

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION! WHY?

Because the present voting system “First Past The Post” (FPTP) distorts elections, producing results that are un-democratic.

In BC.

In 1972: 60 % of voters voted AGAINST the NDP; yet the system gave NDP 69% of the seats.

In 1996: The Liberals got a majority of votes, but the system awarded the NDP a MAJORITY government.

in 2001: The Liberals got **58%** of the votes, but the system gave them 97% of the seats, skewing the results so badly that the NDP with 20% of the votes only got 3% of the seats.

Recent federal elections show even larger distortions:

in 1993: Bloc Quebecois got **54** seats from 14% of the votes, while PC got 2 seats from 16% of the votes. In 1997: Reform and PC had the same percentage of votes (19%) but the system gave the Reform 3 times as many seats (60) as the PC (20). Something is **clearly wrong with a system that can twist and distort elections to such a degree.**

But, not only is the system undemocratic, the first past the post system also causes polarization, confrontation, destruction and alienation.

POLARIZATION: The FPTP system has in BC created a situation where we are governed either by extreme leftist or extreme rightist parties with no middle ground for other people.

CONFRONTATION: The Legislative Assembly is supposed to be an arena where concepts of reform and advancement are formulated. But, with the polarization inherent in the FPTP system, the parties instead become dead locked in hostile bickering. The system of PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION (PR) on the other hand often results in minority governments where cooperation between parties becomes a necessity.

DESTRUCTION: With FPTP system, the elected government spends most of the first 2 years destroying what the previous government had enacted. This destruction process is inevitably repeated by the next government.

ALIENATION: When a government obtains a majority of seats with a minority of votes, many citizens are alienated and vent their frustration on the politicians, not realizing that **VOTERS INABILITY TO HAVE AN EFFECT ON GOVERNMENTS, IN BC AS WELL AS IN CANADA, IS CAUSED MORE BY THE TWISTED VOTING SYSTEM THAN BY THE POLITICIANS.**

It is time for change in BC and Canada

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