

Collaborative Proposal; Electoral Reform

Proposal Text

That the Green Party of Canada adopt a Proportional Representation system known as Single Member, Party Proportional, or SMPP, inasmuch as it is a much simpler system that does not require the redrawing of electoral boundaries, nor the election of a second person within a riding.

Type of proposal

As an adjunct to the current policy regarding Proportional Representation.

Objective/Benefit

Proportional Representation, in its current form, is not well understood by the public in general. This is in no small part to the complexity of a system that requires the redrawing of electoral boundaries, and the voting for more than one candidate in each riding.

Single Member, Party Proportional, or SMPP, will produce a Parliament that truly reflects the political preferences of the electorate, and does so with as little disruption as possible to Parliament itself or to the cost and complexity of the voting process. SMPP uses the current electoral system with no major changes, disruptions or compromises. There are also no Party-appointed members.

Proportionality is achieved simply by assigning to each elected Party caucus in Parliament a percentage weight that reflects the support that they received from the National vote, a weight that is then divided among the caucus members.

Under SMPP, each elected member will retain their vote in Parliament, but the weight of the vote will reflect the percentage of the National Vote received by the MP's Party. For Parliamentary votes, a simple computation system can be used to record each vote and to make the voting summations instantly for the Speaker.

This SMPP system will be accurately proportional, and has all the advantages of other proportional voting systems, including the following:

- No further need for strategic voting
- A more cooperative tone of Parliamentary discourse will be encouraged as the political Parties will often find it necessary to form alliances or governing coalitions.
- Government policies will better reflect the wishes of the voters and the broad policy swings of the past will be less likely to occur.
- Ethnic and gender diversity representation in Parliament tends to increase with a PR voting system.
- Voter turnout will increase as voters realize that their vote will always count.

If your proposal replaces one or more existing policies, which one does it replace?

It is an adjunct to existing GPC policy, so does not replace any policy. This policy reflects the Green principle of Participatory Democracy.