

# IS THE LIBERAL TRADITION DEMOCRATIC?

**Pierre Trudeau** fought for and won the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* which implies an equal and effective vote for every citizen of Canada. Pierre Trudeau saw a democratic future.

**Jean Chretien** called for proportional representation when first he sought leadership of the Liberal Party. "If I were the prime minister," he said on May 8, 1984, "I would do that [introduce proportional representation] right after the election."

He didn't rush, but in 2003 Prime Minister Jean Chretien provided for proportional public financing of all Canadian political parties based on their voter support. Jean Chretien saw a democratic future.

**Paul Martin** as Prime Minister acknowledged what every Canadian knows: the country is mired in a democratic deficit which is incompatible with peace, order and good government. Paul Martin knew Canada needs a democratic future.

**Most of you are here thanks to a healthy dose of proportional representation.**

The party added the proportional element to your delegate selection process to ensure that the leadership preferences of all Liberals were well represented.

**Fair and proportional voting to select Liberal convention delegates is democratic. Fair and proportional voting to elect Members of Parliament would be democratic, and Canadians would prefer it. What works for Liberals will work for Canada.**

## WILL THE LIBERAL FUTURE BE DEMOCRATIC?

The Canada Elections Act still mocks the voter equality promised in Pierre Trudeau's *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

Fair Vote Canada has asked all Liberal leadership candidates to speak up for fair voting. You should ask them too.

We'll soon invite leading Liberals to join us in a challenge to the Canada Elections Act using the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. But really, we shouldn't have to go to court. The Liberal way, invented in British Columbia and emulated in Ontario, is to set up an independent Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform followed by a referendum. The Liberal Party knows how to bring democratic voting to Canada. Isn't it time to just do it?



**EQUAL VOTES - FAIR RESULTS**

**TELL THE LEADERS:  
BRING DEMOCRATIC VOTING  
TO CANADA**

This message to Liberal Party convention delegates is presented by

**FAIR VOTE CANADA** [fairvote.ca](http://fairvote.ca)

**LIBERALS FOR FAIR VOTING** [liberalsforfairvoting.ca](http://liberalsforfairvoting.ca)

# Yes, I want to join Fair Vote Canada and “Make Every Vote Count”!

Please fill in the information below and return this form and payment, or credit card information to,  
Fair Vote Canada, 26 Maryland Blvd., Toronto, Ontario M4C 5C9, or fax to 416-686-4929.  
You can also join online at [www.fairvote.ca](http://www.fairvote.ca). If you have any questions, please call 416-410-4034 or use [info@fairvotecanada.org](mailto:info@fairvotecanada.org).

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- Democracy 20: automatically debit my account for \$20.00/month
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26 Maryland Blvd.,  
Toronto, ON M4C 5C9  
or Fax to: 416-686-4929  
Phone: 416-410-4034  
[info@fairvote.ca](mailto:info@fairvote.ca)

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