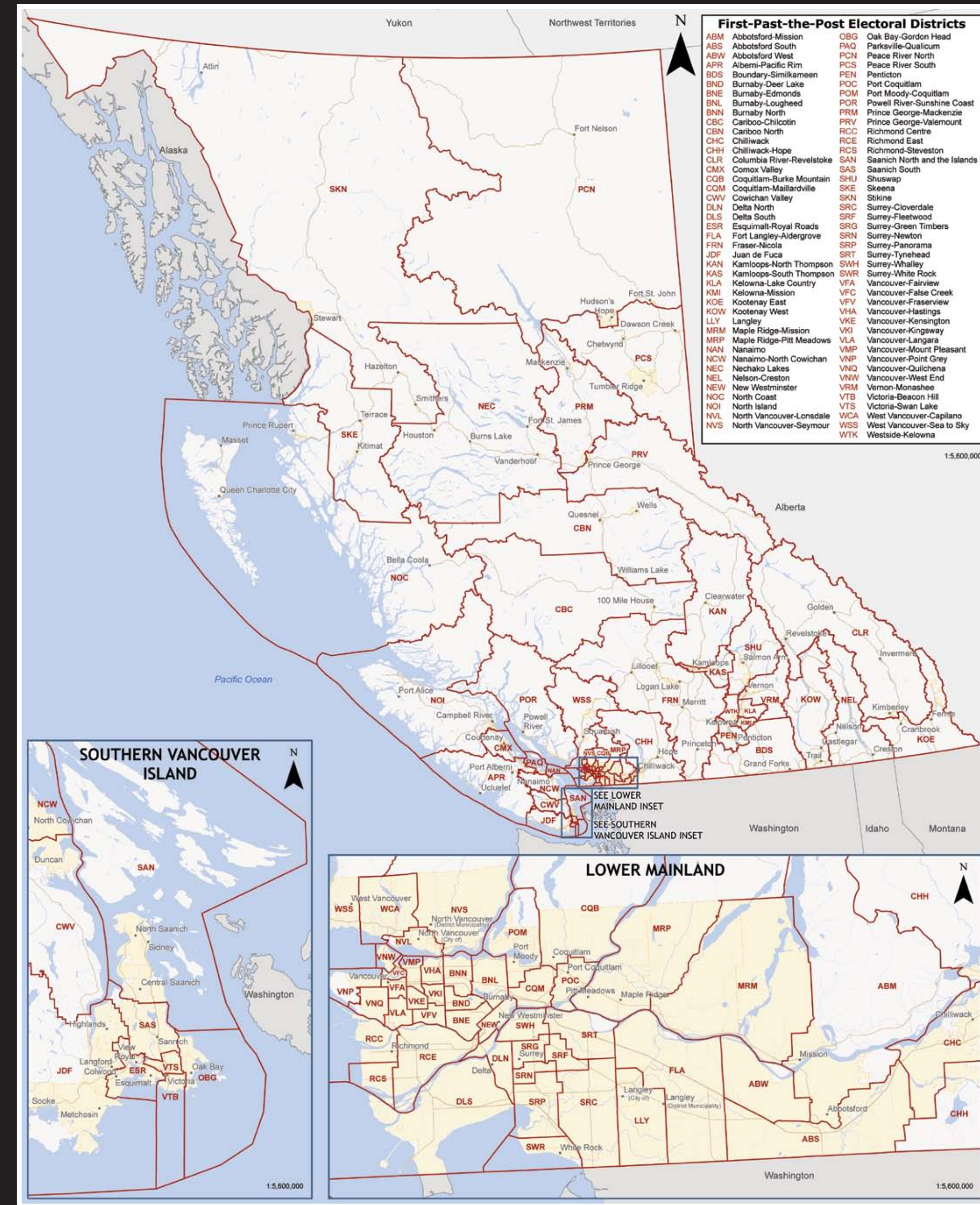# First-Past-the-Post

Our current system is popularly known as First-Past-the-Post (or FPTP). Its technical name is Single Member Plurality. Under this system, one MLA is elected from each of the province's 85 electoral districts. Voters vote by marking an "x" or a tick next to their one preferred candidate.

The candidate who gets more votes than any other candidate in an electoral district wins the seat for that electoral district and becomes the district's MLA. The political party that wins the most seats usually forms the government. In British Columbia, First-Past-the-Post usually results in one party winning a majority of seats in the Legislative Assembly.

First-Past-the-Post is regarded as a system that:

> is simple to use and understand

> usually elects members from larger political parties

> tends to produce majority governments, particularly if there are two main political parties

> maintains a link between a single elected representative and voters in his or her constituency

First-Past-the-Post Electoral Districts

ABM	Abbotsford-Mission	OBG	Oak Bay-Gordon Head
ABS	Abbotsford South	PAQ	Parksville-Qualicum
ABW	Abbotsford West	PCN	Peace River North
APR	Alberni-Pacific Rim	PCS	Peace River South
BDS	Boundary-Similkameen	PEN	Penticton
BND	Burnaby-Deer Lake	POC	Port Coquitlam
BNE	Burnaby-Edmonds	POM	Port Moody-Coquitlam
BNL	Burnaby-Lougheed	POR	Powell River-Sunshine Coast
BNN	Burnaby North	PRM	Prince George-Mackenzie
CBC	Cariboo-Chilcotin	PRV	Prince George-Valemount
CBN	Cariboo North	RCC	Richmond Centre
CHC	Chilliwack	RCE	Richmond East
CHH	Chilliwack-Hope	RCS	Richmond-Steveston
CLR	Columbia River-Revelstoke	SAN	Saanich North and the Islands
CMX	Comox Valley	SAS	Saanich South
CQB	Coquitlam-Burke Mountain	SHU	Shuswap
CQM	Coquitlam-Maillardville	SKE	Skeena
CWV	Cowichan Valley	SKN	Stikine
DLN	Delta North	SRC	Surrey-Cloverdale
DLS	Delta South	SRF	Surrey-Fleetwood
ESR	Esquimalt-Royal Roads	SRG	Surrey-Green Timbers
FLA	Fort Langley-Aldergrove	SRN	Surrey-Newton
FRN	Fraser-Nicola	SRP	Surrey-Panorama
JDF	Juan de Fuca	SRT	Surrey-Tynehead
KLA	Kamloops-North Thompson	SWH	Surrey-Whalley
KAS	Kamloops-South Thompson	SWR	Surrey-White Rock
KLA	Kelowna-Lake Country	VFA	Vancouver-Fairview
KMI	Kelowna-Mission	VFC	Vancouver-False Creek
KOE	Kootenay East	VFV	Vancouver-Fraserview
KOW	Kootenay West	VHA	Vancouver-Hastings
LLY	Langley	VKE	Vancouver-Kensington
MRM	Maple Ridge-Mission	VKI	Vancouver-Kingsway
MRP	Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows	VLA	Vancouver-Langara
NAN	Nanaimo	VMP	Vancouver-Mount Pleasant
NCW	Nanaimo-North Cowichan	VNP	Vancouver-Point Grey
NEC	Nechako Lakes	VNQ	Vancouver-Quilchena
NEL	Nelson-Creston	VWE	Vancouver-West End
NEW	New Westminster	VRM	Vernon-Monashee
NOI	North Island	VTB	Victoria-Beacon Hill
NOC	North Coast	VTS	Victoria-Swan Lake
NVL	North Vancouver-Lonsdale	WCA	West Vancouver-Capilano
NVS	North Vancouver-Seymour	WSS	West Vancouver-Sea to Sky
		WTK	Westside-Kelowna

1:5,600,000

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ELECTIONS BC
A non-partisan Office of the Legislature

What is the referendum about?

The 2009 electoral reform referendum is about how British Columbia voters elect the Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who represent them in the provincial legislature.

British Columbia voters will choose between two electoral systems: the current First-Past-the-Post system and a form of the Single Transferable Vote system called BC-STV.

What's an electoral system?

An electoral system, or voting system, is the process for translating votes into seats in a legislative assembly.

Area and population table

First-Past-the-Post	‹ ›	BC-STV
85	Total number of MLAs elected in B.C.	85
85	Number of electoral districts in B.C.	20
One	Number of MLAs elected in each electoral district (district magnitude = DM)	Between two and seven. Most districts would elect four or five MLAs. The number of voters per MLA in each district would be very similar to First-Past-the-Post.
Between five and eight candidates in most districts.	Number of candidates on the ballot	More candidates than currently. The number would vary depending on the size of the electoral district. A four- or five-member electoral district would likely have between 12 and 18 candidates.
Significant size differences between smaller urban districts and larger rural districts.	Geographic size of electoral districts	Average size would be larger than now, because more than one MLA would be elected from each electoral district. There would still be smaller urban districts and larger rural districts.
Proportionality is not a goal of the system. There is often a large variance between the popular vote and the number of seats won by a party.	Proportionality of results (how closely the number of seats won by a party matches its share of the popular vote)	Generally high degree of proportionality. There likely would be some variances from strict proportionality.
Voters make a cross or a tick mark next to their preferred candidate.	How to vote	Voters rank as many candidates as they wish, in order of preference (1, 2, 3, etc.). At least a first choice must be indicated for the ballot to be valid.
The candidate with more votes than any other candidate wins that electoral district.	Counting the vote	The number of votes needed to win (called the electoral quota) is determined based on the district magnitude and number of votes cast. Any candidate who reaches the quota is elected. Transfers of votes take place from elected candidates that have a surplus of votes, and from candidates with the fewest votes, to determine the other successful candidates.

The preceding information was prepared by the BC Government's Referendum Information Office, mandated to provide neutral public information regarding the referendum question. **Referendum Information Office** Toll-free: 1.800.668.2800 Web: www.BCreferendum2009.ca

Area and population table

Single Transferable Vote (BC-STV) electoral district boundaries are composed of multiple First-Past-the-Post (FPTP) electoral districts.

District magnitude (DM) is the number of MLAs elected to represent an electoral district. In FPTP each district has one. The DM for each BC-STV district is shown in the table below.

BNW BURNABY – NEW WESTMINSTER (DM:5)
(115 KM², POPULATION: 261,348)
BND Burnaby-Deer Lake (14 km², Population: 52,730)
BNE Burnaby-Edmonds (22 km², Population: 49,911)
BNL Burnaby-Lougheed (37 km², Population: 46,884)
BNN Burnaby North (51 km², Population: 51,274)
NEW New Westminster (18 km², Population: 58,549)

CAR CAPITAL REGION (DM:7)
(4,877 KM², POPULATION: 345,164)
ESR Esquimalt-Royal Roads (68 km², Population: 47,961)
JDF Juan de Fuca (2,736 km², Population: 43,376)
OBG Oak Bay-Gordon Head (27 km², Population: 48,953)
SAN Saanich North and the Islands (1,543 km², Pop: 55,201)
SAS Saanich South (92 km², Population: 49,430)
VTB Victoria-Beacon Hill (98 km², Population: 50,939)
VTS Victoria-Swan Lake (14 km², Population: 49,304)

CBT CARIBOO-THOMPSON (DM:5)
(140,934 KM², POPULATION: 194,013)
CBC Cariboo-Chilcotin (43,295 km², Population: 30,383)
CBN Cariboo North (39,838 km², Population: 31,805)
FRN Fraser-Nicola (33,792 km², Population: 31,049)
KAN Kamloops-North Thompson (21,625 km², Population: 49,769)
KAS Kamloops-South Thompson (2,364 km², Population: 51,005)

CLK COLUMBIA-KOOTENAY (DM:4)
(76,122 KM², POPULATION: 144,827)
CLR Columbia River-Revelstoke (39,714 km², Population: 32,513)
KOE Kootenay East (11,172 km², Population: 37,718)
KOW Kootenay West (12,016 km², Population: 39,713)
NEL Nelson-Creston (13,220 km², Population: 34,883)

FVE FRASER VALLEY EAST (DM: 5)
(11,958 KM², POPULATION: 241,180)
ABM Abbotsford-Mission (663 km², Population: 49,766)
ABS Abbotsford South (211 km², Population: 49,555)
ABW Abbotsford West (105 km², Population: 48,541)
CHC Chilliwack (146 km², Population: 49,338)
CHH Chilliwack-Hope (10,833 km², Population: 43,980)

FVW FRASER VALLEY WEST (DM: 4)
(2,864 KM², POPULATION: 218,527)
FLA Fort Langley-Aldergrove (234 km², Population: 59,050)
LLY Langley (86 km², Population: 58,808)
MRM Maple Ridge-Mission (390 km², Population: 50,199)
MRP Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows (1,945 km², Population: 50,474)

MID MID-ISLAND (DM:4)
(5,823 KM², POPULATION: 204, 308)
CWV Cowichan Valley (1,682 km², Population: 55,040)
NAN Nanaimo (482 km², Population: 50,854)
NCW Nanaimo-North Cowichan (2,720 km², Population: 49,402)
PAQ Parksville-Qualicum (859 km², Population: 49,012)

NRC NORTH CENTRAL (DM:3)
(125,657 KM², POPULATION: 118,700)
NEC Nechako Lakes (73,757 km², Population: 26,436)
PRM Prince George-Mackenzie (30,361 km², Population: 45,379)
PRV Prince George-Valemount (21,539 km², Population: 46,885)

NSC NORTH ISLAND-SOUTH COAST (DM:4)
(81,687 KM², POPULATION: 202,520)
APR Alberni-Pacific Rim (13,141 km², Population: 42,275)
CMX Comox Valley (2,690 km², Population: 59,482)
NOI North Island (45,077 km², Population: 53,662)
POR Powell River-Sunshine Coast (20,979 km², Population: 47,101)

NSR NORTH SHORE-SEA TO SKY (DM:4)
(10,148 KM², POPULATION: 210,163)
NVL North Vancouver-Lonsdale (33 km², Population: 53,643)
NVS North Vancouver-Seymour (206 km², Population: 52,203)
WCA West Vancouver-Capilano (80 km², Population: 55,157)
WSS West Vancouver-Sea to Sky (9,642 km², Population: 49,161)

NTE NORTHEAST (DM:2)
(206,148 KM², POPULATION: 64,411)
PCN Peace River North (175,808 km², Population: 38,485)
PCS Peace River South (30,340 km², Population: 25,926)

NTW NORTHWEST (DM:3)
(371,996 KM², POPULATION: 73,768)
NOC North Coast (143,982 km², Population: 23,135)
SKE Skeena (31,607 km², Population: 30,011)
SKN Stikine (196,437 km², Population: 20,622)

OKB OKANAGAN-BOUNDARY (DM:3)
(14,209 KM², POPULATION: 143,812)
BDS Boundary-Similkameen (11,166 km², Population: 38,167)
PEN Penticton (1,903 km², Population: 53,687)
WTK Westside-Kelowna (1,140 km², Population: 51,968)

OKS OKANAGAN-SHUSWAP (DM:4)
(15,351 KM², POPULATION: 217,377)
KLA Kelowna-Lake Country (1,166 km², Population: 51,950)
KMI Kelowna-Mission (643 km², Population: 53,711)
SHU Shuswap (8,607 km², Population: 53,668)
VRM Vernon-Monashee (5,038 km², Population: 58,538)

RCD RICHMOND-DELTA (DM:5)
(992 KM², POPULATION: 271,863)
DLN Delta North (32 km², Population: 51,828)
DLS Delta South (463 km², Population: 45,774)
RCC Richmond Centre (374 km², Population: 59,166)
RCE Richmond East (57 km², Population: 57,798)
RCS Richmond-Steveston (31 km², Population: 57,497)

SRN SURREY NORTH (DM:4)
(128 KM², POPULATION: 206,211)
SRF Surrey-Fleetwood (20 km², Population: 50,284)
SRG Surrey-Green Timbers (19 km², Population: 52,934)
SRT Surrey-Tynehead (47 km², Population: 50,989)
SWH Surrey-Whalley (29 km², Population: 52,004)

SRS SURREY SOUTH (DM:4)
(259 KM², POPULATION: 207,774)
SRC Surrey-Cloverdale (95 km², Population: 50,875)
SRN Surrey-Newton (14 km², Population: 53,711)
SRP Surrey-Panorama (42 km², Population: 52,060)
SWR Surrey-White Rock (82 km², Population: 51,128)

TRC TRI-CITIES (DM:4)
(767 KM², POPULATION: 197,278)
CQB Coquitlam-Burke Mountain (619 km², Population: 46,732)
CQM Coquitlam-Maillardville (22 km², Population: 51,706)
POC Port Coquitlam (35 km², Population: 52,692)
POM Port Moody-Coquitlam (81 km², Population: 46,148)

VNE VANCOUVER EAST (DM:5)
(58 KM², POPULATION: 277,651)
VFV Vancouver-Fraserview (13 km², Population: 57,278)
VHA Vancouver-Hastings (14 km², Population: 55,599)
VKE Vancouver-Kensington (14 km², Population: 54,967)
VKI Vancouver-Kingsway (9 km², Population: 57,185)
VMP Vancouver-Mount Pleasant (13 km², Population: 52,628)

VNW VANCOUVER WEST (DM:6)
(108 KM², POPULATION: 312,592)
VFA Vancouver-Fairview (13 km², Population: 52,020)
VFC Vancouver-False Creek (7 km², Population: 43,943)
VLA Vancouver-Langara (5 km², Population: 57,047)
VNP Vancouver-Point Grey (44 km², Population: 54,823)
VNQ Vancouver-Quilchena (22 km², Population: 56,409)
VWE Vancouver-West End (11 km², Population: 48,350)

Electoral district area calculations prepared by BC Electoral Boundaries Commission.

2006 Census population data prepared by BC Stats, Service BC.

BC-Single Transferable Vote

BC-STV is a form of the Single Transferable Vote system. It is an electoral system that produces largely proportional results, which means that the number of seats a political party wins is close to its share of the overall popular vote.

Under BC-STV, the total number of MLAs in the province would not change, but they would be elected in 20 multi-member electoral districts – between two and seven MLAs per district. Voters would vote by ranking preferences for as many candidates as they wish to support (1, 2, 3, etc.). To be elected, a candidate must reach a certain number of votes called the electoral quota.

All voters' first preferences are counted, with further rounds of counting used to transfer voters' second, third, etc. preferences from candidates who are elected with a surplus of votes, or who are dropped from the ballot because they have received the fewest votes, to candidates who are still on the ballot. The counting process continues until all the seats in the district have been filled.

BC-STV is regarded as a system that:

> lets voters make a number of choices on the ballot at elections

> produces largely proportional results

> is more likely to produce minority or coalition governments

> maintains a link between multiple MLAs and voters in larger constituencies

BC-Single Transferable Vote Electoral Districts

BNW	Burnaby-New Westminster	NTE	Northeast
CAR	Capital Region	NTW	Northwest
CBT	Cariboo-Thompson	OKB	Okanagan-Boundary
CLK	Columbia-Kootenay	OKS	Okanagan-Shuswap
FVE	Fraser Valley East	RCD	Richmond-Delta
FVW	Fraser Valley West	SRN	Surrey North
MID	Mid-Island	SRS	Surrey South
NRC	North Central	TRC	Tri-Cities
NSC	North Island-South Coast	VNE	Vancouver East
NSR	North Shore-Sea to Sky	VNW	Vancouver West

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