

Submission to:

18 October 2012

**Mr. Justice John E. Hall**

**Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for British Columbia**

1095 West Pender Street, Suite 302

Vancouver, BC

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Please accept this submission to the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for British Columbia.

Yours truly,

***Craig Henschel***

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**In an ideal democracy,  
Every voter has an equal voice  
In deciding the laws and policies  
Which affect them.**

## **Can an MP represent everyone in their District?**

**Each MP can only represent one point of view:**

**When they vote:**

- **To form Government and select the Prime Minister,**
- **On the budget, on taxation and spending,**
- **In the House, in Committee, in Caucus, or in Cabinet.**

**When they speak:**

- **In the House,**
- **In committees,**
- **In caucus,**
- **In their District.**

**No, each MP can only represent one point of view.**

**Who does an MP represent?**

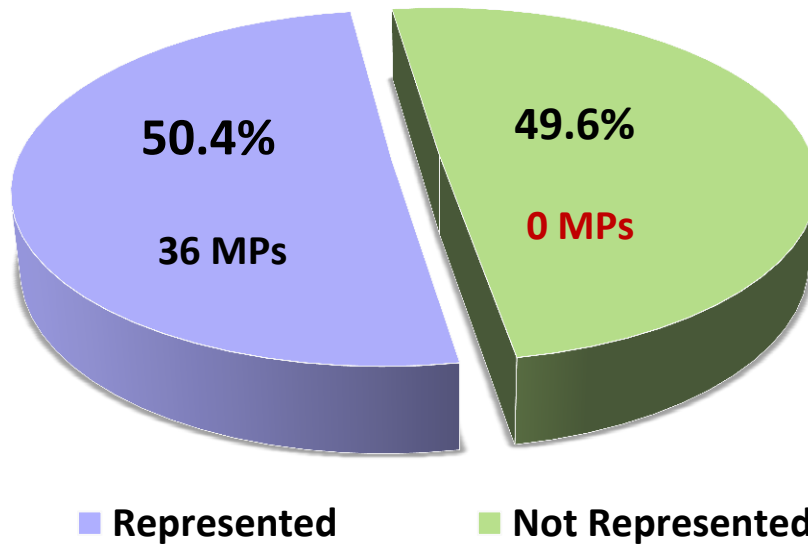
Each MP represents only those people who voted for them.

**Who represents the other voters?**

Nobody.

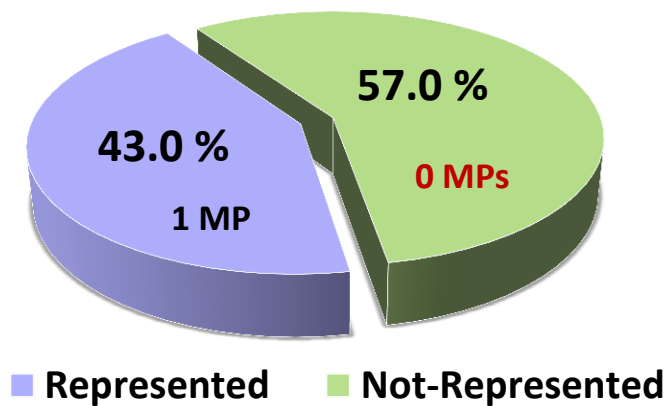
# British Columbia – Represented or Not?

(2011 Federal Election)



	Total	Av. / Dist.	
Population	4,113,487	114,264	
Electors	3,109,917	86,387	
Voters	1,872,636	52,018	
Districts	36	1	
<b>Represented</b>	<b>943,949</b>	<b>26,221</b>	<b>50.4%</b>
<b>Not Represented</b>	<b>928,687</b>	<b>25,797</b>	<b>49.6%</b>

# Burnaby – Douglas



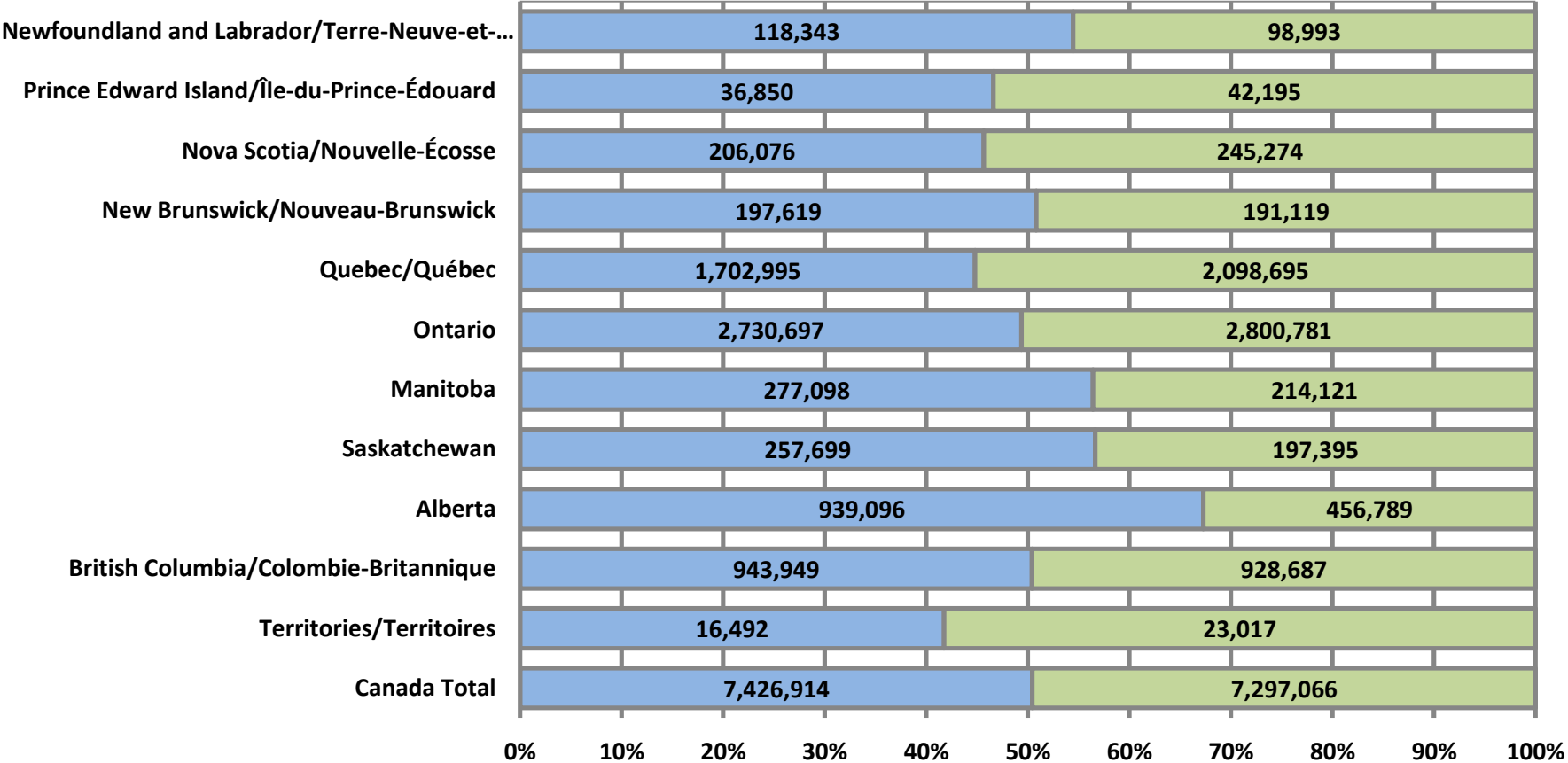
Voter Status	# Voters	% Voters	Candidate
<b>Represented</b>	<b>20,943</b>	<b>43.0 %</b>	<b>A (New MP)</b>
	19,932	40.9 %	B
	5,451	11.2 %	C
Not Represented by Chosen Candidate	1,754	3.6 %	D
	420	0.9 %	E
	153	0.3 %	F
	57	0.1 %	G
<b>Not Represented</b>	<b>27,767</b>	<b>57.0 %</b>	<b>B to G</b>

In Canada, almost half of voters don't have a voice in the House of Commons.

# Voter Inequality in Canada

(2011 Federal Election)

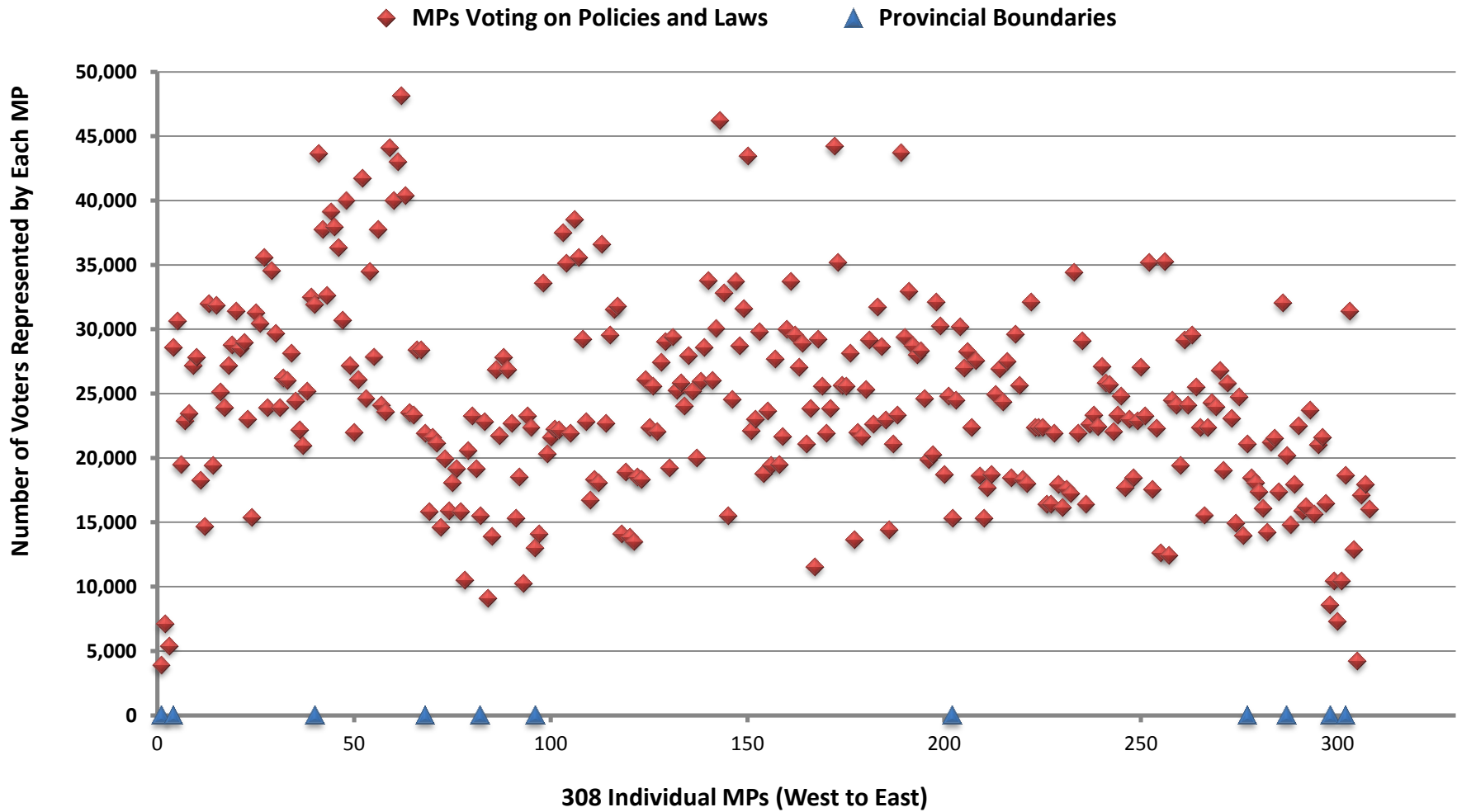
■ Represented Voters    ■ Not Represented Voters



Almost 7.3 million Canadians, have been excluded from our democracy.

# Un-Equal Voter Power in Making Canada's Policies and Laws

(2011 Federal Election)



This illustrates the vast difference in the number of voters each MP represents in Parliament.

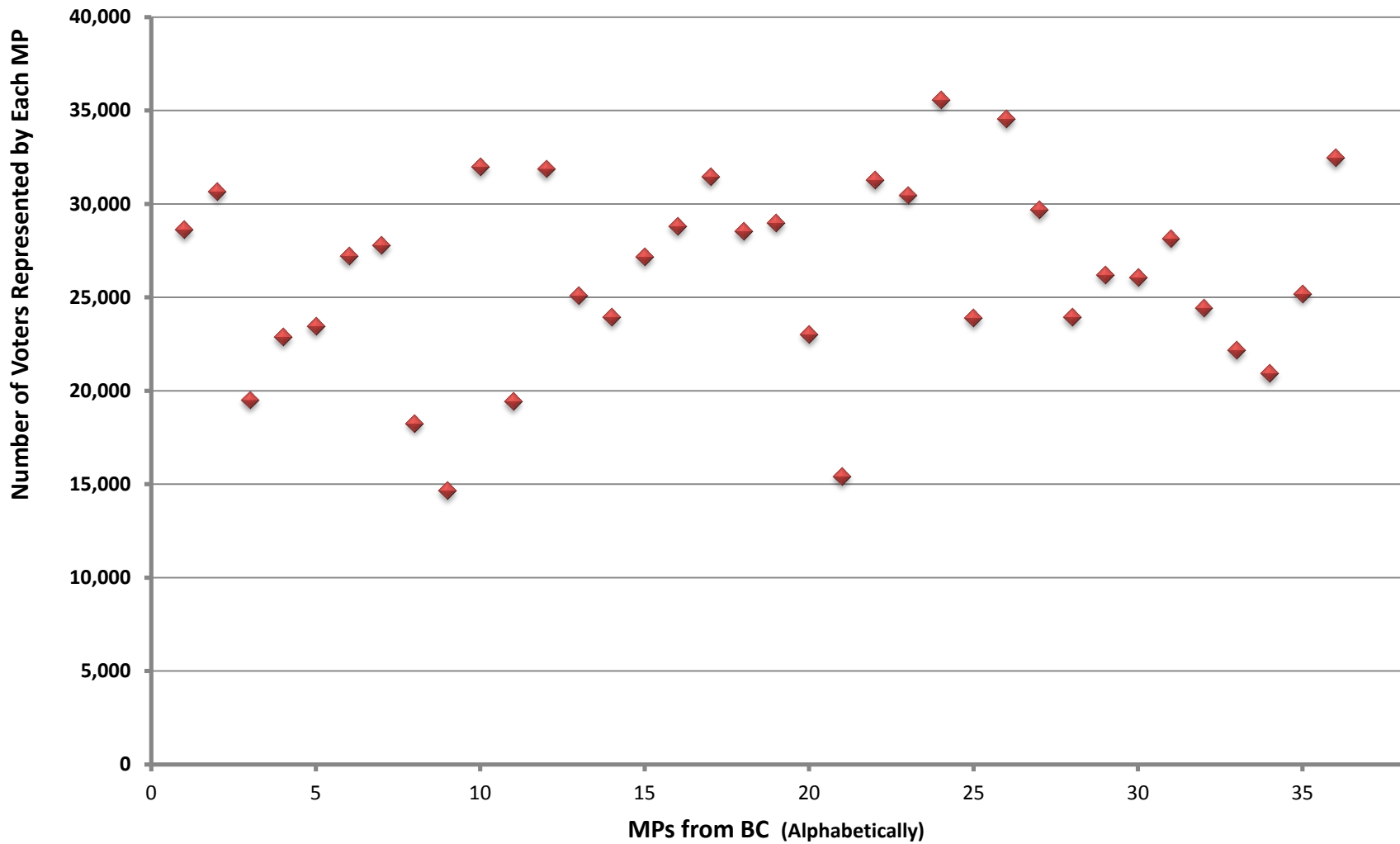
This is how Legislative Power is distributed (the more voters/MP, the lower the Legislative Power/voter).

However, this only shows the 50% of voters who voted for their MP.

Almost 50% of voters don't appear on this diagram at all. They have zero Legislative Power.

# Un-Equal BC Voter Power in Making Canadian Policies and Laws (2011 Federal Election)

◆ MPs from British Columbia

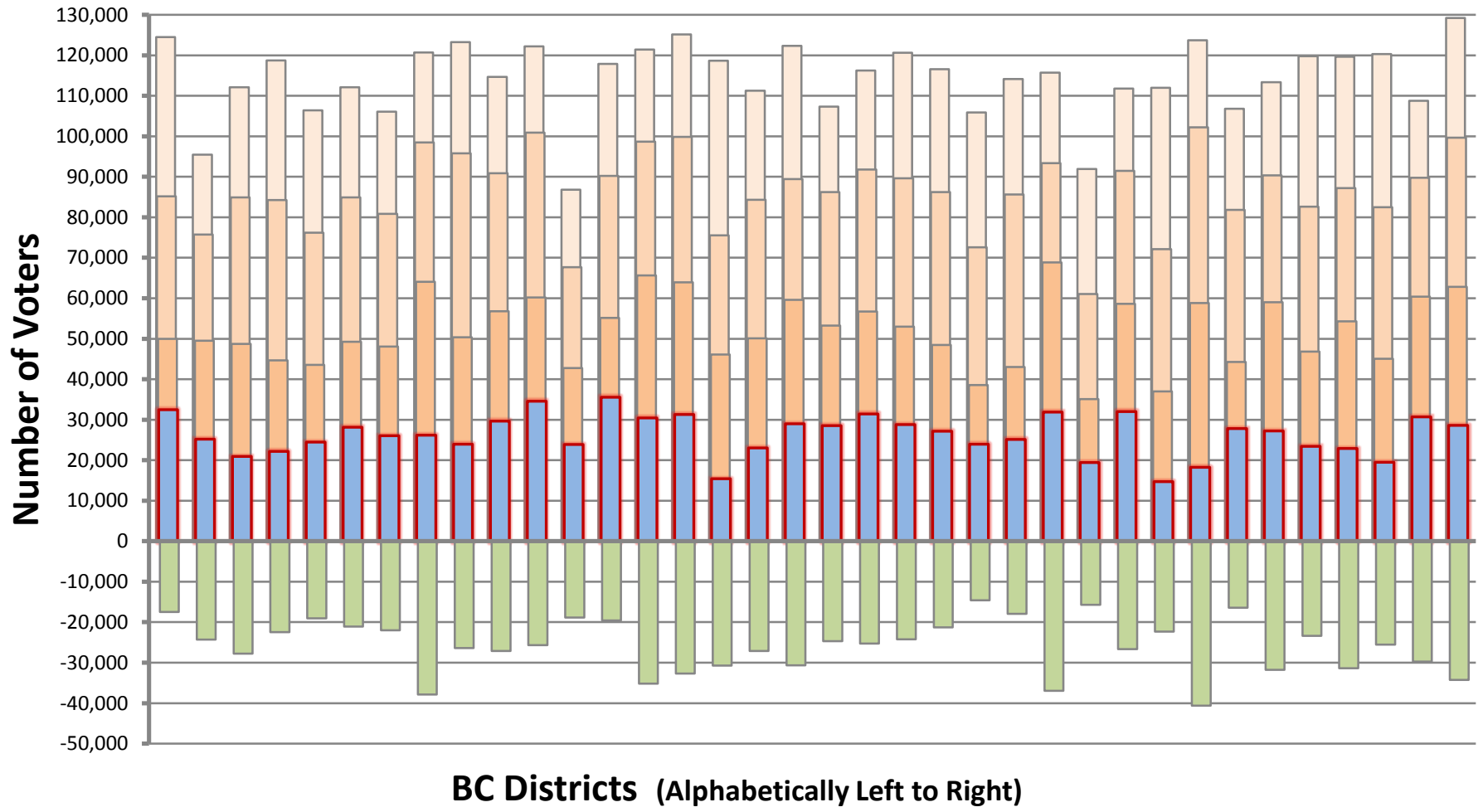




# Population, Electors, Valid Votes and Voters in BC

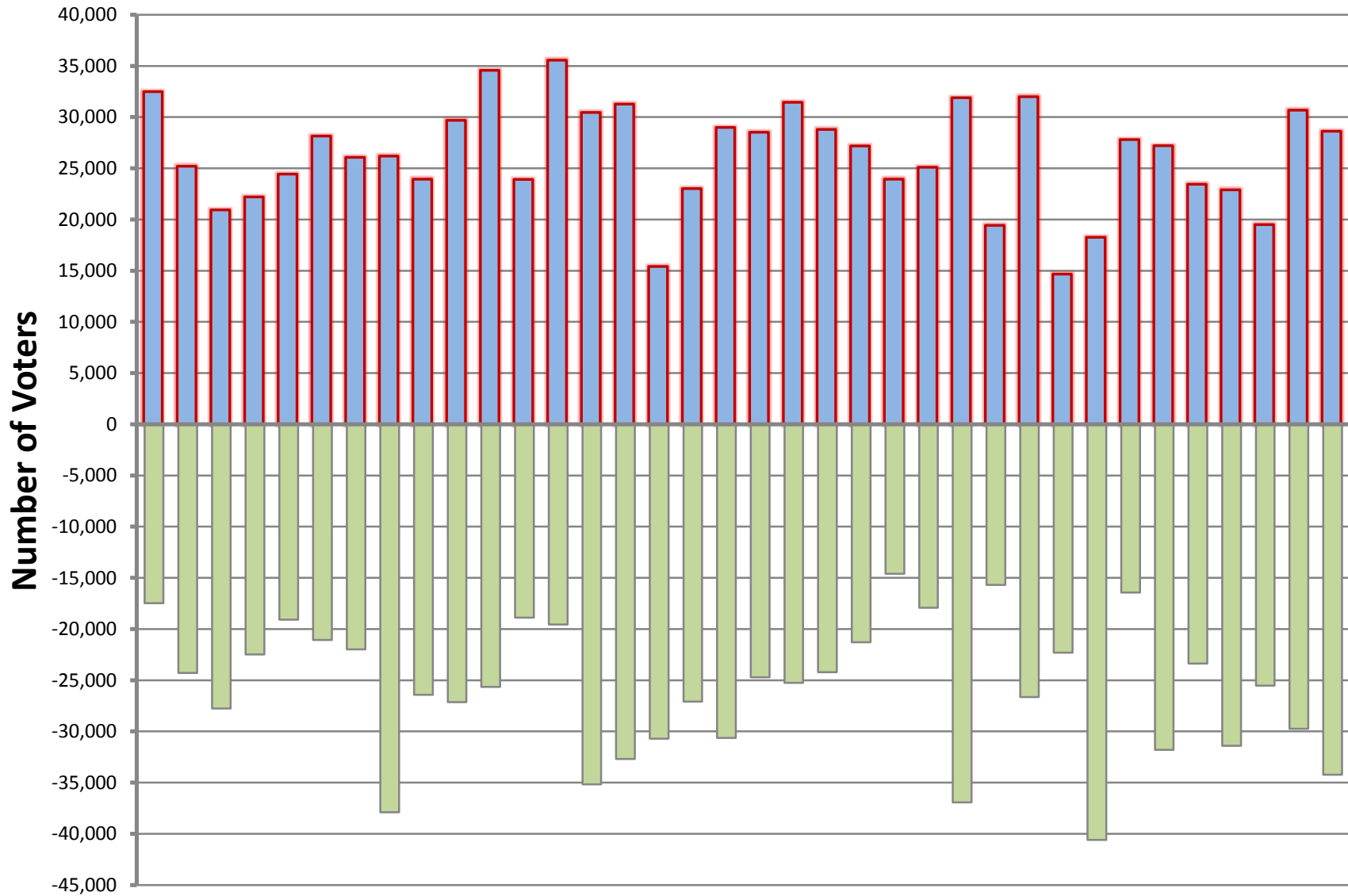
(2011 Federal Election)

- Population
- Electors
- Valid Votes
- Voters - Represented by MP
- Voters - Not Represented by MP



# Un-Equal Voter Representation in BC (2011 Federal Election)

■ Voters - Represented by MP    ■ Voters - Not Represented by MP



BC Districts (Alphabetically Left to Right)

## **What's the problem?**

Single-Member Districts.

## **What's the solution?**

Multi-Member Districts.

## **Why would that work?**

To represent multiple points of view in a district, multiple MPs would be needed

## **How can this be done?**

Keep the same number of MPs, but group adjacent Districts together to form Multi-Member Districts.

## Why should the Electoral Boundaries Commission worry about this?

1. Because the Canadian Charter, Section 15, says that Canadians are to be treated equally. If there's any benefit to having an MP who represents you in Parliament, then some Canadians have that benefit and others do not.
2. Because the Supreme Court of Canada seems to think that voters should be treated equally as much as possible. In the 1991 Supreme Court of Canada Case, Reference re Prov. Electoral Boundaries (Sask.), Chief Justice McLachlin noted,  
  
*“What are the conditions of effective representation? The first is relative parity of voting power. A system which dilutes one citizen’s vote unduly as compared with another citizen’s vote runs the risk of providing inadequate representation to the citizen whose vote is diluted. The legislative power of the citizen whose vote is diluted will be reduced, as may be access to and assistance from his or her representative. The result will be uneven and unfair representation.”* [Underlines added]
3. Because the Charter and Supreme Court of Canada probably take precedence over the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act.
4. Because there is a better way, as recommended by the BC Citizens’ Assembly on Electoral Reform.
5. Because the Commission is drawing the boundaries, and it’s in the “Community Interest” for all voters to be represented by an MP they actually voted for.

**Thanks for all your hard work.**

## Appendix 1

Using the Commission's Proposed boundaries, Here is what Multi-Member Districts might look like.

### BC - North / Central

Cariboo—Prince George	108,840
Prince George—Peace River	107,382
Skeena—Bulkley Valley	89,998
<b>Total</b>	<b>306,220</b>
<b>3 Member Quota</b>	<b>314,290</b>
<b>Variation</b>	<b>-8,070</b>

### BC - South East

Central Okanagan—Coquihalla	107,929
Kamloops—Thompson—Cariboo	111,231
Kelowna—Lake Country	111,577
Kootenay—Columbia	109,058
North Okanagan—Shuswap	112,399
South Okanagan—West Kootenay	114,676
<b>Total</b>	<b>666,870</b>
<b>6 Member Quota</b>	<b>628,580</b>
<b>Variation</b>	<b>38,290</b>

### BC - South Cental

Abbotsford—Sumas	102,971
Chilliwack—Fraser Canyon	102,619
Mission—Matsqui	100,414
Pitt Meadows—Maple Ridge	96,956
<b>Total</b>	<b>402,960</b>
<b>4 Member Quota</b>	<b>419,053</b>
<b>Variation</b>	<b>-16,093</b>

### Surrey - Langley - Aldergrove

Fort Langley—Aldergrove	97,804
Langley—Cloverdale	101,526
North Surrey—Guildford	106,551
South Surrey—White Rock	102,771
Surrey Centre	110,174
<b>Total</b>	<b>518,826</b>
<b>5 Member Quota</b>	<b>523,816</b>
<b>Variation</b>	<b>-4,990</b>

### BC - South West

Delta	100,588
Richmond East	99,359
Richmond West	98,239
West Surrey—Whalley	107,827
<b>Total</b>	<b>406,013</b>
<b>4 Member Quota</b>	<b>419,053</b>
<b>Variation</b>	<b>-13,040</b>

### Vancouver

Vancouver Centre	104,142
Vancouver East	104,883
Vancouver Granville	101,879
Vancouver Kingsway	100,918
Vancouver Quadra	102,416
Vancouver South	103,610
<b>Total</b>	<b>617,848</b>
<b>6 Member Quota</b>	<b>628,580</b>
<b>Variation</b>	<b>-10,732</b>

**BC - Burard Inlet**

Burnaby North—Seymour	103,707
Burnaby South—Deer Lake	101,778
Coquitlam—Port Coquitlam	103,632
New Westminster—Burnaby East	104,786
North Vancouver	107,384
Port Moody—Coquitlam	97,621
W Van—Sun Coast—Sea-Sky Country	106,174
<b>Total</b>	<b>725,082</b>
<b>7 Member Quota</b>	<b>733,343</b>
<b>Variation</b>	<b>-8,261</b>

**Vancouver Island - South Coast**

Esquimalt—Colwood	107,565
Nanaimo—Alberni	109,624
Nanaimo—Cowichan	110,413
Saanich—Gulf Islands	108,244
South Cowichan—Juan de Fuca	105,487
Vancouver Island North	110,769
Victoria	104,136
<b>Total</b>	<b>756,238</b>
<b>7 Member Quota</b>	<b>733,343</b>
<b>Variation</b>	<b>22,895</b>