

# Understanding Proportional Representation

Fall 2018



HEALTH SCIENCES ASSOCIATION  
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# What is Pro Rep?

- Pro Rep: political parties gain seats in proportion to number of votes cast for them
  - 40% of votes = 40% of seats

VS.

- First Past the Post (current system): voters select one candidate in their riding and whichever candidate receives the most votes wins

# Referendum Details (1)

[hsabc.org/pro-rep](https://hsabc.org/pro-rep)



- BC NDP & Greens committed to referendum
- Based on one of the most successful public consultations in BC history
  - 90,000 responses and 45 submissions
- Attorney General's report with key principles for pro rep systems on ballot
  - Proportionality
  - Local representation
  - Simplicity
  - Size of the legislature

# Referendum Details (2)

[hsabc.org/pro-rep](https://hsabc.org/pro-rep)

- Referendum period: Oct. 22 to Nov. 30 by mail
- Deadline to request ballot: Nov. 23, midnight
- Deadline for Elections BC to receive ballot: Nov. 30, 4:30pm
- Majority (50% +1) voting *YES to Pro Rep* required to change voting system
- You can vote for either question or both questions and indicate support for one, two or all three of the proportional representation voting systems in the second question
- Referendum results are binding
- Legislation already introduced for referendum in two election cycles on whether to keep Pro Rep
- 5% popular vote threshold to win seats in legislature

## 2018 Referendum on Electoral Reform

# Ballot

**Instructions:** To vote, fill in the oval  to the right of your choices, like this:   
Use black pen or marker. Do **not** use pencil.

### Question 1

Which system should British Columbia use for provincial elections? (Vote for only one.)

**The current First Past the Post voting system**

**A proportional representation voting system**

### Question 2

If British Columbia adopts a proportional representation voting system, which of the following voting systems do you prefer?  
(Rank in order of preference. You may choose to support one, two or all three of the systems.)

	<b>1</b> 1st Choice	<b>2</b> 2nd Choice	<b>3</b> 3rd Choice
<b>Dual Member Proportional (DMP)</b>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>3</sup>
<b>Mixed Member Proportional (MMP)</b>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>3</sup>
<b>Rural-Urban Proportional (RUP)</b>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>3</sup>

# Overview of Three Systems



- [Dual Member Proportional](#)
- [Mixed Member Proportional](#)
- [Rural Urban Proportional](#)

*Check out the helpful Elections BC [videos](#) on each system.*

# Six reasons to vote Pro Rep

[hsabc.org/pro-rep](https://hsabc.org/pro-rep)

1. Every vote counts – no wasted votes.
2. First-Past-the-Post outdated and used by few democracies. Over 90 countries use pro rep and over 80% of OECD countries.
3. Govts that better reflect us: more women elected to office.
4. Increased public funding on health and social care: Pro Rep democracies spend avg. of 4.75 percentage points more on social expenditures.
5. Better public policies and less inequality.
6. More co-operative politics: Canada's most popular social programs est. under minority governments, including public health care.

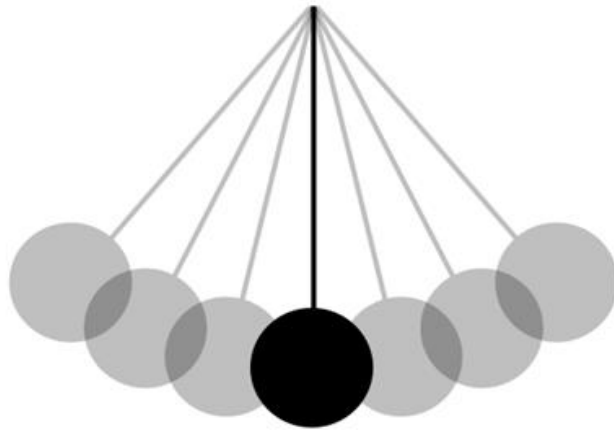
*For a summary of the evidence, see the [HSA Research Brief](#).*

# FPTP: Pendulum swings in policy



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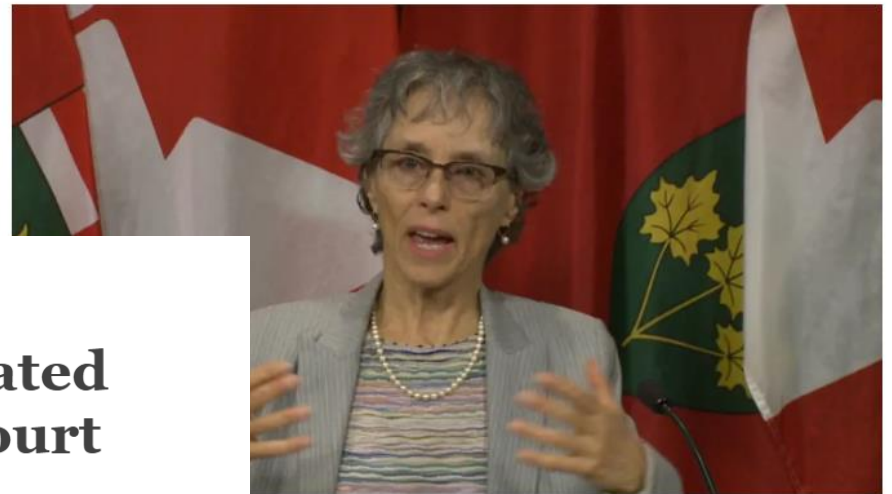


## Ford government 'gutted' climate change programs that were working: report



Environmental commissioner says 'meaningful' climate change law needed

Muriel Draaisma - CBC News - Posted: Sep 25, 2018 10:20 AM ET | Last Updated: September 25



### NEWS

## Campbell Government Violated Charter Rights: Supreme Court

Tearing up health union contracts ruled unconstitutional.

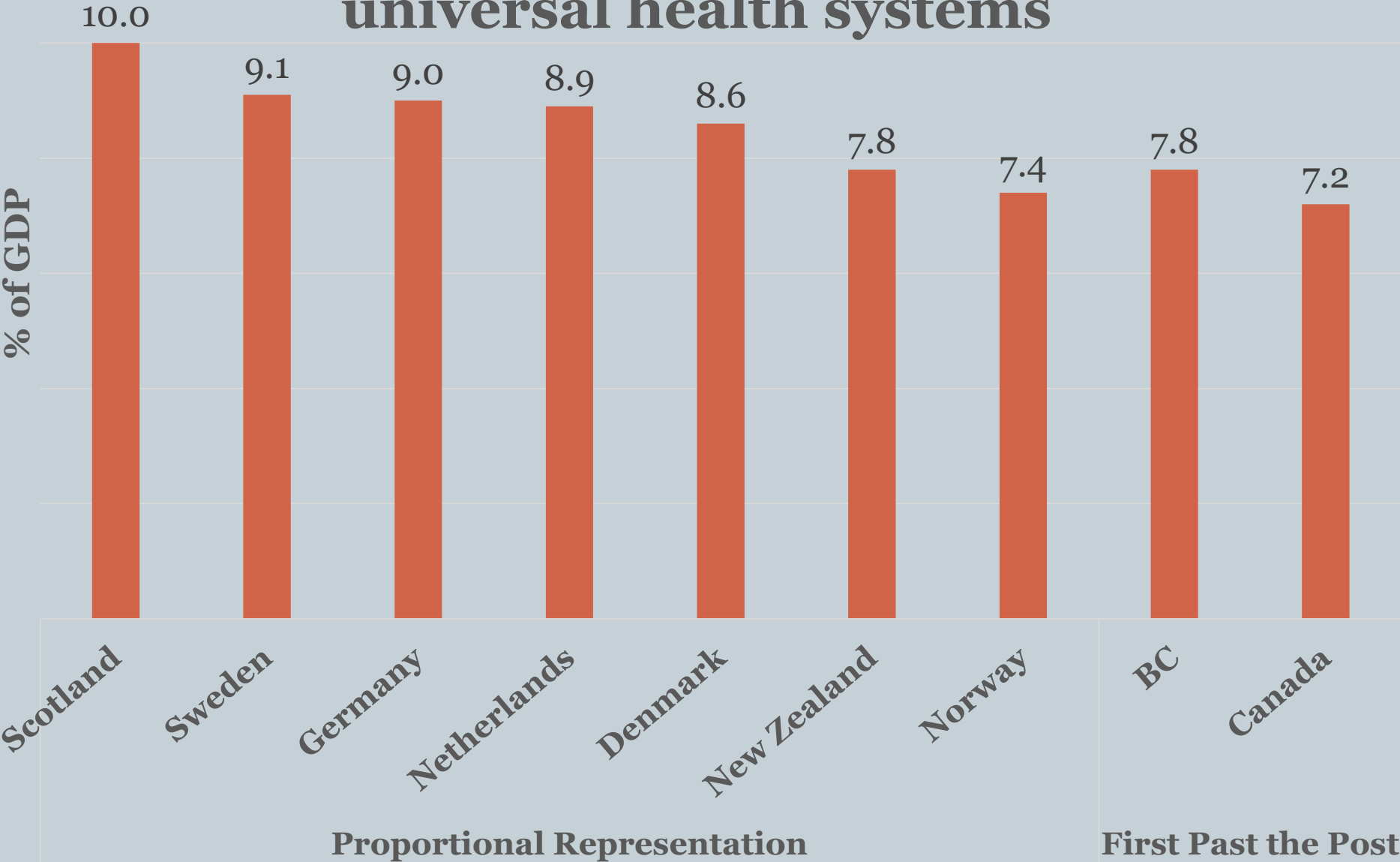
By [Tom Sandborn](#), 8 Jun 2007 | [TheTye.ca](#)

Tom Sandborn is a regular contributor to The Tye with a focus on labour and health issues. Read his previous articles [here](#).

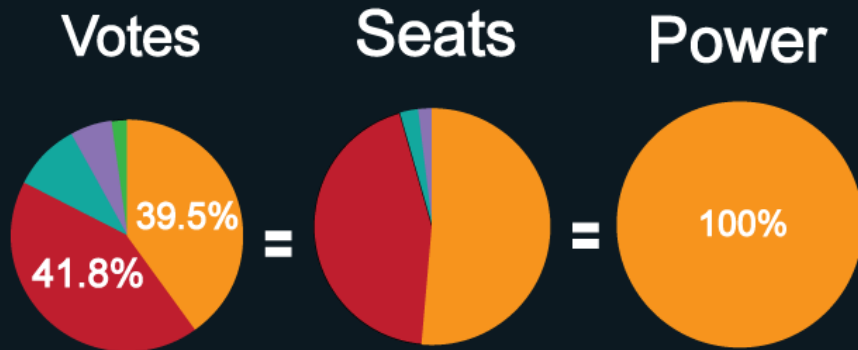
JOIN 220 Comments



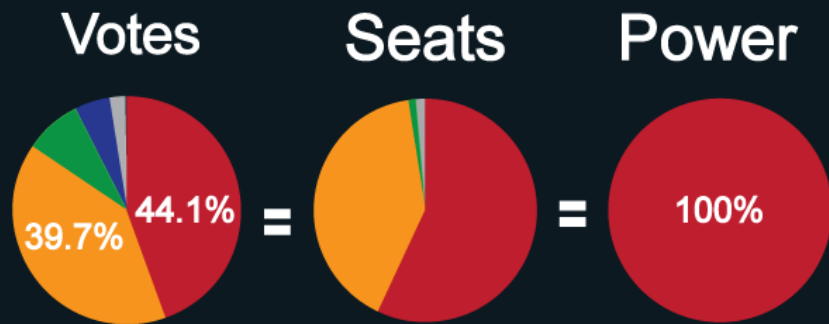
# Public sector health care expenditure as share of economy in selected universal health systems



## BC Election 1996



## BC Election 2013



First-Past-the-Post routinely delivers 'false' majority governments to parties with less than 50% of votes cast.

*False majorities occur when a party forms a majority government with the majority of seats (thereby gaining 100% power), but did not receive over 50% of the popular vote.*

# Does your vote count?



95.91%  
helped elect  
a representative



99.09%  
helped elect  
a representative



93.76%  
helped elect  
a representative



50.71%  
helped elect  
a representative

If you live in a place with proportional representation it does!

# We need your help!

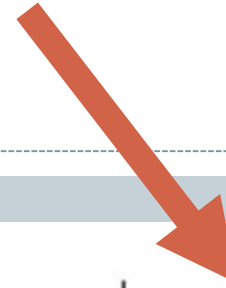
1. Sign a pledge card to support pro rep.
2. Sign up 5 HSA colleagues to support Pro Rep.  
SPonting[at]hsabc.org or [hsabc.org/pro-rep](https://hsabc.org/pro-rep)
3. Take a selfie with HSA colleagues and pledge cards
4. Spread the word! HSA Pro Rep webinar:
  - Tuesday, Nov. 13, 7-8pm
  - Register at [hsabc.org/pro-rep](https://hsabc.org/pro-rep)
5. Sign up for HSA Vote Pro Rep call night.
  - Tuesday, Nov. 20, 6-9pm
  - Email: [SPonting\[at\]hsabc.org](mailto:SPonting[at]hsabc.org)

*HSA is not registered as a referendum advertiser and therefore we are restricted to communication with HSA members only.*

# Pledge Card



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## I SUPPORT PRO REP!

Proportional representation ensures that election results are proportional to votes cast, delivering fairer results. Democracies with proportional representation have, on average, 7.5 percentage points higher voter turnout, 8 percentage point greater representation of women in legislatures, and spend 4.5 percentage points more on social programs, including health care. \* Proportional representation makes sense for BC.

**I pledge to vote in support of proportional representation in the 2018 BC referendum, taking place from Oct. 22 to Nov. 30 via mail-in ballot.**

(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME:

EMAIL:

PHONE:

WORKSITE:

\*Lijphart, Arend (2012). *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in 36 Countries*. New Haven, CT: Yale Press.

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