

Vote MMP on October 10. Make democracy work better in Ontario

What is MMP (Mixed Member Proportional Representation)?

Basically -- One Ballot, Two Votes

- 1. You get one vote for your local riding candidate, just as you do now. In the proposed system there would be ninety (90) MPPs elected this way.*
- 2. You also get another vote for your preferred political party. In the proposed system there are also thirty-nine (39) 'list' MPPs who would be elected based on the popular vote. It is in every party's interest to provide a wide diversity of candidates—including women, racial, cultural and geographic representation— as well as to have a clear and comprehensive election platform in order to win your party vote.*

With one hundred and twenty nine (129) members, the Ontario legislature will be about the same size it was from 1987 to 1999. You will have both a local MPP and a new, at-large MPP(s) in your region whom you can turn to for assistance.

On October 10, we all get a chance to make democracy better by changing the way we vote in Ontario. On that day, every voter will be asked to cast a ballot in a referendum on electoral reform.

A Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform made up of one hundred and three (103) citizens from every part of the province has recommended a new electoral system for Ontario called the **Mixed Member Proportional System (MMP)**. It would replace the current 'first-past-the-post' system, which gives unwarranted majorities to political parties without necessarily having the support from a majority of voters. Eighty-one countries including New Zealand, Germany, Netherlands, Scotland and Wales are using a similar system.

Why change from our current electoral system?

Our current system is old fashioned, less democratic, and being abandoned around the world. Canada's electoral system hasn't changed since its foundation in the 1800s. We are one of the few major countries still using the antiquated "first past the post" system, which almost always gives one party far more power than it deserves. For example, a winning party may get only 35% of the votes, but it receives 60% of the seats and 100% of the power. Most major democracies scrapped this system in the last 50-100 years.

What will MMP Deliver:

- **More choice**, giving you two votes—for your preferred local candidate and for your preferred party
- **Fairer election results** with parties gaining no more, and no fewer, seats than they really deserve
- **Stronger representation** with more women and diverse candidates elected
- **Legislation that reflects the majority view** of the electorate

MMP means that parties like the Ontario New Democrats, that champion public services and social justice values, gain more seats to reflect their popular vote.

Every one of us needs to be able to explain MMP to our family and colleagues, and counter opponents of MMP who want to maintain the status quo. Please VOTE YES FOR MMP on October 10.

CUPE Ontario endorses MMP.

Be sure to get more information at www.cupe.on.ca and www.voteformpp.ca

