

ROLF BRAMANN

6545 LEMAY
MONTREAL, H1T 2L8

TEL (514) 259-2580 OU 843-3123 (OFFICE 8.30-18.00)
FAX 843-3757 E-MAIL: rolf@icargocanada.com

DATE: 3 MARCH 2006

PROPOSAL FOR ELECTORAL REFORM
LE MODE DU SCRUTIN - ASSEMBLEE NATIONALE QUEBEC

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

AS A CITIZEN OF QUEBEC I WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE MY IDEAS TO REFORM THE WAY QUEBECERS SHOULD VOTE WITHIN A NEW SYSTEM.

BASIC FAULTS OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM

TWO QUEBECERS OUT OF THREE NEVER VOTE OR DO NOT VOTE OFTEN.
AND IF THEY VOTE, THEY VOTE AGAINST SOMETHING, NOT NECESSARILY FOR SOMETHING. WHY IS THAT ?

BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE DISILLUSIONED, DISAPPOINTED AND THEY FEEL, THEIR VOTE DOES NOT COUNT ANYWAY. ON THE ONE HAND, THERE ARE ACCUSATIONS: "ALL POLITICIANS ARE LIARS" I HEAR OFTEN. OR "THE POLITICAL PARTIES DO NOT KEEP THEIR PROMISES ANYWAY".

HOW CAN ANYBODY *WHO BELIEVES IN DEMOCRACY* DEFEND THE MODEL "FIRST PAST THE POST" THAT WE ARE USING NOW ?

LET'S SAY, THERE ARE ONLY 2 PARTYS IN ONE RIDING, THE LIBERALS AND THE PARTI QUEBECOIS.

SO, THE LIBERALS GET 51 % OF THE VOTE, THE P.Q. GETS 49 %.

AND THE LIBERALS WILL BE REPRESENTED, THE P.Q. WITH 49 % GETS **NOTHING**. THIS IS VERY UNDEMOCRATIC.

IT DOES NOT REFLECT THE WAY THE CITIZENS IN THAT RIDING WERE VOTING !

AND IF YOU HAD TEN (10) PARTIES, AND THE BEST ONE GOT 12 % OF THE VOTE, 88 % OF THE CITIZENS WILL NOT BE "HEARD" BY OUR DEMOCRACY.

THE PRESENT SYSTEM HAS TO GO. BETTER TODAY THAN TOMORROW.

FURTHER, HOW COME, THAT A GIVEN PARTY GETS 45 % OF THE VOTE, WHILE THE OTHER ONE WHO GETS 44 % OBTAINS **75 % OF THE SEATS ?**

THIS IS VERY UNDEMOCRATIC AND DOES NOT REFLECT THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE AT ALL. AND THIS IS ALL DUE TO THE PRESENT SYSTEM WHICH IS VERY FLAWED.

IF I TALK TO PEOPLE, I GET THE FEEDBACK, THAT LOTS OF CITIZENS WOULD NOT WANT TO GIVE UP THE PRESENT SYSTEM COMPLETELY BUT IT NEEDS FIXING. THAT IS WHY THE GERMAN MODEL IS VERY INTERESTING. IT REALIZES BOTH !!

WE NEED ABSOLUTELY PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION.

AS A CITIZEN OF GERMAN ORIGIN, I WOULD PROPOSE THE GERMAN SYSTEM.

OF COURSE, I DO NOT TELL YOU SOMETHING NEW THAT YOU DID NOT KNOW BEFORE. THE GERMAN SYSTEM IS A "MIXED SYSTEM" BECAUSE YOU CAN SPLIT YOUR VOTE.

NEVERTHELESS, I SUM UP THE WAY IT WORKS :

HALF OF THE PARLAMENTARIANS ARE ELECTED THE "CANADIAN WAY" AS NOW. BUT THE OTHER 50 % ARE VOTED IN WITH PROPORTIONAL RESULTS. SO, YOU CAN VOTE FOR EXAMPLE FOR YOUR LOCAL MAN OF THE LIBERAL PARTY BUT YOU CAN VOTE (2ND VOTE) ALSO FOR SOMEBODY ELSE LIKE THE GREEN PARTY. AND WHEN THE GREEN PARTY GETS 8 % OF THE VOTES, THE GREEN PARTY GETS ALSO 10 SEATS (= 8 % OF THE SEATS). NOW, THAT IS DEMOCRATIC !

THE PARTIES WHO ARE SHUT OUT SYSTEMATICALLY BUT WHICH BELONG IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, ARE L'ACTION DEMOCRATIQUE DU QUEBEC, THE NDP AND THE GREEN PARTY. RIGHT NOW, THE ADQ HAVE TOO FEW PERSONS ELECTED GIVEN THE PERCENTAGE POINTS THEY GET, AND THE OTHER TWO HAVE NOTHING AT ALL. DEMOCRATIC ? IMAGINE HOW MANY MORE FRESH IDEAS WE WOULD GET BY HAVING MORE OF THESE POLITICIANS REPRESENTED !!

YOU MAY WANT TO IMPOSE A MINIMUM OF 2-3 % OF THE VOTES TO GET SEATS. IN GERMANY THEY DID THAT TO EXCLUDE EXTREMIST PARTIES SUCH AS THE NEO-NAZIS OR THE COMMUNISTS. THESE GROUPS DO NOT SHARE OUR DEMOCRATIC VALUES, SO I SEE EVEN HERE A PROTECTION WITH A MINIMUM TRESHHOLD AS JUSTIFIED. AND WE REALLY DO NOT WANT 15 PARTYS IN THE PARLIAMENT, LIKE IN ISRAEL, DON'T WE ?

FURTHER, WE LIVE IN A DEMOCRACY. SO VOTING IS A PRIVILEGE BUT AT THE SAME TIME, IT SHOULD ALSO BE COMPULSORY. IN BELGIUM, **YOU MUST VOTE**. AND IF YOU DO NOT VOTE, YOU PAY A FINE. I PROPOSE \$ 500 FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT VOTE EVEN WHILE THEY ARE REGISTERED.

THESE FINES WILL EVEN PAY THEN SOME OF THE COST TO ORGANIZE THE ELECTIONS.

LIVING IN A DEMOCRACY, **WE MUST**, I SAY, **WE MUST VOTE**. OTHERWISE, WE WOULD NOT BE DIFFERENT THAN SOME BANANA REPUBLIC OR THE SOVIET UNION. I REPEAT, VOTING **MUST BE** COMPULSORY !

NOW IS THE TIME TO CHANGE. I ASK YOU, DO NOT SOME "BANDAID" FIXING, DO IT RIGHT. WE REALLY NEED A SERIOUS OVERHAUL. NOT JUST A LITTLE CORRECTION !

SINCERELY YOURS,

ROLF BRAMANN

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