Where we are now...

Political Power in Canada

Prime Minister and PMO
- Controls political agenda.
- Effectively controls the passing and implementation of legislation and regulations in a majority government
- Deputy Ministers
  - Assistant Deputy Ministers
  - Senators
- Judicial and quasi-judicial appointees
- Governor-General
- Ambassadors
- Cabinet
- Chiefs of Staff
- Sweeping powers of appointment.
- Effectively appoints Chairs of House of Commons committees.
- Issues talking points to MPs to control communications, e.g. during Question Period.
- Determines frequency and focus of First Ministers' meetings.
- Elected as leader by fewer than 1% of Canadians. (Less than 2% of Canadians join political parties.)

Party Leader
- Controls party structure.
- Controls party operations.
- Exempt from privacy legislation.
- Controls nominations of electoral candidates.

Citizens
- Vote every four years.
- Resort to costly court challenges and civil society protests between elections.
Where we should be...

Political Power in Canada

Prime Minister
- Selects and convenes cabinet.
- Transparent, accountable governance.
- Legal constraints on PMO operations.

Elected Representatives
- Power to select and remove parliamentary leader.
- All appointments made by neutral, arms-length Public Commission.
- Fully accountable senior public servants & cabinet ministers; thorough application of the "duty to act honestly."

Citizens
- Power to choose electoral district candidates.
- Candidate selection process overseen by Elections Canada.
- Power to initiate legislation through Citizens' Initiatives.
- Power to voice approval/disapproval of political action through consultative referenda.
- Improved representation through electoral reform.
- Power to select and remove parliamentary leader.
- Able to vote independently in legislature and committees.
- Free to build consensus and collaborate across party lines.
- Reasonable compromise; principled cooperation.

Structural Reforms
- Omnibus legislation prohibited.
- Privacy, freedom of information and conflict of interest legislation overhauled.
- Constitutional reforms, e.g. Senate.
- No interprovincial barriers to trade, employment, training, and carrying on business.
- Electoral reform to incorporate proportional voting.
- Council of Canadian Governments.
- Commission on Fiscal Transfers.
- Harmanised intergovernmental action and national frameworks, e.g. for climate change mitigation.
- Comprehensive tax reform.

Candidates selection process overseen by Elections Canada.
- Complies with privacy and freedom of information legislation, providing fair and open access to data.
- Complies with conflict of interest/lobbying legislation.
- Improved representation through electoral reform.
- Power to elect independent candidates.
- Power to elect a more representative legislature.
- Power to initiate legislation through Citizens' Initiatives.
- Power to voice approval/disapproval of political action through consultative referenda.
- Improved representation through electoral reform.
- Able to vote independently in legislature and committees.
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- Civics and media training every year, at every level of school.
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