

Dear Editor

In my view, voting Green in an NDP-held riding like ours in the up-coming election will be a vote for Harper. I'm not an unreserved supporter of NDP policies, but the reality, demonstrated time-and-time again in our first-past-the-post system, is that splitting the vote can lead to the election of candidates that most don't want. The recent election of a majority NDP government in Alberta when 52% of the electorate voted for conservatives is just yet another example of this.

Yes, tactical voting is not what democracy ought to be about, but politics these days is about winning, not coming up with a "good-show" second place. Yes, the Greens may pull in people who haven't voted in the past thereby turning the result into one that most can go along with, but the odds are against that. Non-voters are people who either don't care or have no faith in the system; only a minority don't vote because there isn't a candidate they support. Yes, the Greens, despite low levels of support, might hold the balance of power in a new parliament, but is this democracy, and is it to the good of even themselves in the long run?

Until we get a fairer proportional voting system, I'm voting in part to express whom I don't like as much as whom I do. Losers don't get to contribute, there are no consolation prizes, and consensus isn't sought by those claiming a mandate despite lacking majority support. I don't like that, but that's how it is. Play by the rules. If need be, vote tactically, do what our established political parties obstinately refuse to do, adapt and compromise. The alternative is running the risk of having your opinions completely ignored for another four years.

Sincerely

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