**PRESS RELEASE**

**IMMEDIATE 12.12.2018**

**Basic ‘Democratic’ Contradictions:**

**1 Democracy is based on a system of power-dividing, majority rule?**

**But in conflict zones, peace is based on power-sharing.**

**2. If based on majority voting, does majority rule even exist? After all…**

**a majority (of Tory Party mps) of a majority (of all mps) may be a minority; 51% of 51% = 26%.**

**3. The will of parliament, as identified by a ‘democratic’ majority vote, is sovereign?**

**Yet one person – the pm – can withhold the vote!**

**4. The 2016 referendum can’t, but elections can, be repeated?**

**…as when the 2015 election was re-run in 2017!**

**5. In elections, the people must have a choice of more than two candidates?**

**But in parliament and referendums, there can be only two options!**

**6 In civic society, committee members work together. But in parliaments….?**

**Suggested tenants of democracy:**

**Complex referendums should be resolved in multi-option votes, (as in New Zealand).**

**Votes of confidence should be constructive, (as in Germany).**

**Voting in parliament should be preferential… and electronic!**

**Governance should be based on all-party coalitions, (as in Switzerland).**

**Collective responsibility should be shared by all mps; it can’t be done with majority voting,**

**but with preferential voting…**

Peter Emerson

Director, the de Borda Institute

36 Ballysillan Road

Belfast BT14 7QQ

[www.deborda.org](http://www.deborda.org/) [pemerson@deborda.org](mailto:pemerson@deborda.org)

07837717979 02890711795