

"A national consensus is building around the idea that our democracy needs to be fixed—that the first-past-the-post method of electing Parliament is grossly undemocratic."

~ Anthony Westell, *The Globe and Mail*, 6 June 2001.



A good voting system produces democratically accountable government by:

- 1) ensuring fair results
- 2) treating all votes equally
- 3) making every vote count

If the voting system ignores, distorts, or discounts what voters want, the result is an undermining of democracy. And therein lies the problem with Canada's political system. We are hobbled with an antiquated and widely discredited voting system.

VOTERS SPEAK—BUT VOTING SYSTEM GARBLES THE MESSAGE

June 29, 2004

Canadian voters spoke, but once again the voting system garbled the message. If seats had been awarded to parties on the basis of the votes they received, the Liberals, Bloc, and Conservatives would have had fewer seats and the NDP and Green Party more seats.

Rather than 135 seats, the Liberals would have received about 113. Rather than 99 seats, the Conservatives would have about 91. Rather than 54 seats, the Bloc would have about 38. The NDP, rather than 19 seats, would have about 48. The Greens, rather than no seats, would have about 13 seats.

The election results also demonstrated that voters and their votes are not treated equally. The Bloc gained one seat for about every 31,000 votes cast for their party; the Liberals gained one seat for every 37,000 votes, the Conservatives one seat for every 40,000 votes. Meanwhile, the NDP gained only one for every 111,000 votes.

The Greens attracted more than 500,000 votes but gained no seats at all—compared to the Liberals who attracted less than 500,000 votes in Atlantic Canada alone, where they won 22 seats.

Source: Fair Vote Canada:
<www.fairvotecanada.org/fvc.php>

