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Categories

Change

Principles

Fairness of Representation, Stable and Effective Parties/Government/Parliament, Voter Choice, Accountability, Stronger Voter Participation, Legitimacy

Summary

Our present electoral system is a fraud. It is systemically sexist and racist while also encouraging cynicism and apathy. Some form of proportional representation would be a better solution as it would help with the advancement of women and minorities while creating a free market for leadership and ideas.

Length

2 pages

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Submission

-Submission of the Arab Canadian Civil Liberties Assoc.-

“FIRST PAST THE POST” SYSTEM IS ARCHAIC AND UNDEMOCRATIC...

Our present electoral system is a fraud. The central principle of our archaic "first past the post" system is fundamentally undemocratic as it routinely allows a minority

of the citizens of Ontario to have majority control of the provincial legislature. If I don't vote for the winner I will not be represented in parliament. If I do vote for the winner I will be over represented in Parliament.

SYSTEMIC SEXISM AND RACISM...

The present system is sexist as women have great difficulty cracking the "glass ceiling" and overcoming the systemic barriers protecting the established political elites. Another product of the present system is racism. Ethno-racial minorities are highly concentrated in a few urban areas. Accordingly, Ontario's legislature is far more male and white than Ontario's gender and ethno-racial demographic composition. Democracy is more than conducting a ritual of voting every four years or so. Democracy is about inclusion and empowerment. Our present system has failed women and ethno-racial minorities.

ENCOURAGES CYNICISM AND APATHY...

Our present system also encourages unhealthy practices such as "strategic voting". Citizen's want to vote for party A but instead vote for party B just to block the election of party C which they fear. Such a perverse system can only result in voter apathy and cynicism.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION IS THE SOLUTION...

Our modern sophisticated society requires a system based on proportional representation. Under this system each party would earn exactly the proportion of seats in the legislature as the proportion of votes won in the election.

Prior to the election each party would have a list of candidates presented to the electorate. Seats in the legislature won by a party would be filled starting from the top of the party's electoral list.

This way all votes would count and all voters would be represented. Parliament would necessarily have a political composition that reflects the democratic wishes of Ontario's population. To accept anything less is to embrace a patronistic undemocratic fraud.

ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN AND MINORITIES...

Women would not be attracted to or vote for a party whose electoral list had few or no women. Ethno-racial minorities would not be attracted to or vote for a party that had few or no ethno-racial minorities on the list. Under proportional representation political parties would need to fully include women and minorities on their electoral list of candidates in order to attract the greatest number of votes possible. Accordingly, women and ethno-racial minorities would be properly represented in Ontario's legislature. Imagine an electoral list that alternated the names of men and women. Gender balance in the legislature would quickly become not only possible but politically necessary to any party hoping to attract the votes of women. Ethno-racial minorities would similarly benefit.

FREE MARKET FOR LEADERSHIP AND IDEAS...

A proportional representation electoral system would make it easier for new parties to form and for new ideas to be debated. Ultimately the citizens of Ontario will be

empowered through the creation of a free market for leadership and ideas.

TIME FOR LEADERSHIP...

It is inevitable that Ontario and the rest of Canada will embrace proportional representation as have almost every other industrialized state on earth. The only real question is will Ontario be a leader in this process or merely be embarrassed into action after having been left behind.

James Kafieh Chair Arab Canadian Civil Liberties Association