

Democratic Leadership versus Dictatorship



Good governance would require members of parliament to debate and revise proposed legislation so that it becomes responsive to all citizens in an effective and efficient manner. Proper debate requires putting forth arguments in support of and arguments in opposition to proposed legislation without making comments on anything that does not concern the legislation. All arguments put forward must be fact based and not based on hearsay, conjecture, or partisanship.

Proper debate has not been occurring in the House of Commons due to the animosity demonstrated by members of the legislature towards each other based on party affiliation. It is mostly due to the autocratic behaviour of party leaders who have people, known as party whips, coerce their party members to vote in accordance to the leader's wishes. This is not democratic leadership. This is political party leader dictatorship.

A democratic leader does not dictate. A democratic leader enables members of parliament to always represent their constituents when debating and voting on legislation. Democratic leadership is leading people through the democratic process and obtaining their consensus.

Canada uses a single member plurality (SMP), sometimes called first past the post (FPP), electoral system. Here, you vote for a person and not a party. People elected to parliament do not have any legal obligation to any political party or party leader. This system enables members of parliament (MPs) to represent their constituents and not be subjugated by any political party or party leader.

Secret ballots are also used in elections to protect voters from coercion. The use of secret ballots keeps the elected representatives from knowing who voted for them. This eliminates bias and encourages equal consideration by the representatives for all their constituents.

In 2007, the people of Ontario had a referendum on electoral reform and they overwhelmingly voted to keep their democratic right to vote directly for their representatives using the single member plurality (SMP) system instead of the mixed member proportional (MMP) system where people are subjugated by political parties.

For democracy to exist, members of parliament must not submit themselves to the dictates of some political party leader but instead be responsive to the people they represent.

To have good governance in Canada, political party leaders must not dictate; but, instead enable members of parliament to always represent their constituents when debating and voting on legislation. <