



KEEP OUR  
ELECTORAL PROCESS  
SIMPLE, STABLE  
+ SUCCESSFUL

## TOP THREE REASONS PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION IS NOT WORTH THE RISK

We live in the best province in the best country in the world. A principal reason for our successes is the First Past the Post (FPTP) system that we use to elect governments. It is simple, it produces stable governments and it's been successful for generations. Simple, stable and successful.

We all understand how it works - she with the most votes, the first over the line, the first past the post - wins the right to represent those who voted in a regional election. The aggregate result of 87 of those regional elections produces a Legislation which convenes in Victoria to wrestle with the issues of the day.

To replace it with a foreign voting system that has chronic problems is nonsense.

This is our third referendum on electoral reform within 20 years. The first two failed. In 2009 only 39% voted for proportional representation - an 18% drop in support since the first referendum in 2005. Clearly, the more people learnt about electoral reform the more they voted against it.

Here are three of the key reasons people resoundingly reject proportional representation:

### 1. It creates two kinds of elected members (MLAs).

Around half of the seats in the Legislature would be filled by members directly elected by, and accountable to, constituents the way they are today. The other half are party appointees - they come from backroom-generated party lists and owe the seats they fill to bagmen and party bigwigs.

### 2. The physical size of ridings will grow enormously to accommodate these List MLAs.

In the interior and north your MLA will be far away, out of touch with local issues and unavailable to you. Some northern and interior constituencies will be larger than New Zealand.

### 3. Proportional representation encourages the rise and perpetuation of regionalist, populist, and one-issue radical parties.

In BC, just 5% of the popular vote across the province will be enough to seat an MLA. There's no need to do the hard work to build a party and platform that appeals to a broad base of British Columbians.

In a multi-party legislature, holding just one or two seats can thrust a fringe party into the role of kingmaker. Remember, negotiations to form governments following messy elections which don't return a clear majority are often lengthy, and always held in secret. It took Germany four months following their most recent election to form government. In 2010-11, Brussels went an astounding 589 days without a sitting government. Election platforms and the promises they embody are set aside. Rarely do party members get to vote on the resulting power sharing agreements. Voters, to be sure, never do.

Governments formed by these shady deals are built on shaky foundations. Strange bedfellows with conflicting policy goals have no incentive for long-term planning or making the tough decisions that governments with limited resources are often called on to make.

Simple, stable, successful--three words that sum up First Past the Post. British Columbia, as the best place to live in the world, is proof. Canada is proof. Vote to keep our present system. Vote First Past the Post on the first ballot question this fall.



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