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No BC Proportional Representation Society Unveils Hard-hitting Video Ad Campaign

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VANCOUVER, BC (October 4TH, 2018) – The No BC Proportional Representation Society has unveiled a hard-hitting ad campaign that will be seen and heard on TV, online and on the radio in the coming weeks, as BC gears up for a referendum on the way we vote in this province. The ads focus on two important elements of Proportional Representation the Society wants to make voters aware of.

The first ad shows how in countries and regions where it has been adopted, Pro Rep has enabled far-right extremist parties to win political seats with just a fraction of the vote, allowing them to help shape racist and divisive policies and in some cases, giving them the balance of power. Examples shown include the recent election in Sweden where a neo-Nazi rooted party won enough seats to give them the power to topple the Prime Minister.

“My father fought with the Dutch resistance against the Nazis in World War Two,” says Bill Tieleman, co-director of the No BC Proportional Representation Society. “I will never accept the idea that neo-Nazis or extremists, with views that are abhorrent to the views that I hold, that my father held, and that we should all hold dear, would be allowed into our legislature with just 5% of the vote. If that were to happen – and believe me, it could – we would all be in very deep trouble.”

The second ad focuses on someone trying to reach their local MLA via telephone in their constituency office, and receiving word that they no longer even have a local MLA, and that the office is permanently closed.

“Proportional Representation means that local MLAs - whom you get to know, and who get to know the issues in your constituency - will be a thing of the past,” says Suzanne Anton QC, former Attorney General of British Columbia and also a co-director of the Society. “Under Pro Rep, your representative would be selected in a behind-closed-doors meeting, and policy decisions won’t be made locally to the benefit of people living in those areas. This system takes away accountability, representation and turns ridings into vast regions, with policies being dictated in urban areas. It’s incredibly unfair.”

The referendum on the future of voting in BC is a postal ballot, and registered voters will begin receiving their package in the mail on October 22nd. Eligible voters (details on eligibility can be found here: www.nobcprorep.com) have until November 30th to return their completed ballot.

Copies of the video ads can be found [here](#).