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"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead
Your Committee has that opportunity!

Hello Committee Members:

You have an opportunity to introduce an interim Proportional Representation system which will ensure everybody's vote will count.

The question is what type of PR might be best for Yukon? How about a straight forward system which would allow you to "try out PR" and see if it works for your Territory without a great deal of expense and disruption to your electors? After it works as a concept, you could then move to adapting a system which works best for your demography and geography. The best thing about this system is that you don't have to 'get it right' the first time.

Where do we situate a PR system to do the most good? We have two choices: at the Electoral District level – the local level/riding; or, at the Legislative Building – the Territorial level.

If we keep the premise that one Member of the Legislative Assembly must have one vote then we are locked to two possible systems:

- 1) have a system at the local level where the cast votes are manipulated to allow an elected MLA to have a winning majority; or
- 2) manipulate the number of elected MLAs to mirror their party's Territorial vote.

The first one moves votes to candidates for whom an elector may not have voted; while the second may have 'regional' MLAs, or appointed MLAs for whom the voters didn't elect. Neither of these are really great solutions.

What if we had a Straightforward Solution?

One that doesn't require the Territory's 29,637 electors to change their voting habits and recognizes your Territorial wide votes, and it makes every vote count. It is a Proportional Voting System called **Single Member – Party Proportional Voting or (SM-PPV)**. It has two parts.

The first part is at the local level where the MP is elected using FPTP. It is a simple system and all the electors and candidates know how it works. This gives us a knowable and knowledgeable local representative.

The second part is also straightforward! It moves proportionality to the Legislative Assembly. The MLAs still get to vote to support their particular party, but it would be amended slightly. Instead of just one vote, an MP may have several votes or perhaps just a portion of one vote. How can this happen, you say! Voting in the Legislative Assembly would then depend upon the number of votes each party received across the Territory, not just on the number of MPs elected for that party.

Here's How It Works

If party A received 39.32% of the votes across the Territory, then they would get 39.32% of the Legislative Assembly votes. Currently with 19 MLAs in the Legislative Assembly, so 39.32% of 19 votes is 7.47 or 7.5 votes. How each party distributes the Legislative Votes is left to that party. Put on a purely mathematical basis, with 8 MLAs, each MLA would have 9.3 Legislative votes. And so on for each party.

Voting inside the Legislature would be quite simple: the MLA would have a key which would unlock an electronic (not internet driven) system with two buttons - yes/no.

Advantages

The votes in the Territory Legislature would more accurately represent the choice of the electorate across the Territory – not just in selected ridings.

Political parties would have to be aware of appealing to Territory wide policies rather than 'safe seats'.

29,637 electors would not have to change the way they vote.

And more importantly, each elector would know that their vote will actually count.

Disadvantages

19 MLAs would have to modify their manner in which they vote.

The parties would have to have Territory wide policies and would not be able to focus on individual ridings.

No longer would just the number of seats won be so important or so heavily weighted.

Conclusion

With this system you'll not be asking the 29,637 voters in your Territory to change, but rather just 19 people. From my years of teaching adults, we learn best when we are adding information or modifying information to what we already know, as in the First Past The Post voting system.

(FPTP) works well for horse races, but not in elections, as many electoral voices are not heard. SM-PPV lets us hear those lost voices! To quote William of Ockham, "All things being equal, the simplest solution tends to be the best"; and that is the Single Member – Party Proportional Voting system!

With thanks for your time and effort, Norm Hart
Printed copy to follow.

