

HON. ED FAST
ABBOTSFORD

TOWN HALL REPORT
ON ELECTORAL REFORM
PUBLIC CONSULTATION



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

L'HON. ED FAST
ABBOTSFORD

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. August 6	9:00am - 10:30am	Ricky's Restaurant, 32080 Marshall Rd, Abbotsford, BC, V2A 1A1	60
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 – Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Open microphone – Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Question and answer session – Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Guest speaker <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): - Roundtable discussions with moderators.			
SUBJECTS DISCUSSED (summary)			
Voting systems: <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Yes</u>	Replacement of the current voting system: <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Yes</u>	Voter turnout: <input type="checkbox"/> <u>No</u>	Accessibility and inclusiveness: <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Yes</u>
Mandatory voting: <input type="checkbox"/> <u>No</u>	Online voting: <input type="checkbox"/> <u>No</u>	Local representation: <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Yes</u>	Other (please specify and describe below) <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Referendums</u>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
<p>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)</p> <p>Community members overwhelmingly insisted that Canadians must have the final say, in a national referendum, on any proposed changes to how Canadians elect their M.P.s.</p>
<p>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)</p>

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

FPTP and PR (writ large) were both raised by attendees. A number of attendees suggested some form of PR should replace the current system, with the large majority supporting the current FPTP system. There was no support for ranked ballots.

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)

Some of the participants stated that in a democracy, citizens have the right to choose whether they cast a ballot or refrain from doing so. These community members viewed their participation as a personal choice protected by our Constitution.

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

No – this was not raised by a single constituent.

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)

Community members largely expressed a desire to maintain current voting practices. Electoral reform is not a top of mind priority for my constituents.

Were any other major topics raised by the participants? (i.e. referendum, women/minority representation, accessibility, voter turnout etc.) (suggested limit: 500 words)

Community members overwhelmingly disagreed with the notion that any government would consider changing Canada's electoral system without giving each Canadian the right to participate in that decision.

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

Constituents were concerned with the notion that a government would attempt to unilaterally change Canada's electoral system without giving each Canadian a vote through a national referendum.

Constituents overwhelmingly felt that a referendum is the only way to ensure any change to Canada's electoral system has the clear support of Canadians.

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Report submitted to Special Committee on Electoral Reform (ERRE)	Date:
MP's signature:	(Name)

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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