



KEEP OUR
ELECTORAL PROCESS
SIMPLE, STABLE
+ SUCCESSFUL

No BC Proportional Representation Society

NEWS RELEASE

Thursday April 25, 2019

No BC Proportional Representation Society congratulates Prince Edward Island “No What To Vote” group for leading campaign to defeat proportional representation; calls on Fair Vote Canada, tells pro rep groups to stop pestering voters

VANCOUVER - The No BC Proportional Representation Society – which successfully campaigned to defeat proportional representation in British Columbia in 2018 – is congratulating Prince Edward Island’s “No What To Vote” group for winning a similar vote in Tuesday’s PEI provincial referendum.

And the No BC Proportional Representation Society is calling on Fair Vote Canada and other pro rep advocacy groups to stop pestering voters after multiple defeats across Canada over several years.

“PEI voters just said no to proportional representation; BC voters just said no in December, 2018 to make it three times in 13 years; Ontario voters said no in 2007 – it’s time for advocacy groups to listen to the democratic will of voters and stop pestering them with endless attempts to eliminate our simple, stable and successful First Past The Post electoral system in Canada,” says No BC Proportional Representation Society President Bill Tieleman.

“Enough is enough. Voters have spoken over and over and yet groups like Fair Vote Canada keep trying to force their preferred foreign electoral system on the country and provinces when the answer has been clear – no thanks,” said Tieleman, a long-time New Democrat supporter who led all three successful campaigns against proportional representation in BC.

Society Vice-President Suzanne Anton added that pro rep advocacy groups are wrong to continue to ignore the democratic wishes of citizens, wrong to keep pushing more votes onto agendas across the country, and wrong to attempt to mount a court action when the vote did not go their way.

“Now Fair Vote Canada is raising money to mount an expensive Supreme Court of Canada Charter of Rights challenge to try and eliminate First Past the Post – what on earth are they thinking?” asked Anton, a former BC Liberal Attorney General. “Despite defeat after defeat at the hands of voters, they refuse to accept reality. Voters have spoken and their decision needs to be respected. It is wrong to ask the courts to overrule the democratic wishes of the electorate.”

Society Treasurer Bob Plecas, a retired BC deputy minister, said it's time for governments and political parties to tell advocacy groups that they have reached the end of the road – and that they won't continue to put repeated proportional representation referenda to voters.

"It is not that the pro rep advocates are wrong in talking about some problems with our current system. It is just that their policy prescription has two problems," says Plecas.

"One, a sizable majority of people in Canada like, respect and want to keep our present simple, stable and successful system. Second, their public policy prescription does not work in a large diverse country like Canada, and it is debatable it is working in European countries like Germany, Sweden, Italy, Belgium and others, with the rise of the militant right, and the disintegration of the left centre main stream parties."

"The key for all of us is good public policy right for Canada, and pro rep fails at that threshold," Plecas concludes.

Tieleman said because proportional representation advocacy groups insist they will keep agitating for yet more referenda, the No BC Proportional Representation Society will continue to maintain its website and consider working with other groups across Canada to fight for First Past The Post.

For more information:

Bill Tieleman	Cell 778-896-0964	Office 604-844-7827	Email: weststar@telus.net
Bob Plecas	Cell 250-507-5790		Email: bobplecas@shaw.ca
Suzanne Anton QC	Cell 604-970-6961		Email: Suzanne_anton@telus.net

Website: <https://www.nobcprorep.ca>