

CELINA CAESAR CHAVANNES
WHITBY

TOWN HALL REPORT
ON ELECTORAL REFORM
PUBLIC CONSULTATION



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

CELINA CAESAR-CHAVANNES
DEPUTE WHITBY

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)
1.20/07/2016	6-9 pm	95 Magill Drive, Ajax, ON	140
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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	Replacement of the current voting system: <input type="checkbox"/>	Voter turnout: <input type="checkbox"/>	Accessibility and inclusiveness: <input type="checkbox"/>
Mandatory voting: <input type="checkbox"/>	Online voting: <input type="checkbox"/>	Local representation: <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify and describe below) <input type="checkbox"/> Age of voting

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
What did participants say about the current system for electing Members of Parliament (benefits/flaws)? Did participants feel that their votes are fairly translated? (suggested limit: 500 words)
During the democratic reform town hall there was presentation by Mark Holland on the various options available for consideration. Participants had diverse responses. Constituents said that the

Which alternatives to the current system were discussed? Did participants identify specific features that are important to them in an electoral system (for example local representation, proportionality, simplicity, legitimacy etc.)? (suggested limit: 500 words)

During the town hall, Mark Holland presented the various types of options to first past the post. Options such as single-transferred-vote, alternate vote/ranked ballot and a few other combinations were discussed. There were discussions of having more parties and possibly having smaller ridings. There was strong voice for education on the new choice whatever it may be so that the populous could understand what was going on.

Did participants discuss why they feel many Canadians choose not to engage in the democratic process? Did they suggest ways to encourage participation? (suggested limit: 500 words)

There were people that argued that it is the right of the citizen to not vote in favour of any candidate. However many argued that there is still an option to spoil the ballot which is much more democratic. Some mentioned that spoiling ballots intentionally and unintentionally is reflected in the same tally at the end of the election night. There was no concrete answer on how to better engage, however there was mention of a fee to pay if you do not vote. This should be examined.

There was mention to lower the voting age to 16, same as driver's license. This was met with some opposition. However, there was mention that this would create a pattern for these constituents to vote more frequently in the future.

Did participants feel that it should be mandatory to cast a ballot? (Can include spoiling a ballot.) (suggested limit: 500 words)

There was some division on this. Some people did not like the idea of being fined for not voting for one of the options because they may not like any of them. They would need to be able to have a no vote.

There was concern that it would penalize those who could not vote, but want to. This could be due to immobile, elderly, etc. This became a conversation about the accessibility of the voting system. This issue varied amongst the participants.

Did participants discuss online voting? Did they express a desire to maintain current voting practices? (i.e. presenting themselves at a polling station, vote secrecy etc.) (suggested limit: 500 words)

Online voting was briefly discussed during the town hall. People brought up concerns over security and privacy. It did not seem that participants were receptive to the idea and liked the current system. As well, it was mentioned that not everyone had access to electronic devices and that the current practices were the most accessible if Elections Canada ensures that voting stations are in fact accessible for those with impairments and disabilities.

argued that the government ran on this issue and it was known during the election that change would come. There was great support for online voting for those who were living outside of Canada, elderly peoples and military service people.

SUMMARY OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS FROM PARTICIPANTS (suggested limit: 1000 words)

The Town Hall was hosted by Mark Holland, Jennifer O'Connell and Celina Caesar-Chavannes. There were 140 people in attendance over a three hour period and was begun with a power point presentation on the various options available for reform. Roughly 35 people took to the microphone to voice their concerns on the electoral reform process.

Many agreed that the current system needed to be changed. There were arguments on which way this should happen. Whether it would be single-transferable vote, alternative vote and ranked ballot, or PR.

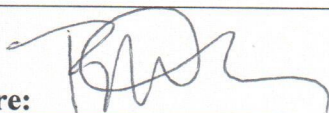
Although not everyone agreed on which way to go, everyone agreed there should be extensive education and campaigns for the proposed electoral voting system. Options should be available for those unable to vote.

There were constituents from across the GTA in attendance.

Report submitted to Special Committee on Electoral Reform (ERRE)

Date: 14/10/2016

MP's signature:



(Name) Celina Caesar-Chavannes.

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.