



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Students Support Electoral Reform

VICTORIA, BC – The Alliance of BC Students (ABCS) voted to adopt a motion endorsing the implementation of an alternative to the first past the post electoral system in favour of a more proportional form of representation. In the lead up to a referendum on electoral reform this fall, it is important that we express support for the best option for students.

“Our current first past the post system discourages youth from voting, which you can see in the fact that only 50% of millennials voted in previous elections,” states ABCS Chairperson Caitlin McCutchen, **“a more proportional system would ensure that the interests of post-secondary students are fairly represented in government.”** The ABCS has run campaigns encouraging students to vote in both provincial and federal elections. Getting youth engaged is necessary to ensure governments make decisions that reflect the needs of students.

The ABCS will be active in promoting the switch to a more proportional form of representation. ABCS chairperson, Caitlin McCutchen is a spokesperson for Yes PR BC, a proponent group comprised of individuals from different political backgrounds representing all of BC, campaigning in favour of changing BC’s electoral system so that it is more proportional. Yes PR BC hopes to be involved in framing the referendum question, campaigning and mobilizing the yes vote, and educating British Columbians on the benefits of using a proportional electoral system.

Implementing an alternative to first past the post will help move from a polarized model of politics to a more collaborative system. **“We hope that by supporting the move to proportional representation, we will be able to restore trust in our democratic system, particularly among those young people who are engaging with it as voters for the first time,”** states McCutchen.

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For more information please contact:

Caitlin McCutchen, Chairperson
Alliance of BC Students

p 778.998.1539 | **e** chairperson@bcstudents.ca

Nicki Simpson, Policy and Political Affairs
Kwantlen Student Association

p 604.599.2869 | **e** policy@kusa.ca

The Alliance of British Columbia Students is a non-partisan society of 5 student associations representing over 60,000 students from across the province that exists to lobby on issues that affect post-secondary students in British Columbia.