

## What is the Special Committee on Democratic Renewal doing?

In July 2015, the Government released a document called the *White Paper on Democratic Renewal*. The paper looks at how Prince Edward Islanders elect their provincial representatives, also known as Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs).

The Special Committee on Democratic Renewal of the Legislative Assembly was created to guide public engagement and make recommendations in response to the Government's *White Paper on Democratic Renewal*. You can read the *White Paper* online at [www.assembly.pe.ca/democraticrenewal](http://www.assembly.pe.ca/democraticrenewal).

### Attend a meeting near you!

*Alberton Community Centre*  
**Alberton**, October 14, 2-4pm

*Credit Union Place*  
**Summerside**, October 14, 7-9pm

*Eastern Kings Sportsplex*  
**Souris**, October 21, 2-4pm

*Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 8*  
**Montague**, October 21, 7-9pm

*Village Musical Acadien\**  
**Abram Village**, October 28, 2-4pm

*Westisle Composite High School*  
**Elmsdale**, October 28, 7-9pm

*Murphy's Community Centre*  
**Charlottetown**, November 4, 2-4pm, 7-9pm

*\*Bilingual*

Looking for more information?

VISIT:

[assembly.pe.ca/  
democraticrenewal](http://assembly.pe.ca/democraticrenewal)

We're on social media!

Follow the work of the Special Committee on Democratic Renewal online:



[facebook.com/peileg](https://facebook.com/peileg)



[twitter.com/peileg](https://twitter.com/peileg)  
Follow us @peileg

This pamphlet explains one electoral system of the many that exist around the world.



First-Past-the-Post (FPTP)

## What is FPTP?

First-Past-the-Post (FPTP) is the current method of electing politicians on Prince Edward Island. It is the way we have traditionally chosen our provincial and federal representatives.

On each ballot you, as a voter, choose one candidate by placing an X beside that candidate's name. That candidate receives your vote. All the votes for the district are counted, and the candidate with most votes wins. The winner does not necessarily have more than 50% of the votes cast—just more than any other candidate. In the 2015 Provincial General Election, most of the winning candidates did not receive a majority of support in their districts.

The political party that wins the most electoral districts forms the government.

FPTP is used throughout Canada at the provincial, territorial and federal level. It is also used to elect members of the UK House of Commons and the US Congress.

## What are the advantages?

**SIMPLE** - FPTP is simple and familiar. The ballot is easy to understand and fill out. Vote counting is straightforward and the final result can be determined quickly.

**DIRECT** - FPTP establishes a direct relationship between the voter and the MLA. You choose one person among a small group of candidates to be your local representative.

**MAJORITIES** - Elections using FPTP usually lead to majority governments. It is easier for majority governments to pass laws because there is very little risk they will be out-voted in the legislature.

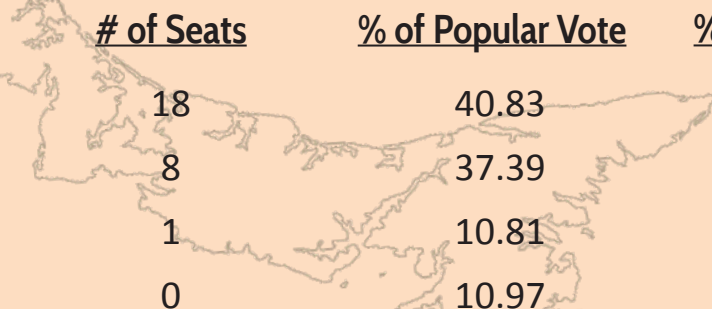
## What are the disadvantages?

**LACK OF PARTY DIVERSITY** - FPTP favours a two-party system, and can make it difficult for new or smaller parties to win seats.

**NOT PROPORTIONAL** - FPTP doesn't usually produce legislatures that reflect the distribution of the popular vote (all the votes in an election). In this way, the legislature that is meant to represent the entire province is not composed according to how the entire province voted.

**ARTIFICIALLY LARGE MAJORITIES** - FPTP can create artificially large majority governments and small oppositions because it is not proportional to the popular vote. A party may receive a significant share of all the votes cast in a general election, but only wins seats in districts where it finishes first.

## 2015 General Election Results: Percentage of popular vote related to percentage of seats held the legislature



<u>Registered Political Party</u>	<u># of Seats</u>	<u>% of Popular Vote</u>	<u>% of Seats Held in Legislature</u>
Liberal	18	40.83	66.66
Progressive Conservative	8	37.39	29.63
Green	1	10.81	3.70
New Democratic	0	10.97	0.00