

HON. HEDY FRY
VANCOUVER CENTRE

TOWN HALL REPORT
ON ELECTORAL REFORM
PUBLIC CONSULTATION



NOM DU (DE LA) DÉPUTÉ (E)
NOM DE LA CIRCONSCRIPTION

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 15	7pm to 9pm	St Andrew's Wesley Church	85
2.			
3.			
4.			
Form: <input type="checkbox"/> Use of the Library of Parliament's visual presentation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Presentation from the MP's office <input type="checkbox"/> Open microphone <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Question and answer session <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Guest speaker <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):			
SUBJECTS DISCUSSED (summary)			
Voting systems: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Replacement of the current voting system: Yes	Voter turnout: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Accessibility and inclusiveness: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Mandatory voting: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Online voting: Yes	Local representation: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes—seen as very important	Other (please specify and describe below) <input type="checkbox"/> Ballots in other countries

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)
<p>Many believe current system is unfair and does not reflect the votes cast/ support for minor parties, such as the Green Party who, under a preferential system in the 2015 election, would have received 13 seats. They would like to see the value in their votes cast, be directly reflected in the House of Commons.</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)

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

Many options were discussed, however, all in attendance stressed the importance of proportionality. Local representation was noted as key element of legitimacy in the electoral process. No consensus was reached, however, on the optimal alternate voting system, though it was clear from their opinions that a change was most definitely needed. They felt strongly about their ability to elect their local MP. One gentleman in attendance brought his ballot from Germany which was as large as a road map—it brought about the conversation regarding simplicity of ballots which are easy to understand, as well.

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 participants stressed the importance of educating young people at high school age about the democratic process. They felt that schools are doing too little to help young people understand the process itself and do not give students the tools or resources to make an informed decision on issues. Many people believe that their individual vote does not count—one lady in attendance even admit to spoiling her ballot because she felt as though her vote “did not matter.”

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

No. Aside from the spoiled ballot which was discussed in the previous question.

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)

No, it was not discussed. People seemed to have more of an issue with the proportionality of their vote cast and an overhaul of the system itself, rather than identifying issues such as e-voting.

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

Yes, the possibility of a referendum was discussed, but the majority did not like the idea, citing Brexit as an example. Many young people stated that their generation does not understand the political system in place and do not take the time to learn about what other options are available.

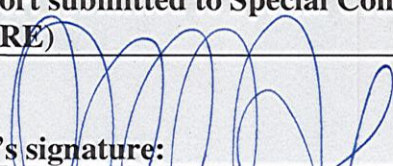
SUMMARY OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS FROM PARTICIPANTS (suggested limit: 1000 words)

1. The current FPTP system is inadequate. A form of proportional representation is needed to accurately reflect the votes cast.
2. Electing your local MP was considered to be of utmost importance.

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Report submitted to Special Committee on Electoral Reform (ERRE)		Date: October 14, 2016
MP's signature: 	Hon. Hedy Fry, P.C. (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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