

Noted media commentators support a more proportional voting system, as public interest in electoral reform grows

On the heels of an Angus Reid poll showing strong public support for proportional representation, noted media commentators Chantal Hebert and Andrew Coyne added their voices to those supporting federal electoral reform.

On the January 1st broadcast of CBC-TV's The National, the "At Issue" political commentators were asked: "If you had a magic wand, what change would you make to our constitution or to any of our practices of governance to make them more democratic, more responsive, more transparent, more worthy of our confidence?"

Chantal Hebert replied: "I'd change our electoral system to introduce some proportionality. Not because I don't think we're doing okay, but because I think if we're going to talk coalition then we have to get our politicians to think that they're going to have to do it. And that may be the only way."

Andrew Coyne replied: "I'll go with proportional representation as well. Our present system is hurting our country. It's rewarding regional grievance parties. It's unfair to voters who vote for small parties like the Green Party. And as we're seeing it has an incentive system built into it because it's so leveraged that it makes politicians do crazy things. They're always on this knife edge of "let's cause an election, no let's not cause an election." With a proportional system people would calm down and get on with governing."

Other media commentators recently have raised their voices for electoral reform, including Paul Wells of Maclean's and Mindy Jacobs of Sunmedia.

In an Angus Reid poll released on December 11, 47% of the respondents said a proportional or mixed proportional voting system, rather than first-past-the-post, would be best for Canada. Among those expressing a preference, 59% supported a proportional or mixed proportional voting system.

"The chorus of voices is growing. People are fed up with business-as-usual in Ottawa," said Larry Gordon, Executive Director of Fair Vote Canada. "When will the

leaders of the major parties hear us? When will they learn they have more to gain by leading us in building a 21st century democracy, rather than fighting a rearguard action to preserve a dysfunctional 19th century electoral system?"

[Fair Vote Canada](#) (FVC) is a national multi-partisan citizens' campaign to promote voting system reform. FVC was founded in 2001 and has a National Advisory Board of distinguished Canadians from all points on the political spectrum.

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FairVote.ca
office@fairvote.ca
416-410-4034