



Fundamentals of Democratic Reform: The Principles behind the Democracy Party of Canada

<p>Direct Democracy</p>	<p>Ahead of any other reforms, Canadians should be able to intervene and redirect priorities <i>between</i> elections. This will assure greater control of the democratic process to all Canadians.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MP recall and citizens plebiscites to ensure politicians are responsive to Canadians' wishes and to allow the citizen to initiate involvement <i>between elections</i> • referendums where the government invites Canadians to speak on issues of national importance • A citizens assembly or forum to consider and design democratic rights and opportunities for Canadians • “official polling” as an intermediary measure to full-scale referendums
<p>Electoral Reform</p>	<p>Real change starts with how we elect our representatives. Better and fairer methods of voting are necessary to represent more truly and fairly the country as a whole (see also “Political Party Reform”, below)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • single-transferable vote, proportional representation, run-offs • M.P. Oath to his/her constituents re: party affiliation; cannot switch parties without sitting as Independent or triggering by-election • fixed election dates; reduce or remove “confidence” measures that trigger votes at other times • fix interval at which by-election must be called in departure of sitting M.P. • major reform to campaign spending, advertising, donations; balance third-party rights and responsibilities with political parties rights and responsibilities • balancing of rights between Independents, big parties and little parties • reduce or eliminate the \$1000 deposit to run as an Independent candidate • “Poll Day” that is 7 days before Election Day, being the final day that national polls can be advertised
<p>Political Party Reform</p>	<p>The total power that political parties hold over their members, officials and MPs must be challenged. Proclaiming an elected representative’s first responsibility should be to the people of his or her riding can do this. There is no better guarantee of democracy than ensuring Canadians’ elected representatives will actually <i>represent</i> them and not the narrow interests of their Party</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M.P. Independence • elect party leaders prior to fixed election dates • more transparent candidate nomination process • remove or redo the “tax on democracy”, where politicians are rewarded with \$1.95 per vote based on incumbency rather than earning on current or recent performance
<p>Reform of Government</p>	<p>Government operation must be more fair, transparent and accountable. When it is, it will be wiser, fairer and more generous:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eliminate the overlap between our levels of government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • exclusive federal responsibilities include the federal finances and the banking system, defence, external affairs, citizenship, and promoting national unity; shared responsibilities include health care, education, taxation, fisheries/agriculture, the environment, aboriginal affairs, justice and housing • no interference in jurisdiction of municipalities or provinces in a quest for votes or for any other reason; • if there are problems at those levels, voters must take to task their mayors and premiers • parliamentary oversight over auditors and crown corporations • elect party leaders prior to fixed election dates • create an authentic and effective ethics regimen and independent watchdog • strengthen access to information laws and stronger whistleblower protection • senate reform (elect or abolish) • parliamentary reform, such as Question Period reform, equal funding for all M.P.s no matter “Party” status; open up mystery of the PMO and empower back bench M.P.s • create an elected, distinctly Canadian head of state; ie voting for a Governor-General