



Probis Club of Central Edmonton

October 2017

Editor: Brian Johnson

Speaker: October 17, 2017 – Alternative Voting Systems

Our speaker was Ian Urquhart of the Department of Political Science, speaking on The Pros and Cons of First-Past-the-Post and Alternative voting systems. Ian gave us a look at the range of voting systems used throughout the OECD countries.

It was surprising that only Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States use the First past the Post system. Other systems included various types of proportional representation, with either an emphasis on voting for a party (List Proportional Representation) or for an individual member (Mixed Member Proportional and others).

There are two provinces that are looking at moving to an alternative system, BC and PEI. The federal government campaigned on changing the FPTP system but seem now to have abandoned that commitment.

The session was followed by a lively question and answer period with many points and opinions offered by club members. It did not finish until we had run out of time!

Tour: October 31 Rogers Place

Our tour of Rogers Place was well attended, with over thirty participants. Our guide, Tom Cornwall, Vice President, Construction and Operations at Oilers Entertainment Group, took us though all the levels and into the various Suites, Theatre Boxes, Clubs etc. The statistics are impressive:

- The total area is 1.1 million square feet plus an LRT concourse
- When the system is complete, the pedway system will connect Rogers Place to the whole downtown area, right up to the Shaw Centre.
- In its first year of operation, Rogers Place was host to 2.2 million people



The Ice Surface



Our Guide, Tom Cornwall