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For the latest news on voting system reform, visit www.fairvote.ca.

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Fair Vote Canada annual meeting in Ottawa on May 29

Join us for the 9th annual meeting and conference of Fair Vote Canada at the University of Ottawa campus on Saturday, May 29.

Confirmed speakers include Dr. Peter Russell, professor emeritus, minority government expert; Judy Rebick, author, *Transforming Power*; Dr. Robert Macdermid, campaign finance reform expert; Walter Robinson, Principal, Tactix Government Relations and Public Affairs; Dr. Carolyn Bennett, MP, Liberal Party; and Vanessa Gordon, CAPP Montreal activist. Details on the agenda and additional speakers will be available soon.

FVC in the news – reforming the Senate by reforming the House

Given that any movement on Senate reform will undoubtedly trigger an extended constitutional debate, Fair Vote Canada called on the government to take two immediate actions.

First, Canadians should be asked in a referendum to decide whether the Senate should be abolished or elected. If the latter option is chosen, then several issues must be addressed concurrently: method of election, fair allocation of seats for the regions, and clarification of the roles and authority of the two chambers.

Second, the government should immediately proceed with introducing a fair and proportional voting system for election of the House. The Senate is often promoted as a chamber providing regional representation. If a fair voting system was used to elect the House of Commons, Canadians would have, for the first time, strong regional representation for all voters in the more powerful lower chamber which forms government.

FVC executive director Larry Gordon argued this case in a recent article in the influential Hill Times newspaper and during an interview, along with Senator Hugh Segal, on CBC New

Network's Power and Politics show. [To see the Power and Politics segment with FVC's Larry Gordon and Senator Hugh Segal, use this link and go to the 1:47 mark in the broadcast.](#)

Municipal reform initiatives in Ontario and BC

Municipal voting reform initiatives are underway in both Vancouver and Toronto. The British Columbia government established a [Local Government Elections Task Force](#) to review a wide range of issues related to municipal elections. [Fair Voting BC](#) and other reformers are actively engaging in the process, particularly pressing for action in Vancouver where electoral reform has been debated for many years.

In Toronto, the [FVC Toronto Chapter](#) is participating in the [Better Ballots](#) initiative, a community-based project to engage Torontonians in discussions on a range of electoral reforms, including voting system reform. The chapter is promoting consideration of several proportional voting models for Toronto.

Fair voting for NGOs – can you help?

Hey folks - are there any board members, staff or active members of NGOs, student unions, co-ops, credit unions or community groups, who would like to talk about using fair voting systems for your own board elections, council elections, etc? If so, contact us at office@fairvote.ca.

Fair Vote Canada would like to work with a few organizations interested in possibly adopting fair voting systems for their own elections. For example, Fair Vote Canada members use the single-transferable vote (STV), a proportional voting system suitable for elections without parties, for our National Council elections.

While relatively few civil society groups in Canada use fair voting systems, the UK is far ahead of us – [see list of 150+ British groups and businesses currently using STV for their elections](#).

FVC supporter recognition program: volunteers and donors

A grassroots citizens' movement depends on the hard work of dedicated volunteers and the generous donations of supporters. Fair Vote Canada has just added a [new page to our website](#) where we will salute these important contributors.

Currently listed are the first three volunteers to be recognized: June Macdonald (Toronto), Julien Lamarche (Ottawa) and Margaret Hoff (London). Any three Fair Vote Canada members in good standing can nominate another FVC member for recognition of their work on electoral reform. Send your nominations to office@fairvote.ca.

You will also see an initial list of donors who also deserve our thanks for their generous financial support. Donor listings are authorized by the individual donors. If you are eligible to be listed in one of the categories and would like to have your name added (which may inspire others!), contact us: office@fairvote.ca.

New Fair Vote Facebook fan pages – lively and growing

If you're on Facebook, be sure to join the new [Fair Vote Canada fan page](#) (this is replacing the old group page). You'll find a lot of late-breaking news, information and lively discussions.

For students and those under 30, also check out the new [Facebook fan page for Students and Youth for Fair Voting](#). For more information on SYFV, contact coordinator Sarah Lambert: sarah.lambert@fairvote.ca.