

PRESENTATION to the ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION  
FEBRUARY 10 , 2004

I would like to raise the following concerns:

1] Students who are eligible to vote while attending off-Island learning institutions have too many "barriers" to overcome. Obtaining the required documents and signatures at both ends, so to speak, as well as the time taken by postal delivery often means the deadline cannot be met. Technology such as faxing and e-mailing should be alternatives allowed in getting their vote to the ballot box. As well, all off-Island learning centers should be made aware of the voting requirements for our Island students.

2] Though I vote I am discouraged that my vote does not count and has not for many years counted under the present "first past the post" system. It does not count because people are elected and governments are formed that do not reflect my philosophy about social justice and equality for many citizens who are in the minority because they are poor or belong to a minority group in terms of economic, political and social status.

The community of citizens who share my beliefs does not have the opportunity to impact in the decision making venues of government or by elected opposition in the legislature under the present system.

Changing municipal and provincial electoral boundaries according to population will not give me a say in the legislature. I have observed how governments and legislatures work in two provinces, here and in Manitoba, and conclude that "first past the post" just does not reflect the minority communities because it does not allow them to elect their "voice".

I am concerned that the Carruthers' Report for electoral changes including implementing a form of election that includes proportional representation has been shelved. This while other provinces appear to be embracing such futuristic measures because a significant number of their residents are calling for improvement in how democracy can be enjoyed by all citizens.

Thank you.



Edith Perry

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