

YVONNE JONES  
LABRADOR

TOWN HALL REPORT  
ON ELECTORAL REFORM  
PUBLIC CONSULTATION



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

YVONNE JONES  
LABRADOR

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)
1.10/13/16	10:30 -12pm	West St Modest	8
2. 10/01/16	4:00-5:30pm	Happy valley goose bay	10
3.			
4.			
<b>Form:</b> X Use of the Library of Parliament's visual presentation X Presentation from the MP's office X Open microphone X Question and answer session <input type="checkbox"/> Guest speaker X Other (please specify): conference call – Minister Monsef hosted the HVGB session			
SUBJECTS DISCUSSED (summary)			
Voting systems: X	Replacement of the current voting system: X	Voter turnout: X	Accessibility and inclusiveness: X
Mandatory voting: X	Online voting: X	Local representation: X	Other (please specify and describe below) <input type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
<b>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)</b>
People do feel that our current system works well but could use some work in certain areas to make it work better in regards to ways of voting (providing non-partisan transportation to those who need it, being able to vote from somewhere else if they cannot make it to their assigned polling station and having a set election date)
<b>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)</b>

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](mailto:ERRE@parl.gc.ca)

Deadline: Friday, October 14, 2016

If we were to bring in an electoral system, most interest was pointed toward a Single Transferable Vote, people liked the idea of ranking candidates. There were some interest interest for a proportional system but didn't like the idea of the candidate they voted for not being the person sitting in the HOC, rather their vote going towards someone else getting the seat instead.\*\*

\*\*How the different types of electoral systems worked were very confusing to most participants so there wasn't a lot of discussion and input on which systems would work best, what feedback was given is explained above.

**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)**

One of the reasons mentioned for people not exercising the right to vote is due to the reason they feel that their vote doesn't count, not necessarily because they don't think that the electoral process needed to be reformed but because they aren't sure how to hold their MP accountable once they have been elected to make sure they hold up with their promises. Some people aren't able to make it on election day (no transportation, last minute had to leave town, etc.).

Another reason why some felt that there wasn't a good voter turnout was because just a short time after the last federal election there was a provincial election and some people felt that was exhausting. It was also mentioned that lack of education on the democratic process as being a reason for people not voting.

One of the suggestions to encourage people to vote was for Elections Canada to provide a non-partisan transportation system to help those who need a ride to the polling stations. Educating in the school system about why its important to exercise your right to vote and how the democratic process works. A set election day was also mentioned, so people would have a better idea if they will be around to vote at that time.

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

Most people do not think that it should be mandatory to cast a ballot because not only is it a right to vote but its also a right not to vote, then we loose that right. If it do become mandatory to vote, then there should be incentives for people to do that (ex. tax break). There were a few concerns that if it became mandatory to vote then people would vote for the sake of voting without putting in any thought or consideration for who they're voting for.

**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)**

Everyone strongly believe that online/electronic voting would be more appealing to the younger generation. Young voters is among those who have the least turn out rate and introducing an option to do it online from home would encourage that generation to exercise their right to vote. However, there were concerns for cyber security and how that would work (would someone be able to hack into the system to cast and extra vote, would someone's vote get lost on the web system, etc.). Some people felt that it would be difficult to have spoiled ballots and that an automatic ballot count would be appealing. Although the electronic and online voting idea was a good thought for the younger generation, some feel that seniors wouldn't be able to vote this way as some don't have access to a computer and aren't aware how it works so the paper ballot at a polling station would still be necessary. A concern mentioned about this way of voting is that not

*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](mailto:ERRE@parl.gc.ca)

*Deadline: Friday, October 14, 2016*

all people have a reliable internet access so they feel that if someone has an option to vote this way, it should be an option across the country for everyone, which isn't the case in some rural communities where there isn't a dependable internet connection.

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

Accessibility: There was a mention of a "traveling ballot box" for those who are physically not capable to get out and vote on election day (ex. hospitals).

Women/minority: It was mentioned that there needs to be more awareness around women getting their names put on the ballot to run in an election.

Referendum: Some people felt that doing a referendum would be a waste of money. If it was felt that there needed to be an assessment after 2 years on an MP, maybe there should be another election held.

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

**There was a degree of concern that proportional representation would eliminate unique, northern and low population ridings from having a voice. It is understood that Labrador is overrepresented by population standards, however the geography and cultural conditions make any other arrangement unfair for the primarily Indigenous population.**

**Electronic voting would be beneficial to get more participation in the process, however the infrastructure is lacking for secure reliable internet.**

**Transferable vote would be the easiest, simplest way to ensure 50% or more for the winning candidate, and stop the least preferred candidates from "coming up the middle" despite that most voters voted for two or more other preferred candidates**

Report submitted to Special Committee on Electoral Reform (ERRE)

Date: 14/10/2016

MP's signature:

Yvonne Jones  
(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.*

*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](mailto:ERRE@parl.gc.ca)

*Deadline: Friday, October 14, 2016*