

UNIT 4: The Levels, Workings and Elections of the Government

Oct 13-9:08 AM

Elections - The Vote and Political Parties in Canada

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0YOh-rpvjYg>



An election must be called if:

- 1) There is a vote of non-confidence in the House of Commons
- 2) If a government sits longer than 4 years
- 3) If the Governor General dissolves Parliament

A Federal Election - cool facts

- To run a campaign in your riding all you need is \$1000.00 and 100 signatures
- The Canadian Federal campaign lasts 36 days
- It costs \$300,000,000....no foolin!
- Women began to vote after 1917 and the voting age was lowered from 21 to 18 in 1970
- You can vote if you are 18 and not in jail
- From 1867 – 1921 there were only 2 parties, so a majority Government was guaranteed!

Oct 8-3:02 PM

What is an attack ad?

In political campaigns, an **attack ad** is an advertisement whose message is meant as a personal attack against another candidate or political party.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PikszBkfTHM>

The following campaign against Prime Minister Jean Chretien was infamous during 1993 - do you think there is any value to such a strategy?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1qKps7uG6eM>

2008 vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin runs into a problem when she can't name a newspaper she reads

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xRkWebP2Q0Y>

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What Do Political Parties Stand For?

Left, Right, Centre

Political Spectrum Chart

LEFT	CENTRE	RIGHT
NDP	BLOC QUEBECOIS	LIBERAL CONSERVATIVE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - dissatisfied with the present conditions of society - believes the government should actively reduce inequalities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - combines beliefs from right and left - generally satisfied with status quo - will advocate for change if deemed beneficial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cautious about change - values social order - supports traditional institutions (i.e. police, conventional families, military, religion)

Oct 19-8:36 AM

Our Current Government

Federal Government: CONSERVATIVE

Federal Opposition: NDP

Provincial Government: LIBERAL

Provincial Opposition: CONSERVATIVE

Federal

Prime Minister: STEVEN HARPER

Leader of Opposition: TOM MULCAIR

Leader of Third Party: BOB RAE

Provincial (Ontario)


Premier: KATHLEEN WYNNE

Leader of Official Opposition: TIM HUDAK


Leader of Third Party: ANDREA HORWATH

Oct 19-8:43 AM

Provincial Election Voter Turnout

 <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/ontario-election-turnout-hits-record-low-1.981>

Federal Election Voter Turnout

 <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canadavotes2011/story/2011/05/03/cv-election-voter-turnout-1029.html#>

Oct 27-8:48 AM

<u>Improving the Voter Turnout Rate.</u>		
	PROS	CONS
Advanced Polls		
Mail-in Voting		
Special Needs Assistance		
Sunday Voting		
Others???		

Oct 27-9:01 AM

What is Proportional Representation?

OUR CURRENT ELECTORAL SYSTEM:

The term "first past the post" refers to a now seldom-used analogy with horse racing, where the winner is the first to pas a particular point (more votes than any other party), upon which all other runners automatically lose (winner take all!!!). There is, however, no "post" that the winning candidate must pass in order to win, they are just required to receive the largest number of votes in their favour. This sometimes results in the alternate name "further past the post".

OUR FUTURE ELECTORAL SYSTEM???

Proportional Representation would distribute the 308 seats on the basis of the percentage of the total vote each party receives across Canada.

Oct 31-3:45 PM

FIRST PAST THE POST

PARTY	% of VOTES	# of SEATS
A	35	155
B	30	118
C	20	25
D	15	10

Proportional Representation

PARTY	% of VOTES	# of SEATS
A	35	108
B	30	92
C	20	62
D	15	46

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How Would the Outcome of the 2011 Provincial Election been Different?

Liberals Received **37.6%** of the popular vote

Conservatives Received **35.4%** of the popular vote

NDP Received **22.7%** of the popular vote

Green Party Received **2.9%** of the popular vote

PARTY	PROPORTIONAL	CURRENT
LIBERAL	41	53
CONSERVATIVE	38	37
NDP	25	17
GREEN	3	0

Nov 1-8:14 AM

SYSTEM	FOR	AGAINST
FPTP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple • Easily Understood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tends to produce minority governments which may have difficulty making decisions
PR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevents one party from winning if they have minority of the votes • Fairer distributon of seats according to arties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vote for a party rather than a person

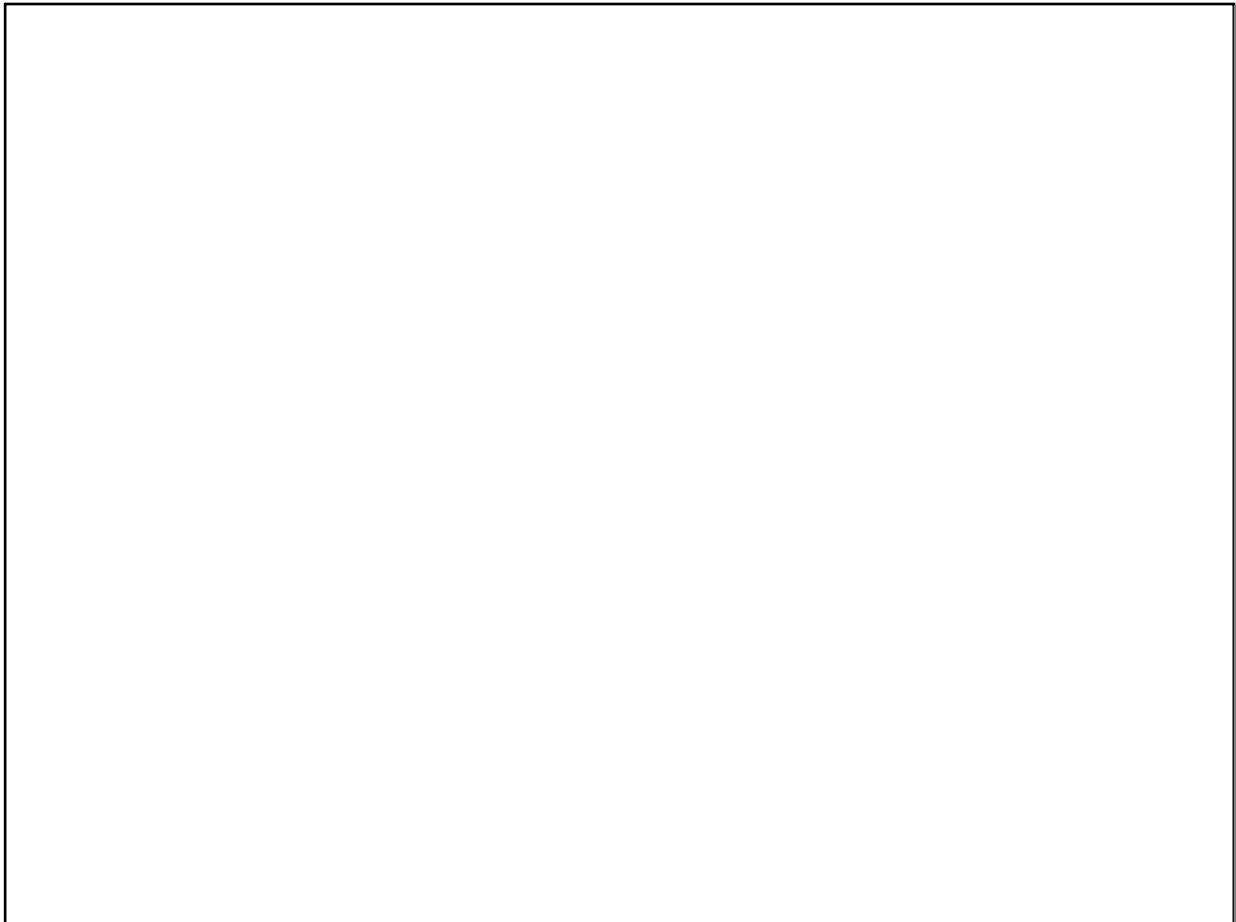
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7tWHJfhiyo> Problems with FPTP



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QT0I-sdoSXU> PR Explained



Nov 1-8:33 AM



Oct 8-3:03 PM