

Bill #1
Voters for Open and Transparent Elections (VOTE) Act
Moved by: Minister of Public Relations

WHEREAS First Past the Post lets candidates get elected based off a small percentage of public support¹

WHEREAS First Past the Post encourages strategic voting, where they vote for the candidate most favoured to win against the candidate they like the least²

WHEREAS First Past the Post creates safe ridings where the same candidates and parties are elected³

WHEREAS First Past the Post favours centrist parties, therefore third parties in a multi party system are greatly disadvantaged.⁴

HIS MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Youth Parliament of Manitoba, enacts as follows:

Purpose

1. The purpose of this act is to
 - a. Restructure the Electoral System of Canada.
 - b. Increase the number of parties represented in the House of Commons; and
 - c. The number of citizens who sit as MPs; and
 - d. Decrease the number of Career Politicians in government
 - e. Establish The Advisory Media Initiative for Committee Accountability and Balanced Legitimacy against Exaggeration [AMICABLE]

Definitions

2. The following terms shall be defined for the purposes of this Act:

¹ First past the post must go | *Fair vote Canada*
<https://www.fairvote.ca/first-past-the-post-must-go/>

² Time to Move On: The Need for Electoral Reform in Canada | *Justin Weir*
file:///C:/Users/liene/Downloads/FED-E+Publication+(Weir).pdf

³ First past the post must go | *Fair vote Canada*
<https://www.fairvote.ca/first-past-the-post-must-go/>

⁴ First-Past-the-Post-Disadvantages | *The Electoral Knowledge Network*
<https://aceproject.org/main/english/es/esd01b.htm>

- a. Canadian media: any media company based in Canada that receives funding from the Canada Media Fund.⁵
- b. Candidate: a person who has gone through the process of nomination as a candidate following clause 5-7.
- c. Electors: Canadian citizens who are at least 18 years old on election day.
- d. House of Commons: A democratically elected body whose members are known as Members of Parliament.
- e. Last-Past-the-Post: In every electoral district, the candidate with the lowest number of votes wins a seat in the House of Commons and represents that electoral district as its Member of Parliament.
- f. Libel: A defamatory statement or representation especially in the form of written or printed words
- g. Misinformation: Inaccurate, incomplete, misleading, or false information as well as selective or half-truths.
- h. Member of Parliament (MP): An elected candidate who represents a riding.
- i. Opinion piece: A written piece of literature that expresses the personal opinions, biases, or partisanship of the writer.
- j. Partisan: When an individual or a group of people are aligned or associated with a party.
- k. Party: An organization one of whose fundamental purposes is to participate in public affairs by endorsing one or more of its members as candidates and supporting their election.

Establishing Vote

- 3. Voters for Open Transparent Elections [VOTE] is hereby established as an amendment to the Canada Election Act.

Nomination of a Candidate

- 4. Partisan candidates must be elected by party members in the riding where the partisan candidate is running by last-past-the-post.⁶
- 5. Aspiring candidates non-affiliated with a party must supply the names, addresses, and signatures of at least 1% of electors in the district where they intend to run.
 - a. The electors cannot have signed the nomination form of any other candidate, nor can they be registered as a member in any federal party.
- 6. Candidates must have lived in the riding in which they are running for at least one full electoral term.

⁵ Canada Media Fund | *Government of Canada*

https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/media-fund.html&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1730923502655377&usg=AOvVaw2bKmsuhgnbfgDn-B_X3yTx

⁶ Voting system | *Federal Ministry of the Interior Community*

<https://www.bmi.bund.de/EN/topics/constitution/electoral-law/voting-system/voting-system-node.html>

7. Candidates must take a media literacy test to identify biased information, misinformation, and slander.

Electoral System Improvements

8. Last-Past-the-Post Electoral System is established, where the candidate who gets the least amount of votes is declared the winner.
9. MPs terms are no longer than five years.
10. MPs cannot hold office in consecutive terms.
 - a. Notwithstanding candidates who were elected during a by-election, or candidates seeking re-election after a by-election.

Distribution of Cabinet

11. The members of the party who win the most seats in government shall vote for their prime minister amongst those who were elected.
12. If the leader of the party who wins the second most seats in government does not win in their riding, the candidate elected with the least amount of votes in the opposition's party shall be appointed Leader of the Opposition.
13. MPs must score greater than eighty-five percent on their GATEKEP exam for the Ministry for which they are being considered for on Cabinet or Shadow Cabinet.

Establishing AMICABLE

14. The Advisory Media Initiative for Committee Accountability and Balanced Legitimacy against Exaggeration [AMICABLE] is hereby established.

Mandate of AMICABLE

15. AMICABLE oversees, the Canadian media to ensure that :
 - a. There is no misinformation spread about candidates.
 - b. Canadian media companies must publish political opinion pieces as editorials.
16. Slander campaigns funded by candidates or parties are prohibited.
 - a. Slander includes, but is not limited to, framing a candidate or party in a poor light based on non-factual statements.
 - b. Slander campaigns funded by a party shall result in a fine two times the price paid for the advertisement.
 - i. Half of the fine shall go to the party and/or candidate targeted and the other half shall go to the CMF.
 - c. Slander campaigns funded by a candidate shall result in a disqualification of their candidacy.
17. A voter license shall be introduced:
 - a. Voting eligibility is reduced to 16 years old only if the individual passes a media literacy test.

- i. Media literacy test is available in multiple languages and resources are available to educate voters on media literacy.
- ii. At 18 years old, individuals obtain the right to vote.
- b. Once the individual turns 70 years old, they must pass the literacy test each election year to keep their voting license.