

Fair Vote Canada – news - June 10, 2009

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Historic “majority” government not elected by the majority

New government should lead on electoral reform

The hoopla over the election of the first NDP government in Nova Scotia has obscured an important fact: the majority of Nova Scotian voters did *not* vote for the party that was awarded a substantial majority of seats.

“We congratulate the NDP for significantly increasing its popular support, but how can anyone celebrate yet another election where the antiquated first-past-the-post voting system gave undeserved power to one party while robbing other parties of the seats and power they deserve?” asks Derek Simon, President of the Nova Scotia Chapter of Fair Vote Canada.

Simon noted that the voting system translated 45% of the votes into 60% of the seats for the NDP. Meanwhile, the Liberals and Conservatives received fewer seats than deserved, and those who voted Green gained no representation at all.

“The federal NDP has always been in the forefront of those calling for the introduction of a fair and proportional voting system at the national level,” said Larry Gordon, Executive Director, Fair Vote Canada. “This will be an opportunity – or a litmus test on democratic values – for the Nova Scotia NDP. Premier Dexter can demonstrate that a New Democrat government strongly supports the principles of equal votes for all and true majority rule.”

Derek Simon said the Nova Scotia Chapter of Fair Vote Canada will be calling on Premier Dexter to begin an electoral reform process for Nova Scotia. He cited the independent citizens’ assemblies on electoral reform that were used in British Columbia and Ontario as a possible model for assessing the need for reform. He also noted that an all-party select committee of the Nova Scotia legislature on participation in the democratic process recently suggested that the Legislature examine electoral reform.

“We look forward to working with the premier, his caucus and the opposition parties to make Nova Scotia the first province in Canada to adopt a fair and proportional voting system,” said Simon.

[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

