

## **For Immediate Release**

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# **Analysis shows Dual Member Proportional was preferred over First-Past-The-Post in 2016 PEI plebiscite.**

**Edmonton, Alberta, June 9, 2019** – In Canadian history, there have been two occasions where a majority of voters favoured a form of proportional representation over First-Past-The-Post (FPTP).

The first time was in British Columbia's 2005 referendum when a majority of voters supported adopting the Single Transferable Vote.

Eleven years later, PEI voters endorsed Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) in the province's 2016 plebiscite on democratic renewal.

However, analysis of the [raw voting data](#) from the plebiscite shows that MMP was not the only system preferred over FPTP by Islanders. In a pairwise comparison of voter preferences, Dual Member Proportional (DMP) beat FPTP 17,783 votes to 16,929 votes.

This result means that DMP is not only the third proportional system to gain more support than the status quo in Canada, it is also the only Canadian developed system to ever achieve such an outcome.

Earlier this year, MMP was considered for a third time in PEI. While it was supported in a majority of districts, MMP fell short of securing a majority of the votes across the Island. This was mainly a consequence of [rural Islanders' hesitation](#) with adopting MMP.

There is clearly significant support in PEI for proportional voting, but more needs to be done to address the concerns of rural Islanders. The system best poised to achieve this objective is DMP.

DMP is designed to fully include all voters, particularly those living in rural communities. It would more effectively retain local representation by allowing PEI to return to its tradition of two-member districts. Through its locally focussed design, DMP would avoid party lists and preserve the current single-vote ballot.

Having been preferred over the current system in the 2016 plebiscite, DMP offers a promising way forward in PEI's pursuit of a more democratic and inclusive voting system.

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