

What is Direct Democracy?



Direct democracy is a political system where the citizens participate in the decision making personally.

In a direct democracy citizens have the right

- to attend political meetings and to vote on issues being discussed.
- to hold political office if they so choose
- to participate in the system regardless of religious beliefs, gender or physical well being.

Consider this...

Direct democracy requires full participation from citizens but...

- Is it realistic to expect ALL citizens to attend meetings even if they are conducted mid-week during an afternoon or after supper after a full day's work?
- Canada has more than 18 million people. How could such a number be accommodated at a meeting?

Furthermore...

- Would citizens actually be committed to such a system day-in and day-out when realistically the commitment is impossible to fulfill?
- What percentage of the population has the time to learn about all issues discussed at both a local and national level?
- How many people can fully understand these issues and the problems surrounding them?
- If people are to be informed— who does the informing?
- Is there a guarantee that such information is not biased?

However...

There are situations where direct democracy would be a perfect fit. For example, direct democracy can be achieved at a local level

- if the number of people involved is manageable.
- if the issues are totally relevant to the town.
- if there is good reason to become involved and have the point of view of the citizens heard.