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Electoral Reform Session

28 people in attendance

SEP 10 2016

- The public had the opinion that the proportional representation does have issues. It isn't truly democratic when a government can form with only 40% of the vote.
- The Liberals had campaigned on changing the first past the post system of election but is the enthusiasm as high as it was during the campaign?
- During the town hall, one of the most well received ideas was that education is key to this issue. The average person doesn't know a lot of the current electoral system, let alone the options available for reform. Most agreed it was a complicated system and educating the public is critical.
- Educating young people in public schools would be an important place to start. Education is Provincial governance which makes it hard to include the same teaching across the country. In NS, there is a streamlining of grade 7 & 8 social studies and consideration of a mandatory citizenship course for grade 9. Maybe the MP's can bring back to Ottawa that these changes are happening in NS; with these changes we will be leading the way to a more well informed student population.
- Mandatory voting was discussed and some thought it was a plausible consideration while others thought it would just draw out those who mark an 'X' with no thought. This is where the education has to come in hand and hand.
- There was a concern on computerized voting as there would be security concerns. How can it be ensured there is no breach?
- Near the end of the session, there were 'words of warning' for the Government to take it slow and take the time to do it right. The public doesn't want to rush on policy decisions just to get it to Elections Canada in time for changes to be made. The Liberals campaigned on this reform but it's better to break a promise than rush decisions.

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