THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM

FIRST-PAST-THE-POST

- **Used in Canada**
- **Winner is candidate who gets <u>the most votes</u> in their riding**
- **Winner does not need to have a <u>majority</u> (over half) of the votes in their riding**

Example:

Conservative Candidate:	5000 votes
Liberal Candidate:	4500 votes
NDP Candidate:	4500 votes
Green Party Candidate:	4000 votes
Other Candidates Combined:	2000 votes
Total Votes Cast =	20000 votes

Even though the Conservative candidate <u>did not have the majority</u> (over half) of the votes, he/she still earned the most votes in the riding, and would earn the seat in the House of Commons

++ Benefits of this System ++

- **Easy to see who wins the seat in the House**
- **Usually a clear winner of the election (few minority governments)**

- - Drawbacks of this System - -

- **Election results do not often reflect the wishes of the majority of voters**

Example:

If all ridings had this result, the Conservative party would win all 308 seats in the House of Commons even though they only earned ¼ of the total votes.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

- **Used in Israel, Holland & Italy**
- **Political parties put forward a list of all its candidates**
- **Voters select a candidate <u>based on the party he / she represents</u>**
- **The number of seats a party wins in the House of Commons is based on the percentage of votes it receives**
- **The candidates from the winning party's list who earned the most votes would earn seats in the House of Commons**

Example:

Imagine there were 100 seats in the House of Commons (for easy math). If a <u>party</u> received 38 % of the votes <u>in the whole country</u>, they would get 38 % of the seats in the House of Commons.

++ Benefits of this System ++

- **Number of seats each party earns is a good reflection of the wishes of the majority of voters.**

- - Drawbacks of this System - -

- **Local representation (having a local MP allocated to each riding) would disappear or change**
- **Seldom see majority governments, thus requiring multiple parties with different beliefs to join (form a coalition) to get things done**