

Peggy Nash

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

In my career of politics, labour negotiator and social activist, I have learned the importance of building bridges and cooperating with diverse stakeholders to reach common goals. I am completely open to working with the Greens and the Liberals to build consensus around critical policies, like electoral reform and climate change. I am open to pooling resources to take on Harper as well as considering other strategies that might be proposed for effective cooperation between the parties before the next election.

In order to fundamentally change our political culture to a more cooperative one we first need to change our electoral system. Under my leadership, the NDP would cooperate with social movements and parties that support electoral reform to build broad public support for fixing our broken system. The end goal of this hard work would be the creation of a new and fairer model of democracy that offers real incentives for permanent cooperation between parties and MP's in the House Of Commons.

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

I absolutely support electoral reform and have made it a key part of my platform. My personal preference is mixed-member proportional but I would want to have broad public input into the decision. I have committed to a public commission within the first 6 months of my election to recommend a number of options for our government to consider.

I think this will be the key issue to bring the over 40% of Canadians who have opted out of electoral politics, to join us again. What better message can we send to young people and those that feel our system doesn't represent them, that yes we can make their vote count again.

You can find a link to my proposal here:

<http://peggynash.ca/2012/peggy-nash-will-move-swiftly-to-implement-proportional-representation/>

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?

Most definitely on all counts. My plan for implementing proportion representation is to make it a focused priority in the pre-election period and not just another promise on the party platform. Moving proportional representation beyond our party platform means we need to devote significant resources between now and 2015 to make electoral reform a permanent campaign, and part of our grassroots outreach. That means materials and outreach tools for MPs, riding associations and a strong focus on PR in our national communications and organizing strategy.

Yes we will certainly work with other parties once in government to implement electoral reform. I also think it's critical to make sure that the other opposition parties join us in working together with grassroots organizations to ensure that it's front and centre in the media and in the public arena. Showing solidarity on this issue amongst the opposition parties and like-minded civil society groups will be key to convincing Canadians of the urgent need for change.

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