

MAJID JOWHARI
RICHMOND HILL



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TOWN HALL REPORT
ON ELECTORAL REFORM
PUBLIC CONSULTATION

RAPPORT SUR LES CONSULTATIONS
PUBLIQUES SUR LA RÉFORME ÉLECTORALE

HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

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. 8 th /09/2016	6pm – 8pm	Richmond Hill Performing Arts Centre	40-50
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 type="checkbox"/> Open microphone <input type="checkbox"/> Question and answer session <input type="checkbox"/> Guest speaker: MP and PS Mark Holland <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"/>

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>A Town Hall consultation was held in Richmond Hill in support of the national dialogue on electoral reform taking place across the country. Residents in the constituency were invited to join the dialogue on electoral reform, with each other and their local representative. Special guest, MP Mark Holland was also in attendance and engaged in the dialogue with MP Jowhari and local residents of his constituency. There was an engaged audience and many questions regarding the electoral process were directed at MP Holland. <u>Some comments:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada's 150th birthday will provide a great opportunity to review bureaucratic system and amend the Elections Act. • Electoral Reform will address areas like online voting and voting internationally. • We need a consensus and by-partisan reflection of how it should work. • The majority government has given up authority on the Committee designate. • The 5 principles set out in the Motion to create electoral change are; Effectiveness & Legitimacy, Engagement, Accessibility & Inclusiveness, Integrity and Local Representation. • The different, but not exclusive, families that voting systems fall into are; First Past the Post, Alternative Vote, List of Proportional Representation, Mixed Member Proportional, Single Transferable Vote, Compulsory Voting, Electronic (Online) Voting.

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

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)

- Is Run Off Voting a possibility?
- Cast votes vs. Eligible votes?
- Some have voiced concern that the PM may have a preference for ranked ballots, which may eschew the final outcome of these consultations.
- Questions have been raised regarding the possibility of Individual candidates
- Concerns have been voiced on whether the public alone can be entrusted to change our system.
- Alternative systems of voting (presented here) are complex
- Mixed support of the 5 families which voting systems tend to fall into
- Voting systems are complex, need education on it
- A majority of participants recommended to have to keep the system simple. Our current system, although problematic, is simple and understandable.
- Some have argued that the public needs to be more educated on our electoral system.

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)

- Apathy, lack of information, faith, trust, honesty, transparency, voices not heard, undemocratic, votes don't count.
- Need to get more people to vote.
- Some have argued that political awareness needs to start at an early age. However, participants were divided on whether the voting age should be lowered to 16 years. Their main argument is that they may not necessarily know or understand the issues as they should. However, in raising political education in highschool, those that chose not to continue to pursue higher education will still be have a solid basis that could guide their voting choice, but the time they become eligible to vote.

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

- Mandatory voting was regarded as generally a good idea. However, many did not appreciate that there could be a penalty if they do not vote, some have cited accessibility problems as making it difficult to vote, and as such it would be unfair to receive a penalty.
- Some have mentioned that although mandatory voting may increase voter turnout, it will not necessarily guarantee that individuals make informed choices. More education was cited as a better alternative.
- Comments were made the mandatory voting was too dictatorial, although the right intention was at heart, the approach was not.

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)

There was consensus that online voting was a desirable option, that in some cases it will be the wave of the future and it is inevitable that our system will have an online integration into it. However, the government was urged to ensure that it is secure, and that private information was protected.

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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