

## **ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES AND PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION 2024 08 12**

Electoral Boundaries and Proportional Representations are related in that they both affect how votes translate into seats in a legislature, but they influence the system in different ways:

1. Electoral boundaries are the geographic divisions within a region used to allocate representation. The way boundaries are drawn can impact the fairness and effectiveness of representation. If boundaries are drawn in favor of one group over another it can distort the democratic process.
2. Proportional representation (PR) is a system where seats in a legislature are allocated to parties or candidates in proportion to the number of votes they receive. PR aims to reflect the overall vote distribution more accurately in the composition of the legislature, leading to fairer representation of diverse political views.

While electoral boundaries influence the geographic distribution of representatives, proportional representation focuses on ensuring that the share of seats reflects the share of votes. We propose that these two groups collaborate to develop the most effective electoral system with boundaries that result in more truly representative democracy. We are confident that when almost all (if not all) votes are represented in our legislature, all people in Yukon will have a stronger feeling of belonging to our communities and regions.

Under our present First-Past-the-Post (FPTP) system, all voters who do not vote for the elected MLA in their riding, are not represented in their (our) Legislature. Under FPTP, when a majority government is elected by 40% of the votes cast, Opposition MLAs who represent 60% of votes cast have zero power in their votes. We end up with is a full term of dysfunctional democracy.

To have more truly inclusive and representative democracy, resulting in almost assured minority governments whose political parties can learn to work together collaboratively, we need to look at New Zealand whose history is similar to Canada. New Zealand, who changed to a Mixed-Member-Proportional (MMP) system in

1996 showed that all political parties can learn to respectfully work together on issues, instead of disrespectful behavior that we presently see in our Legislature elected under FPTP.

**OUR PROPOSAL:**

- A. THE YUKON BOUNDARIES COMMISSION and THE YUKON CITIZENS ASSEMBLY ON ELECTORAL CHANGE, WORK COLLABORATIVELY TO ESTABLISH MORE TRULY REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY IN YUKON.
- B. USE THE PREFERENTIAL RIDINGS WITH SECOND-CHOICE VOTE SYSTEM IN THE REFERENDUM

Due to the change from 19 to 22 MLAs, this is a new proposal. Following are some concerns for the Yukon Boundaries Commission and Yukon Citizens Assembly on Electoral Reform we have heard from interested people that we hope you act upon. Along with the other considerations you have, we hope that you give serious consideration to adding three seats, pairing ridings, and grouping ridings into proportional areas (regions) as suggested here (four electoral areas instead of three):

- Add two seats for Whistlebend and make Ross River and Faro into an additional riding separate from Southern Lakes.
- Keep the Vuntut Gwitch'in riding as a single riding.

Group the 22 ridings into four proportional electoral areas:

**1. South Centre and East Yukon Area**

Two Paired-riding seats plus two Proportional seats plus Ross River/Faro party votes

- a. Mount Lorne + Southern Lakes/Copper Belt South
- b. Pelly-Nisutlin + Watson Lake PLUS party votes from Ross River/Faro.  
The candidates from Ross River/Faro (RRF) will not be eligible for proportional seats, RRF not having been paired.

**2. West and North Yukon Area**

Two Paired-riding seats plus two Proportional seats plus Vuntut Guich'in party votes

- a. Kluane and Lake Laberge
- b. Klondike and Mayo/Tatchun) PLUS party votes from Vuntut Guich'in (VG) for proportional seats. VG candidates will not be eligible for proportional seats, VG not having been paired.

**3. North Whitehorse Area**

Three Paired-riding seats plus three Proportional seats

- a. Porter Creek North and Porter Creek Center
- b. Porter Creek South and Takhini/Copper King
- c. The additional two Whistle Bend seats

**4. South Whitehorse Area**

Three Paired-riding seats plus three Proportional seats

- a. Riverdale North and Riverdale South
- b. Copperbelt North and Whitehorse West
- c. Whitehorse Center and Mountain View

I'm sorry that I do not have maps. I personally do not have the skills and my past technical expert was not available.

Looking forward,

Dave Brekke

Fair Vote Yukon

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