

RENÉ ARSENEAULT
MADAWASKA-RESTIGOUCHE

TOWN HALL REPORT
ON ELECTORAL REFORM
PUBLIC CONSULTATION



RENÉ ARSENEAULT
MADAWASKA-RESTIGOUCHE

RAPPORT SUR LES CONSULTATIONS
PUBLIQUES SUR LA RÉFORME
ÉLECTORALE

CONSULTATION(S)			
Date(s) of the Meeting(s)	Time and Length (start time and end time)	Location of Consultation	Total Number of People in Attendance (you may indicate the number of volunteers and employees who assisted with the meeting)
1. 2016 – 08 – 10	6:30 – 8 p.m.	Kedgwick, NB	28
2.			
3.			
4.			
Form: <input type="checkbox"/> Use of the Library of Parliament’s visual presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation from the MP’s office <input type="checkbox"/> Open microphone <input type="checkbox"/> Question and answer session <input type="checkbox"/> Guest speaker <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):			
SUBJECTS DISCUSSED (summary)			
Voting systems: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Replacement of the current voting system: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Voter turnout: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Accessibility and inclusiveness: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mandatory voting: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Online voting: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local representation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify and describe below) <input type="checkbox"/>

ISSUES RAISED: COMMENTS	
Recurring topics	Involvement of young people. Better civic education is required. Many positive comments were received about voting at 16.
Consensus	There was no consensus, but a very large majority (80%) were in favour of maintaining the status quo. Neither the plurality-majority transferable vote system nor the mixed system received any support. Some people said they were in favour of the proportional system.

Please return to:

Special Committee on Electoral Reform (ERRE)
 131, rue Queen Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
 Tel./tél.: 613-992-3150 Fax/télécopieur: 613-947-3089 ERRE@parl.gc.ca

Deadline: Friday, October 14, 2016

Debates	
Main concerns	For the vast majority of the citizens who were present, the weaknesses of the current plurality-majority system are not worth the risks associated with the other systems. In particular, they pointed out the negative effects of the proportional system, namely the lack of stability of minority governments, the increase in the number of fringe (and even extremist) parties and the paralysis of parliament.
Other comments	<p>Online voting:</p> <p>Online voting raised some concerns, but there seemed to be general agreement that if the system is made fully secure and the possibility of fraud is minimized, then online voting could increase the participation rate, including among young people.</p> <p>Mandatory voting:</p> <p>Everyone was against mandatory voting.</p>

RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE MP

No specific recommendation, but it would be inaccurate to say that there is any support for an in-depth reform of the voting system. The discussion mainly focused on improving the current system in order to make it more accessible and to increase the level of participation, while not changing its fundamental principles. Fears concerning the other voting systems were expressed vehemently by a number of participants.

Report submitted to Special Committee on Electoral Reform (ERRE)

Date: 2016 – 10 – 12

MP's signature:

(Name) René Arseneault

Reports must be submitted to the Clerks of the Committee no later than Friday, October 14, 2016 in both official languages.

Please note that this document is for illustrative purposes only and can be modified or adapted to your needs. The report will be published on the Committee's web site.

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