

In our democracy we expect that every voter has
Equal Legislative Power
In deciding the laws and policies which affect them.

“What are the conditions of effective representation? The first is relative parity of voting power. A system which dilutes one citizen’s vote unduly as compared with another citizen’s vote runs the risk of providing inadequate representation to the citizen whose vote is diluted. **The legislative power of the citizen whose vote is diluted will be reduced, as may be access to and assistance from his or her representative. The result will be uneven and unfair representation.**” [Bold added.]

Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin, Supreme Court of Canada, Reference re Prov. Electoral Boundaries (Sask.), 1991

Vote Diluter #1 *Single-Member Plurality Voting*
50% of Voters Don’t Get an MP

Canadian elections have successfully provided peaceful transitions from one government to the next. But they have not ensured that every voter has an equal say over the laws and policies which affect them. And some voters have no say at all.

Q: How can one MP possibly represent everyone in their District?

- 1) **When they vote “Yea” or “Nay”:**
 - To form Government and select the Prime Minister,
 - On the budget, on taxation and spending,
 - In the House, in Committee, in Caucus, or in Cabinet.
- 2) **When they speak for their political party:**
 - In the House, in Committees, in Caucus, in their District.
- 3) **When they do constituency work:**
 - **Real Biases:** MPs will inevitably disagree with some constituents politically, about policy, or for other reasons.
 - **Perceived Biases:** Some voters simply won’t visit the MP from their District for partisan, political, policy, privacy, cultural, or other reasons.
 - **Ceremonial:** A single MP pretends to represent everyone in the community giving the false impression of uniformity.

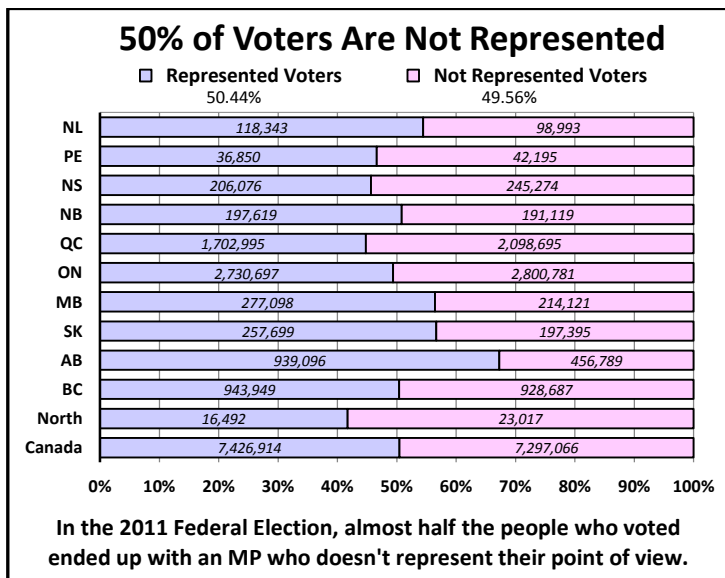
A: One MP can’t possibly represent everyone in their district.

Q: Who does an MP represent?

A: Each MP represents only those people who voted for them.

Q: Who represents the other voters in the District?

A: Nobody.

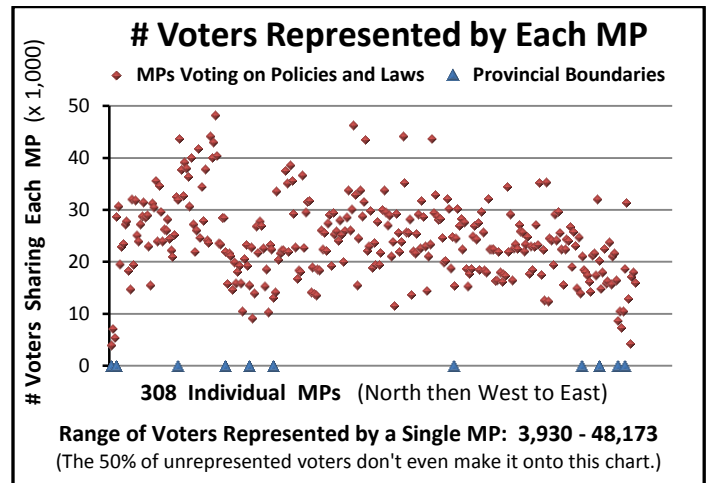


Vote Diluter #2 *Political Tampering*
Voters per District Varies Greatly

Modern transportation and communication make compensating sparsely populated areas with extra MPs unnecessary. This practice is being continued, and even increased, for political reasons.

Vote Diluter #3 *MPs Are Not Equally Liked*
Voters Sharing each MP Varies

Support for MPs varied from 31.0% to 84.0% in the 2011 Federal election. Ironically, voters who have popular MPs have less legislative power than voters with unpopular MPs.



Vote Equalizer *Single Transferable Vote – PR*
A Fair Electoral Systems Exists

STV-PR is a proportional electoral system (% party votes = % party seats) specifically designed to ensure that each voter has Equal Legislative Power and a meaningful choice of MPs. This system has:

1. **Multi-Member Districts:** To represent multiple points of view, there need to be multiple MPs in each district.
2. **Preferential Ballots:** Allows for honest, non-strategic voting.
3. **Fair Counting System:**
 - Every voter is represented by an MP they voted for.
 - Every MP represents about the same number of voters.
4. **Proportionality:** Is needed to ensure that laws and policies are supported by a majority of voters. With STV-PR, the average number of MPs in a district would optimally be five to six.