

To Citizens Assembly
Re: Proportional Representation

My name is Donald Richardson and I would like to explain why, at the age of 31 and a registered voter since the age of 18, I have only voted once in any of our country's elections.

My early thoughts on our political system were such that after learning about it in school and watching the process in action, was that there was no point in voting because the system was so corrupt. It didn't make any difference who you voted for because only one of 2 or 3 parties could actually get in, and then the "small" vote didn't count. Still I figured that there must be some way to make a difference with your vote, so I faithfully registered every year, and then made a point of not voting, thinking that somewhere "they" were keeping track of registered voters who don't vote, and of course wondering why. Then I moved beyond that and started to think that with such a corrupt system, the only way to get better government was to abolish the current system and start all over.

Two years ago was the first time I had heard about Proportional Representation and after a caring friend explained and passed on the information, I realized that this addressed almost all of my previous concerns and reasons for not believing in our government's ability to truly represent its people. I now think that Pre-Rep is the only way our existing government can be what it is supposed to be; for the people. The government has become

an entity that is a profitable, big-business venture, as well as secure employment and benefits for politicians.

We voters don't always fit into the 2 or 3 boxes provided, but it doesn't mean that our voices should be silenced. I would like to believe and be proud of B.C. and all of Canada, but at this point our governments and systems are so opposite from my own values, that I don't. In fact I have a poor view, to the point of being cynical about it all. I do have a tiny spark of hope now though, and that is Pro-Rep. Without it, I and I'm sure many young and old Canadians, are doomed to lives with corruption, greed, and no hope, running our country.

Please understand that if you want voters to actually participate, you can't throw their votes away, when they don't follow the "program". Bring in Pro-Rep and you will see us absentee voters coming back by the droves. Why? Because their votes count of course!

Thank you for the time to express my concerns about voting and my feelings about Proportional Representation.

Suzanne Richardson