

Nathan Cullen

1. Do you support co-operating with the Liberals and Greens before the next election to defeat Stephen Harper's government? If so, how?

Yes. I am the only candidate in favour of co-operating with other progressive, federalist parties before the next election. We must rise to the challenge of replacing Mr. Harper's majority with a progressive one—so we can get to work on climate change, economic fairness, fixing our ancient voting system and re-balancing Canada's voice in the world.

Specifically, I've proposed run-off nominations in Conservative-held seats. The NDP, Liberal and Green would run against each other to see which takes on the Tory. It's a democratic, locally responsive way to reduce split votes and do what it takes to help a majority of Canadians see our values in action in Ottawa, not under attack.

I also believe progressives outside Quebec should reciprocate the change that Quebecers showed last May. Putting our majority to work depends on Quebecers' openness to progressive federalism. Let's use this precious gift.

2. Do you support electoral reform? If so, what kind of electoral reform do you support?

Yes. I was the first candidate to release a voting reform policy, which can be found on my website, www.nathancullen.ca I've also said my first bill as Prime Minister would be to change the voting system so less than 40% of voters never again can elect a majority government.

Specifically, I support mixed-member proportional representation, similar to systems in Germany and New Zealand. It's important to have locally-responsible,

directly-elected MPs as much as we can, while ensuring that Parliament reflects the broad wishes of the total electorate.

3. Will you actively campaign on the issue of electoral reform before the 2015 election? Are you willing to co-operate with other parties once in government to make it happen?

Yes. In fact, I'm the only candidate in the race who was in the NDP caucus when Jack Layton said proportional representation would be the key condition of supporting a minority government. Sadly, the NDP never did have the balance of power when Paul Martin's Liberal government was in place.

Times have now changed, with the NDP as official opposition. This puts us in an ideal position—on co-operation and voting reform—to lead the conversation about how to get better politics that work for more people.

I note that co-operating with other parties is not new. It's how the NDP helped deliver universal health care and public pensions in the 1960s; affordable housing in the 1970s; and a brand new federal budget in 2005. Canadians like co-operative politics. If we can co-operate after elections—in minority Parliaments—we can do it beforehand, too. Because the issues that every candidate wants action on require that Mr. Harper's majority be removed from office so a progressive majority government can move in.

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