



Fair Vote Canada, NCR Chapter

Newsletter Edition #32 - October 30, 2024

Let's make every vote count!

Nathaniel Erskine-Smith interview with Justin Trudeau

Liberal MP Nathaniel Erskine-Smith invited PM Justin Trudeau on his [Uncommons podcast](#) on Oct. 1. Trudeau's comments about electoral reform (starting 30 minutes in) have received [a lot of media attention](#).

NCR chapter President Réal Lavergne was a guest on the Tim Powers show to discuss the interview. You can hear him starting [32 minutes into the Friday October 11th episode](#).

Trudeau shared a clip of the electoral reform discussion on Twitter and Facebook, spreading PR misinformation. Please voice your support of PR on Trudeau's posts on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

FVC put together [a press release extensively fact-checking Trudeau's comments](#) in the interview. Also worth a listen is the [commentary of the interview](#) offered by a popular Youtube pundit.



Recent provincial elections

British Columbia went to the polls [on October 19](#). It was a close election with the NDP and the Conservatives almost evenly matched, and the results are still not final as of Oct. 28, as absentee ballots are being counted. The NDP has not been invited to form government, and may have a razor thin majority, with 47 seats. It appears likely that the NDP will need support from the Green Party which won two seats and has shown no willingness to cooperate with the Conservative party. If so, this could create an opening for the Greens to insist on a citizens' assembly on electoral reform as a condition for support. Click here to access [FVC's statement on the BC election](#).

Saskatchewan voted [on October 28](#). This resulted in a fifth majority in a row for the Saskatchewan Party, winning 53% of the popular vote, although the NDP considerably increased its vote share and seat count.

The **New Brunswick** election on October 21st led to a [majority Liberal government](#). FVC put out a press release outlining the distortions: [New Brunswick Liberals form "majority" government with 48.2% of the vote](#). Although a Citizen's Assembly on Electoral Reform and proportional representation are policies the Liberal leader supports, the issue was not made part of the election campaign by either the Liberals or the Greens. The likelihood of the NB Liberals moving ahead on a citizens' assembly seems remote, now that they've formed a false majority of their own. Experience shows that a party in such circumstances cannot sustain the support of its MLAs for electoral reform, even if the leader believes it would be the right thing to do.

Nova Scotia will hold an [election on November 26th](#). Premier Houston broke his own fix date election law in advance of the set date of July 15th, 2025.

An update on the Charter Challenge

The Charter Challenge sent out an update letting supporters know that the Ontario Superior Court will be hearing their appeal in November. In the meantime, the court will hear from 6 interveners, 5 of whom support electoral reform! Anyone interested in keeping up with the Charter Challenge can sign up for updates by [visiting their website](#).

Fair Vote Toronto will be hosting a briefing on the Charter Challenge from 2-4 PM on Sunday November 3rd. Anyone interested to tune in virtually can send an email to toronto@fairvote.ca to receive the Zoom link.

A review of the provincial polls

[Québec polls](#) are now predicting a Parti Québécois minority government. A minority government would increase the likelihood of a citizens' assembly on electoral reform taking place. The Quebec Liberals are expected to form the official opposition. The Liberals tend to be on the winning side of first-past-the-post electoral games, but the current situation of the Liberals is an interesting one. At this stage in Quebec's electoral history, they can no longer hope to form government by winning seats only in Montreal, yet they cannot win seats outside of Montreal under FPTP. The Liberals will be holding a leadership race in early 2025 and are looking to renew the Quebec Liberal Party. One can hope that they too may decide to join a multi-party coalition for electoral reform in Quebec.

[Ontario polls](#) are predicting yet another false Conservative majority, with 75% of the seats based on 42% of the popular vote. A recent opinion piece by Steve Paikin titled [What the recent political news out of B.C. could mean for Ontario](#) calls for more cooperation between the different opposition parties for the next provincial election. Closer to home, Conservative MPP Lisa MacLeod has announced that [she's not seeking reelection](#). For our chapter, this may provide a good opportunity to make an issue of electoral reform in that riding during the next election.

Update following the election in France

[Michel Bernier, an elected member of the centre-right Republican Party, was chosen as France's new prime minister](#) on September 5th, almost two months after the election on July 7th. This choice of prime minister has not been popular among progressive [parties](#) and [voters](#) but with the vote split between the left, the centre and the right, Macron opted for someone closer to his own political movement, rather than a candidate proposed by the New Popular Front on the left, which won a plurality of the popular vote.

It may be worthwhile to keep an eye on French politics as both Macron's party Renaissance and the Rassemblement National [expressed support for proportional representation](#) during their campaigns. More recently, MoDem president François Bayrou [called for proportional representation as well](#). Le Devoir article [La France est-elle prête pour la VIe République?](#) gives a good summary of the current situation.

Another great Pride weekend

The final numbers are in from our outreach efforts at Capital Pride last August: 363 signatures for the [Declaration of Voters' Rights](#), including 95 new volunteers for our chapter! It's worth noting that the Declaration has now hit the 100 000 signatures mark, a feat for which we can surely take pride.

For those interested, Réal has updated the [Lessons Learned](#) document, which contains some details and reflections following the Pride event.

Below, FVC volunteers Blake Hamilton and Josh Franklin. [Click here to see more photos](#).



New educational videos

Fair Vote Canada has recently added some new educational videos to its Youtube channel: [Proportional Representation 101](#) and [What is a Citizens' Assembly?](#)

New documents on citizens' assemblies

Fair Vote Canada Executive Director Anita Nickerson recently shared two documents about citizens' assemblies. The first one, [Getting Real About Citizens' Assemblies: A New Theory of Change for Citizens' Assemblies](#) addresses issues that can arise during the process of a citizens' assembly. The second one, [How can citizens' assemblies help navigate the systemic transformations required by the polycrisis?](#) Is a longer document calling for a more sophisticated theory of change on subjects where systemic reform is at stake.

A recent article in the Tyee titled [The Magic That Happens at Citizens' Assemblies](#) provides an overview of citizens' assemblies following a recent democracy conference in Vancouver.

Updates about the Longest Ballot Committee campaign

The Longest Ballot Committee strikes again, this time during the recent byelection in LaSalle-Émard-Verdun. The ballot reached a total of 91 candidates! One of the candidates was our NCR chapter Executive Committee member Blake Hamilton.

The campaign gained significant media attention once again. The Hill Times wrote an article titled [Elections Canada braces for mammoth byelection ballot count as protesters sign up dozens of candidates](#) and the CBC filmed a segment titled [What's at stake in the upcoming federal byelections](#) where the campaign is mentioned.

Looking back at the OLP AGM

Fair Vote Canada volunteers were out in good numbers at the recent Ontario Liberal Party AGM in London on September 20-22. [Here are a few photos](#). There were actually two groups of volunteers there: a large contingent of FVC volunteers leafleting at the entrance ways of the Convention hall, and a smaller group of Liberal Party delegates circulating a more Liberal-specific handout on the Convention floor itself. Our insider volunteers were able to make sure almost every person present at the AGM was given one of [our handouts](#). Have a look at our chapter President Réal Lavergne's [notes following the AGM](#). You may also want to fill out [this survey](#) from the OLP to voice your support for electoral reform.

Below, a picture of Réal comparing notes with Joshua Rambout, from London, who was heading the FVC group. The two sets of messages were slightly different but mutually reinforcing.



GPO motion calling on a citizens' assembly on electoral reform

Executive Committee member Blake has submitted [a motion calling on the Green Party of Ontario to convene a provincial citizens' assembly on electoral reform](#). Party members voted on [their preferred policies](#) on October 11th. The top 10 policies will then be presented at the GPO convention on November 10th.

A similar policy recommendation is also being put to the newly formed Canadian Future party for consideration during its inaugural convention in Ottawa the weekend of Nov. 10.

Other PR News

- La Presse article [Entre volonté populaire et accidents électoraux](#) gives a good analysis following 2024 elections in France and the UK.
- Check out Fair Vote Canada's new [stories page](#)!
- [This Boston Review reading list on democracy](#) features several articles discussing electoral reform.
- [Retweet this article](#) about political violence and electoral systems.
- FVC is hosting a PR letter-writing workshop at 7 p.m. on Nov. 10. Anyone can register [here](#).
- Liberal MP Nathaniel Erskine-Smith recently made a video where, among other things, he talks about the importance of electoral reform. [You can watch and share it on Facebook](#).
- TVO discussed Trudeau's broken electoral reform promise, [starting here at 7:10](#). You can [share the video on Facebook](#).
- Those who missed the webinar earlier this month on PR in the UK, the US and Canada can now [watch the recording](#).

CHAPTER RESOURCES

- Toronto's latest [newsletter](#)
- [Chapter resources](#) and other documents
- [PR messaging guide](#)
- [Citizens' assembly guide](#)
- [Guide for self-starters](#)
- [Election result spreadsheets](#)

Supporting our chapter

It is now possible to support the FVC NCR chapter directly with an e-transfer into our account with Alterna Savings!

e-Transfers sent to fvcncrtreasurer@gmail.com are automatically deposited to the FAIR VOTE CANADA, NCR CHAPTER account at Alterna Savings. No password or code should be required.

We thank you very much for your generosity!

**NEXT NCR CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING:
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 14TH AT 7:30PM, ONLINE**

[ZOOM LINK](#)

**Fair Vote Canada, National Capital Region Chapter
Représentation équitable au Canada, section de la région de la capitale nationale**

*For a voting system that elects who we vote for
Pour un mode de scrutin qui élit pour qui nous votons*

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