

Introduction

I'm Iain Macanulty.

Computer programmer.

Became interested in proportional representation in the mid 1980's.

Member of Fair Vote Canada

A referendum on proportional representation



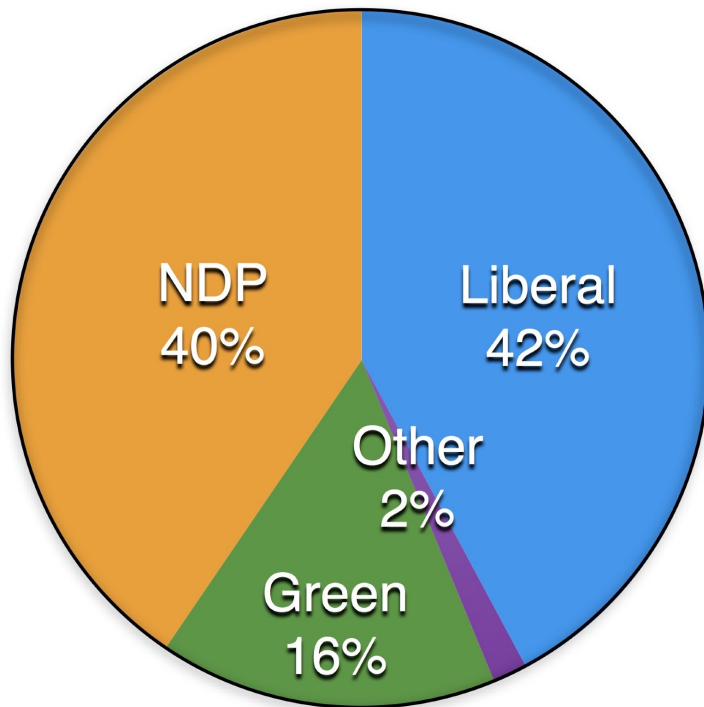
What's
wrong with
the system
we've got?



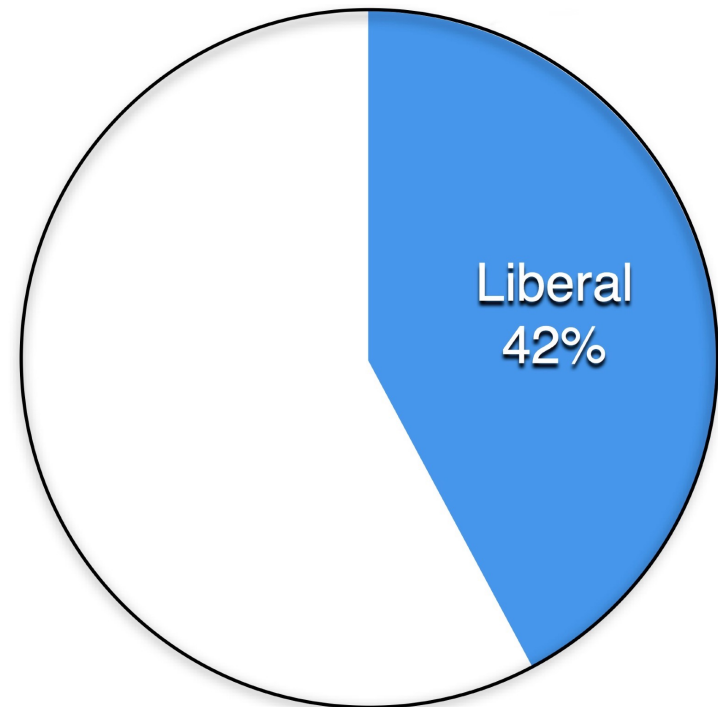
"I've got it, too, Omar... a strange feeling like we've just been going in circles."

2017 Election results for Vancouver False Creek

How voters voted



How they are represented



www.fairvote.ca/bcvotepledge/

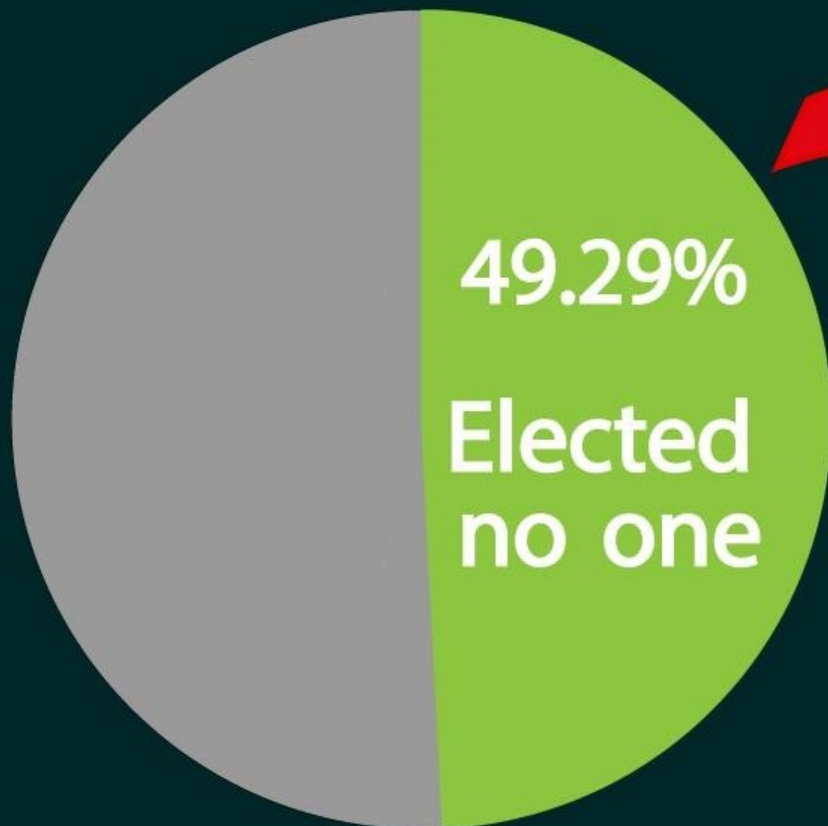


**Half our votes
don't matter**



BC Election 2017

Did your vote count?

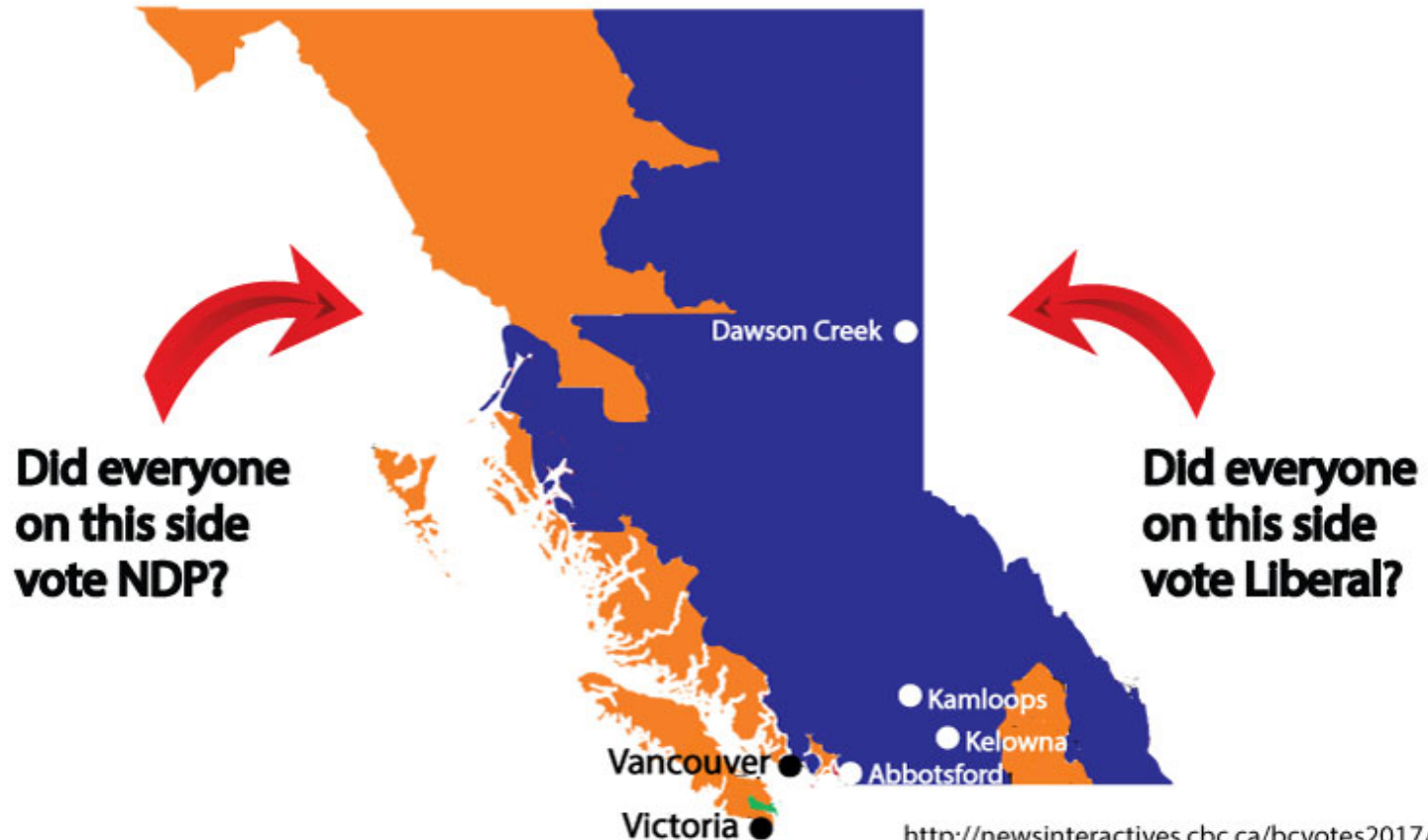


319,013 Liberal voters
313,352 NDP voters
290,880 Green voters

DIDN'T MATTER



Exaggerated regional differences

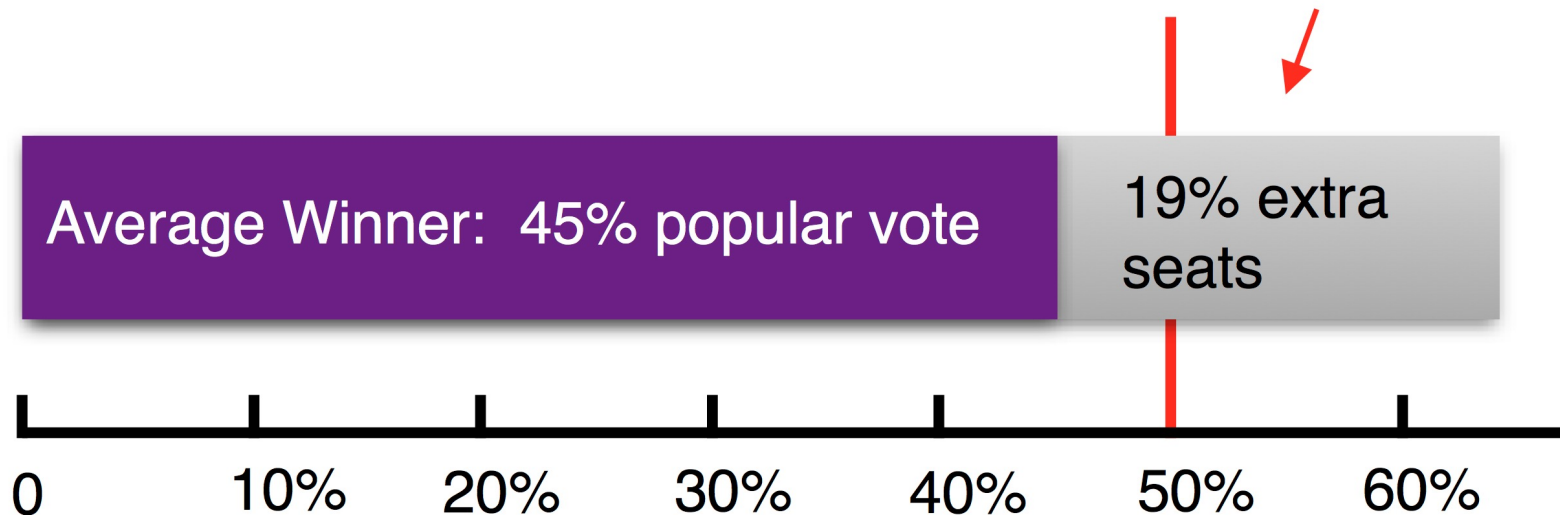




False majorities

Typical BC Election

Majority govt. based on
45% of the vote



Since 1956, 88% of governments in BC have been false majorities

False majority

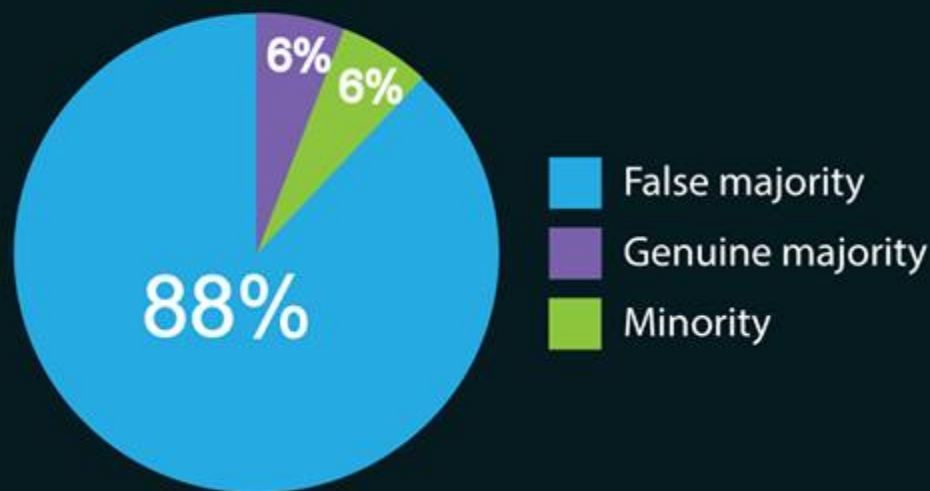
1956 1983
1960 1986
1963 1991
1966 1996
1969 2005
1972 2009
1975 2013
1979

Real majority

2001
(97% of the seats
with 57% of the vote)

Minority

2017



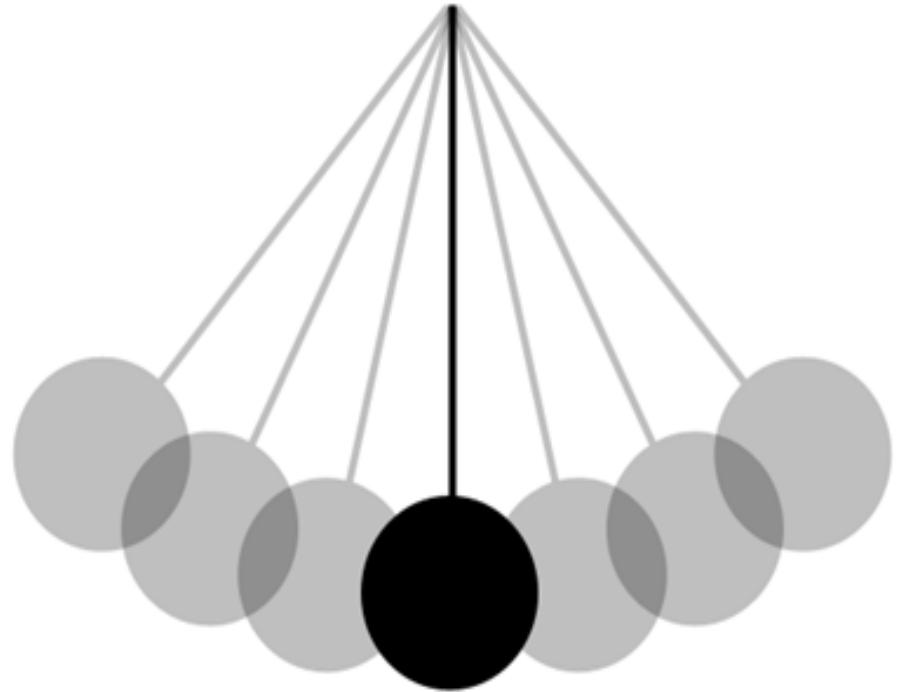
"False majority" = a majority of seats with less than 50% of the vote



**Strategic
voting**



Pendulum swings in policy





Voter dissatisfaction



**But ...
things don't have to be this way!**



35 countries in the OECD.

85% use proportional representation voting systems.

Countries using proportional representation

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey

Countries using semi-proportional voting systems

Japan, South Korea

Countries using non proportional voting systems

Canada, France, United Kingdom, United States

*Isn't it time for Canada to join
the modern world?*

Proportional representation:

What does that even mean?



Proportional representation:

Electoral systems where the composition of the Legislature accurately reflects voter preferences.

*30% of the votes
= 30% of the seats!*



(Almost) every vote counts



95.91%
helped elect
a representative



99.09%
helped elect
a representative



93.76%
helped elect
a representative



50.71%
helped elect
a representative



No more false majorities



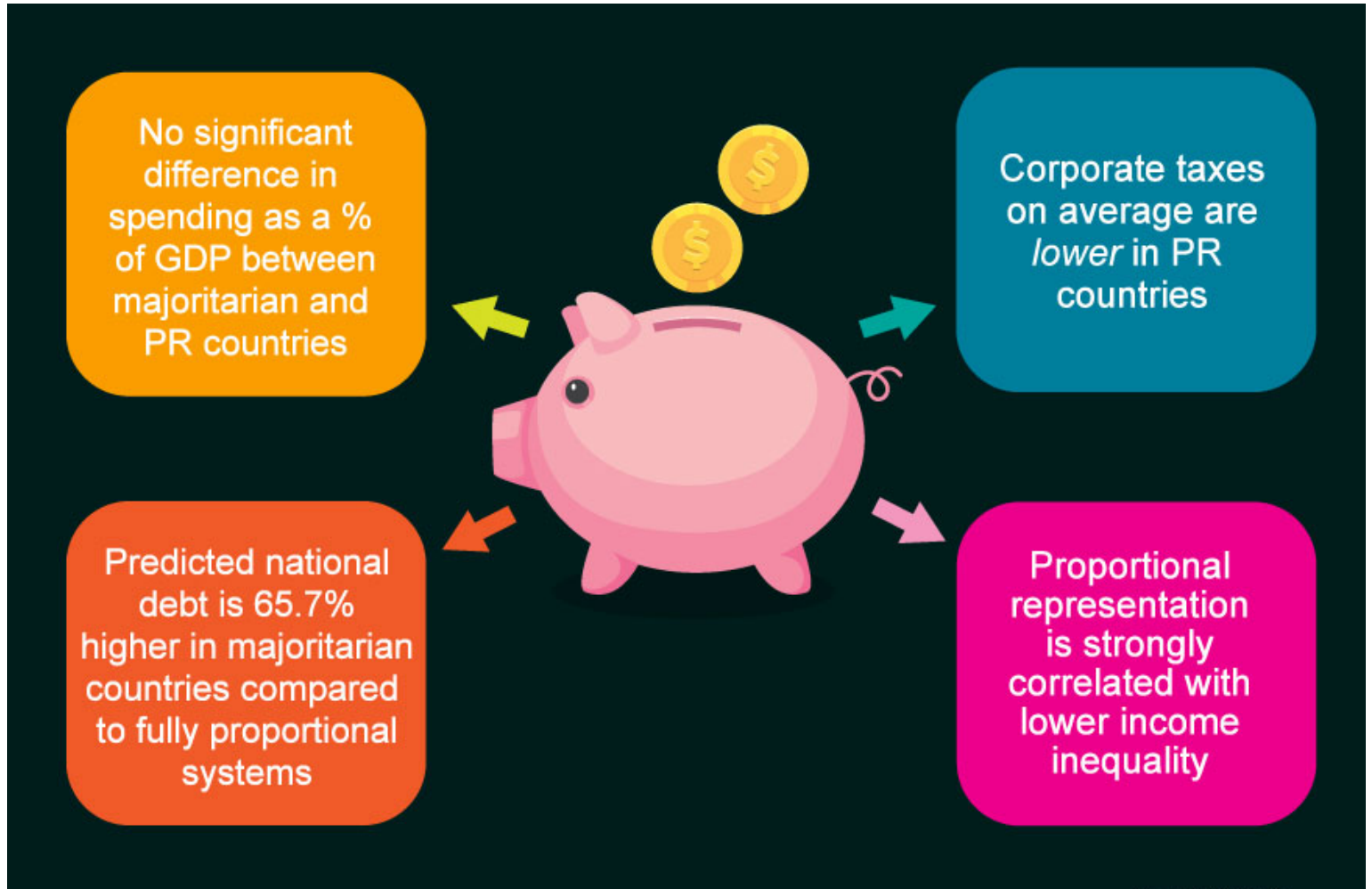


Better health & education outcomes





Surprising economic outcomes

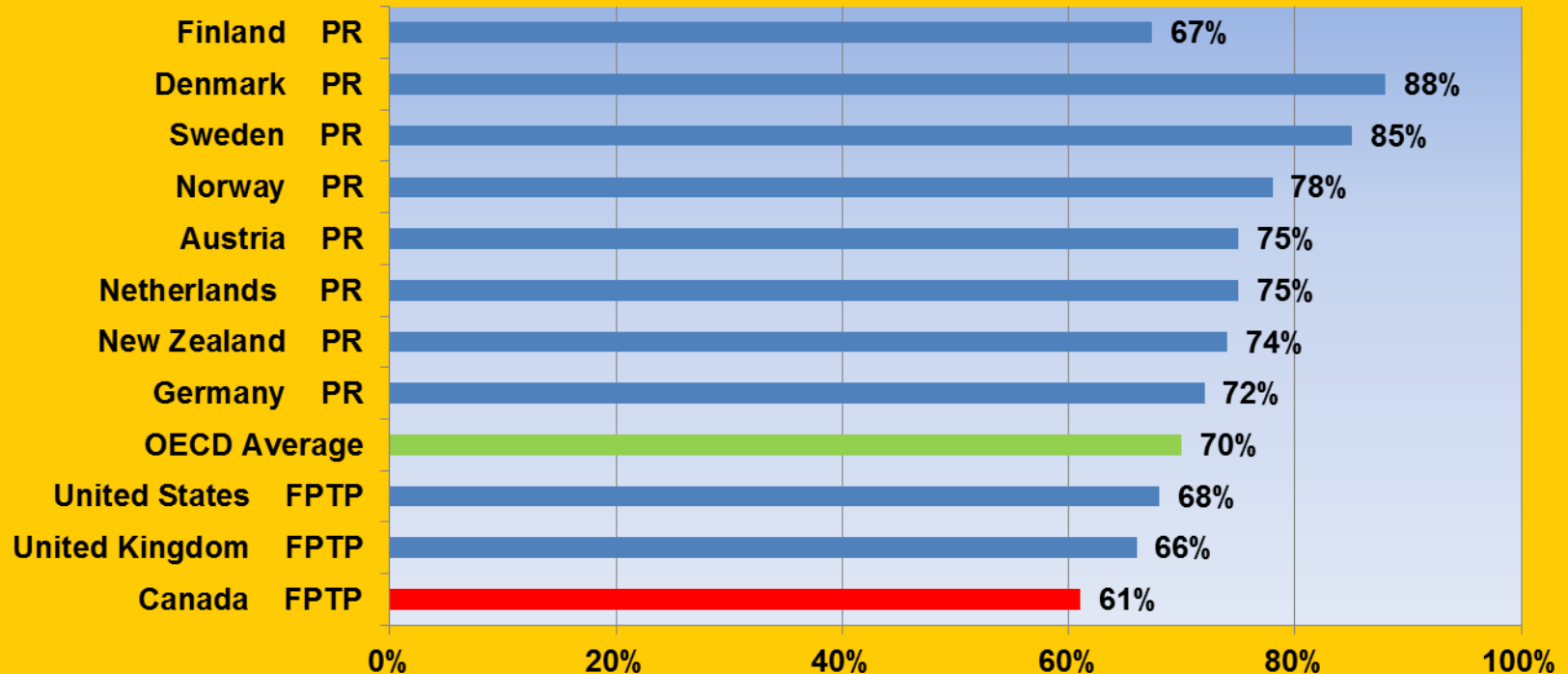




Higher voter turnout

Voter Turnout for OECD Countries

Registered Voter Turnout





Higher voter satisfaction



Pepin-Roberts
Commission
(federal)
1979

ERRE
Committee
(federal)
2016

Quebec Electoral
Representation
Commission
1984

Manitoba
Law Reform
Commission
1977

**ALL
recommended
proportional
representation**

PEI Electoral
Reform
Commission
2003

Béland
Commission
(Quebec)
2003

Ontario
Citizens'
Assembly
2007

Quebec
Citizens'
Committee
2006

Commission on
Legislative
Democracy (NB)
2005

Law Commission
of Canada
(federal) 2004

BC Citizens
Assembly
2004

All the systems recommended for BC:

- Preserve the current proportion of rural representation - no seats from the Interior moving to Vancouver!
- Involve candidates that are nominated and elected, just like now. No closed party lists!
- Retain MLA accountability to a specific geographic area, just like now.
- Can be implemented without increasing the number of MLAs in the province.

What do we know about the referendum?

- To be held by November 30, 2018
- More details by April
- *Could* be a mail-in ballot
- *Could* be a “mandate question” on proportional representation
- *Could* allow voters to rank systems in order of preference
- Consultation process on right now until Feb. 28



Two Internet Links

Government Consultation:

[“HowWeVote”](#)

Fair Vote Canada Vote Pledge:

[“BCVotePledge”](#)

Questions?

**Thanks for
listening!**

