Vancouver

Burnaby-Edmonds

Burnaby North

Burnaby-Willington

Total Current Ridings

Proposed reduction to

: 20

: 17

Burquitlam			
New Westminster			
North Vancouver-Lonsdale		<u>Election</u>	
North Vancouver-Seymour		<u>2001</u>	<u>1996</u>
Richmond Centre	Average votes tallied		
Richmond East	per riding :	20.0k	20.8k
Vancouver-Burrard			
Vancouver-Fairview	Average tally with		
Vancouver-Fraserview	proposed 17 ridings:	23.5k	23.3k
Vancouver-Hastings			
Vancouver-Kensington			
Vancouver-Kingsway			
Vancouver-Langara			
Vancouver-Mount Pleasant			
Vancouver-Point Grey			
Vancouver-Quilchena			
West Vancouver-Capilano			

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Regions Defined

Interior

Chilliwack-Kent	Total Current Ridings :	16	
Chilliwack-Sumas	Proposed reduction to :	14	
Columbia River-Revel stoke			
East Kootenay			
Kamloops			
Kamloops-North Thompson			
Kelowna-Lake Country		<u>Election</u>	
Kelowna-Mission		<u>2001</u>	<u>1996</u>
Nelson-Creston	Average votes tallied		
Okanagan-Vernon	per riding :	20.8k	21.5k
Okanagan-Westside			
Penticton-Okanagan Valley	Average tally with		
Shuswap	proposed 14 ridings:	23.7k	23.1k
West Kootenay-Boundary			
West Vancouver-Garibaldi			
Yale-Lillooet			

North

Bulkley Valley-Stikine
Cariboo North
Cariboo South
North Coast
Peace River North
Peace River South
Prince George-Mount Robson
Prince George North
Prince George-Omineca
Skeena

Total Current Ridings : 10
Proposed reduction to : 9

		<u>Election</u>	
		<u>2001</u>	<u>1996</u>
Average votes tallied			
per riding :		13.5k	13.1k
Average tally with			
proposed 9 ridings :		15.0k	14.5k
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Regions Defined

Fraser

Abbotsford-Clayburn
Abbotsford-Mount Lehman
Coquitlam-Maillardville
Delta North
Delta South
Fort Langley-Aldergrove
Langley
Maple Ridge-Mission
Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows
Port Coquitlam-Burke Mountain
Port Moody-Westwood
Richmond-Steveston
Surrey-Cloverdale
Surrey-Green Timbers
Surrey-Newton
Surrey-Panorama Ridge
Surrey-Tynehead
Surrey-Whalley
Surrey-White Rock

Total Current Ridings :	19
Proposed reduction to:	16
	<u>Election</u>
	<u>2001</u> <u>1996</u>
Average votes tallied	
per riding :	20.2k 23.4k
Average tally with	
proposed 16 ridings:	24.0k 24.9k

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2001 ELECTION RESULTS **WITH** REGIONAL MEMBERS AT LARGE (Numbers derived from Election BC website summaries)

	<u>Liberal</u>	<u>ND~</u>	<u>Green</u>	<u>U~</u>	<u>BCMIP</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Island :	14	0 (27%)*	0 (18%)	0(1%)	0 (2.9%)	14

		+3M@L	+2M@L		+5M@L
		Carol James**	Adrian Carr		
		Steve Orcherton	Andrew Lewis		
		Rob Hutchins			
Vancouver : 15		2(23.7%)	0(14.5%)		0(1.3%) 0(2.6%)
		17			
			+2M@L		+2M@L
			Varya Rubin		
			Vanessa Vidina		
Interior : 14		0 (16%)	0 (10%)		0(4.5%) 0 (4.2%) 14
		+2M@L	+1M@L		+3M@L
		Ed Conway	Colleen McCrory		
		Corky Evans			
North : 9	0(19.5%)		0(5.1%)	0(5.0%) 0(4.8%)	9
	+2M@L				+2M@L
	Dave Zirnhelt				
	Colleen Fitzpatrick				
Fraser : 16	0 (17.7%)	0 (9.9%)	0(4.9%) 0 (2.9%)		16
	+2M@L	+1M@L			+3M@L
		Mike Farnworth	Rob Labelle		
			Bill Hartley		
TOTAL: 68	11	6	0	0	85
					(70 + 15 M@L)

* % of tallied votes in Region;

** Names of winning M@L for Region.

NOTES : 1) 70 regular seats assigned; 9 seat shortfall reduced from Liberal total.

2) Unity Party would likely have attained M@L seats if party name had been added to all riding ballots.

3) Actual results would likely differ somewhat with strategic voting by electoral under a new system; efforts by smaller parties to get out the vote to reach the 6%~ and increase in participation by independents.

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1996 ELECTION RESULTS WITH REGIONAL MEMBERS AT LARGE

(Numbers derived from Election BC website summaries)

		Lth~.raI	Reform	EDA	Total
Island : 10	3	0 (6.8%)*		1(7.7%)	14
		+1M@L			+1M@L
			Teanis Westbrook**		
Vancouver : 9	8	0 (3.8%)		0 (4.8%)	17

Interior :	5	9	0(12.5%) +IM@L	0(6.1%) +1M@L	14 -1-2M@L
			Cohn MayesJudy Tyabji		
North : 5		2	2 (22%)	0 (2.7%)	9
Fraser :	7	9	0(7.4%) +1 M@L	0(6.5%) +1 M@L	16 +2 M@L
			Simon Gibson Philip McCormack		
TOTAL:	36	31	5	3	75 (70 + 5 M@L)

*% of tallied votes in Region;

** names of winning M@L for Region

NOTES : 1) 70 regular seats assigned; of 5 seat reduction 3 reduced from NDP and 2 from Liberal totals.

2) Rather than NDP majority with less total vote than Liberals now have minority government

3) Gordon and Judy hold balance of power; no fast ferries?

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1991 ELECTION RESULTS WITH REGIONAL MEMBERS AT LARGE

(Numbers derived from Election BC website summaries)

	<u>NDP</u>	<u>Liberal</u>	<u>Socreds</u>	<u>Total</u>
Island :	12	2 (34%)* +1 M@L Paul McKivett**	0 (17%) +2 M@L Graham Bruce Stan Hagan	14 +3 M@L
Vancouver :	12	5	0(19%) +2M@L John Reynolds Russell Fraser	17 +2M@L
interior :	9	3	2(32%) +IM@L Larry Chambers	14 +IM@L
North :	6		0(19%) 3 +2 M@L	9 +2 M@L
		John Mangan Marcheta Leoppyky		
Fraser :	8	6	2 (25%) +IM@L	16 +1M@L

Chip Barrett
13 79
(70 + 9 M@L)
** Names of winning M@L for Region

NOTES : 1) 70 regular seats assigned; of 5 seat reduction, 4 from NDP and 1 from Liberal totals.

2) Respectable Socred opposition is retained.

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Election Results 1991, 1996, 2001 By Region

1991

	<u>NDP</u>	<u>Liberal</u>	<u>Socred</u>	<u>Total</u>
Island :	12	2		14
Vancouver :	13	6		19
interior :	10	3	2	15
North :	7		3	10
Fraser :	9	6	2	17
TOTAL :	51	17	7	75

1996

	<u>NDP</u>	<u>Liberal</u>	<u>Reform</u>	<u>PDA</u>	<u>Total</u>
Island :	10	3		1	14
Vancouver :	10	9			19
interior :	6	9			15
North:	6	2	2		10
Fraser :	7	10			17
TOTAL:	39	33	2	1	75

2001

	<u>Liberal</u>	<u>NDP</u>	<u>Total</u>
Island :	14		14
Vancouver	18	2	20
Interior :	16		16
North	10		10
Fraser	19		19
TOTAL :	77	2	79