

**PETITION TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NEW BRUNSWICK
TO THE HONOURABLE THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NEW BRUNSWICK, ASSEMBLED:**

WHEREAS the last two elections have shown us that the current first-past-the-post voting system can thwart the will of the people by giving parties seat shares that do not correspond to their vote shares;

WHEREAS with the current system, those who vote against the predominant party in their riding cannot be heard, forcing voters to choose the candidate they dislike the least instead of the one they prefer;

WHEREAS our majority voting system results in elective single-party dictatorships in the legislative assembly rather than democratic cooperation, despite the ruling party's failure to win a majority of votes;

WHEREAS being able to win a majority of seats with a minority of votes (even with less than 40%) encourages early elections and less stable government;

WHEREAS the current voting system tends to favor an unhealthy two-party system that polarizes the province and encourages extremists to co-opt major parties;

WHEREAS the 2004 NB Commission on Legislative Democracy and the 2017 NB Commission on Electoral Reform established by the government of NB (GNB) both recommended steps towards proportional representation;

WHEREAS countries with proportional representation (e.g. Germany, Scandinavian countries, New Zealand, etc.), demonstrate more political participation, cooperation, stability and quality of democracy;

WHEREAS the GNB should draw on the model of the independent provincial citizens' assemblies in B.C. and Ontario to choose a new, fairer electoral system, rather than choosing what is convenient for those in power;

We the undersigned residents of New Brunswick demand that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick create an independent provincial citizens' assembly on electoral reform and implement its recommendations to ensure voters:

- **can cast an equal and effective vote to be represented fairly in the Legislative Assembly, regardless of political belief or place of residence;**
- **are governed by legitimate laws approved by a majority of a fairly elected Legislative Assembly, representing a majority of voters where the share of seats held by each political party closely reflects the popular vote.**

Name (printing)	Signature	Address (with Postal Code)	Date (mm-dd-yy)
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Return original petitions to 665 Mitchell St., Fredericton, NB E3B 3S7