J. Brown 7.6.18

A Clear Choice - For Islanders, By Islanders!

Over the next number of months, PEI & BC will be holding referendums on Electoral Systems. This is a comparison which will allow you to fully understand both referendums and their rules for making this vote a fair and level playing field as well as making sure the public are engaged and informed.

Prince Edward Island	British Columbia
Groups with **public proponent or opponent funding** can spend more than $10,000 on campaigning. Any Islander or Volunteer Group can spend no more than **$1,000** per person or a **maximum of $10,000** as a group during referendum period. There are no limits on spending prior to the referendum period being announced.	Only one group can get proponent or opponent funding but any other groups can advertise during the referendum and spend up to $200,000 as long as they follow fundraising rules.
A Referendum Commissioner will be selected. There will be **a clear mandate** for extensive public education on both voting systems under the non-partisan responsibility of the Commissioner.	Government planning extensive public education on PR and various models of it under the non-partisan responsibility of Elections BC.
Individuals can be fined **no more than** $10,000 for breaching the Act. Referendum Commissioner refers matter to the Criminal Justice Branch and tried in court.	An individual or organization may be fined no more than **$10,000 or up to one year in jail** depending on gravity of offence. Chief Electoral Officer refers matter to Criminal Justice Branch and the matter is tried in court.
Political Parties are **allowed to campaign for or against MMP** but cannot spend or receive funding. There are no limits prior to referendum period (8 months) but spending is limited to $1000 during said period.	Political Parties **are allowed to campaign for or against PR** but can't receive funding. They can spend up to $200,000 on referendum spending.
Requirements to Win - 50% +1 of votes cast, in 60% of the districts, on the referendum question (proposed in a amendment).	**Requirements to Win -** 50% +1 on proportional representation question.
Referendum Period - coinciding with next provincial election and to be no more than 8 months in length. Having this period will allow candidates to focus on the election and referendum.	**Referendum Period -** October 22nd to November 30th 2018. It is only a referendum, with no provincial election to worry about.
The results of the referendum **will be binding** on the incoming government after the general election.	BC Government has said that the results will be binding and implemented during their term.
Constitutional - concerns about unconstitutionality are only speculation. Legal opinions have been provided and tabled in the Legislature.	No concerns have risen as of yet, but the Legislature has yet to debate the constitutionality of their referendum.

Let's make this decision about Islanders as fair and just as possible