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November 14, 2002

Mr. President and Members of the Commission,

SECRETARIAT
COMMISSIONS

My name is Andrew Gibson and I'm a Masters student in Communications at McGill University. I'm writing with regards to my support for electoral reform- and for the means of "proportional representation" in particular.

It would seem that the election is one of the few mechanisms left for citizens to make their voices heard regarding the organization of the society that surrounds them. For this simple reason, I believe that it is crucial that the electoral process reflect as accurately as possible the desires and deliberations of the population.

The present electoral system (uninominal . . .) clearly lacks the accuracy needed for representation democracy to make good of its name. There can be little doubt that it causes important disparities between the repartition of individual votes for particular parties and the number or representatives that each of those parties is allotted. The consequence is a clear distortion of the public voice.

I am aware that there are different, sometime confusing, forms of "proportional representation" but I am confident that one such form can be adapted to the *contexte Quebecois*. In writing this letter, I am but joining the many other voices that have expressed their will for the important change in question (i.e. politicians of different groups, journalists, activists and so forth).

I hope changes in the electoral system can be made in this direction as quickly as possible but I realize that the changes are complex and are best undertaken with care. If this takes us into the next electoral period, so be it.

Andrew Gibson

