

The web creator downloaded this March 12, 2013. It is another blog post from Parker, who has been hyperventilating about how Meslin and company are now harassing him.

I hope it is the last word on this thread about Meslin and RaBIT. I have been involved in the attempt to correct the damage done, but I think I may be on a mission impossible. The people who are huffing now about how victimized they were by Meslin are still unable to get what I am saying to them. That is, that they brought Meslin upon themselves and therefore on all Fair Vote supporters.

Scum like Meslin and company are nothing by themselves. they depend on cretins to respond to them. Cretins like the author of this blog. So why on earth are they still being allowed to attend FVC meetings? Why would anyone do that after the RaBITs did what they say they did, unless they are some kind of masochist?

Here is Stuart again

Update on the Canadian Voting Reform Meltdown

For those of you following the meltdown taking place in the Canadian voting reform movement, here is a short list/FAQ to help you deal with the unethical publicity campaign being waged by the Ranked Ballot Initiative of Toronto.

“Banned”

RaBIT members are claiming that they have been barred from attending or speaking at Fair Vote Canada meetings. In the letter they received from our president and in subsequent correspondence, they were explicitly told they were welcome to attend meetings and speak.

“Expelled”

RaBIT members are claiming that they have been expelled from Fair Vote Canada. In the letter they received from our president and in subsequent correspondence, they were explicitly told they were welcome to continue as active, paid-up members of our organization.

So what happened?

RaBIT is an organization that campaigns against proportional representation in the City of Toronto. When Fair Vote Canada members attend non-partisan events and campaign in favour of proportional representation at the municipal level, they are confronted by RaBIT members and told they and their views are unwelcome at events. After telling Toronto City Council that Fair Vote Canada continues to support municipal PR, Fair Vote was informed by RaBIT principal, Dave Meslin, that he would launch a signup drive and seize control of the local Fair Vote Canada chapter.

He and his allies ran for the board but did not win a majority of the vote, electing only three of seven board members. This group then proceeded to wage a campaign of filibustering, disinformation and intimidation within the organization, privately threatening, harassing and even screaming at longtime proportional representation activists who refused to capitulate and support their campaign for instant runoff voting in Toronto.

During their time in the organization, two votes were conducted, one locally in Toronto and one nationally on whether to change Fair Vote Canada's policy and back RaBIT's campaign for a winner-take-all system in Toronto. In both cases, members voted to maintain support for PR in Toronto. In both cases, RaBIT-affiliated Fair Vote board members refused to comply with the will of the members.

Rob Ford is all the rage

Fair Vote Canada adopted a Conflict of Interest policy to prohibit its board members from campaigning against the organization and its projects. The three members elected to the board of the Toronto Chapter refused to comply with the policy. After a month of repeated, insistent defiance, Fair Vote Canada followed the example set by the Superior Court of Ontario and removed the three directors for non-compliance with the COI, for, among

other things, trying to stop the organization from sending correspondence to Toronto City Council about possibilities for municipal PR.

Ironically, many RaBIT members were leaders in the movement to remove mayor Ford for insistent defiance of the city's COI policy. And yet they are following the same practices as the mayor, claiming it is always "undemocratic" to remove an elected person and that therefore COI policies do not apply to them.

Hypocrisy

If this were not galling enough, a major part of the RaBIT messaging is that it is wrong for a democracy organization not to seat people on its board irrespective of their conduct. Yet, RaBIT has repeatedly been asked to seat Fair Vote members on its board and has refused to do so. Similarly, RaBIT attacks Fair Vote for being "undemocratic" and therefore illegitimate as a pro-democracy organization. Yet, RaBIT's members have no voting rights and are governed by an invitation-only board that meets secretly and are all appointed by the organization's principal, Dave Meslin.

RaBIT, itself, arises from a fake public consultation process called Better Ballots run by Meslin and funded by the Maytree Foundation. This group, too, had a self-appointed board. Directors of Fair Vote Canada were explicitly barred from sitting on the board. I was briefly appointed to the board but was removed for my support of proportional representation. RaBIT remains steadfast in its refusal to subject its board to elections, open its board meetings to regular members or to seat any advocate of proportional representation there.

Silence

RaBIT has been successful in circulating its latest falsehoods because of its members efficacy in silencing their opposition. This involves reporting those contradicting their assertions on social media for violating the terms of use in an effort to suspend our accounts.

RaBIT members have written to members of the Fair Vote Canada national board, individually, threatening to mount costly, vexatious lawsuits against anyone who will not vote for their reinstatement as directors of Fair Vote.

They also threatened, through much of last year, to begin attacking Fair Vote in the national media to bring the organization into disrepute. That work began on Friday with the mobilization of columnists and bloggers repeating RaBIT talking points, many of which are demonstrably false.

Please help

This conflict is no longer about what voting system is right for Toronto or any other jurisdiction in Canada. It is about how democracy activists conduct themselves. Fair Vote Canada memberships remain on sale until March 15th. Please visit our web site and take out a membership to support those of us running for election to the board of directors who remain committed to democracy, accountability and keeping our movement a safe place to work for democracy, free from bullying and intimidation.

Here are some instructive responses from the trolls, and reactions from troll targets who do not learn. tr

Sarah says:

March 10, 2013 at 6:41 pm

This post is not jut misleading, it is out and out lies. It's offensive to myself and almost half of FVC's membership. Shame on you for deceiving people in this way.

Orbis says:

March 10, 2013 at 7:35 pm

On what grounds are they being funded by Maytree (project or operational funding?), and has the foundation been contacted about these bullying tactics?

<http://maytree.com/about-us/the-maytree-team> — let's figure out which specific person is responsible for their grant and let them know about this

(better than randomly shooting it off to the general number, although that still will work eventually).

Steve Withers says:
March 10, 2013 at 8:57 pm

It's a shame Dave Meslin has gone so badly off the rails. He could be a real asset to a campaign for fairly and proportionally elected Federal, Provincial legislators and local body Councillors.

fusangite says:
March 11, 2013 at 4:17 am

Sarah, I wish the things I was saying were not true. But they appear to be. Nevertheless, when communication has totally broken down, sometimes information does get garbled so please let me know what I've got wrong here. And yes Steve, it is nothing short of a tragedy that things have become this ugly and this tribal. We are squandering a great opportunity for reform at the national level because of this takeover campaign. The damage that has already been done will take years to undo.

Micky says:
March 12, 2013 at 1:31 pm

I read this after seeing your comment on Spacing. You said this was a more "balanced" perspective? Horseshit!

The fact that you are making it personal and smearing Meslin is a shame.

Also, you make it seem like Fair Vote has any kind of campaign about municipal voting reform and you don't. Proportional representation works well in the parliamentary style governments, but in the co-op style governments of cities ranked ballots is just as fair if not better simply because of the number of candidates voters have to choose from.

Anyway, the cause of Fair Vote (prop rep) is great, but the organization is a dud simply because it has a crappy leadership. This blog post seems to validate my assumptions.

fusangite says:
March 12, 2013 at 1:36 pm

Micky, I make the same invitation to you that I made to Sarah: find one factually incorrect statement in my piece and I will change it.

I understand that you do not like the results of the last three votes Fair Vote Canada has conducted concerning what system we support for Toronto. But, as directors of the organization, we are duty-bound to campaign for what our members want us to campaign for and not to cancel campaigns based on threats and media attacks from outside groups.