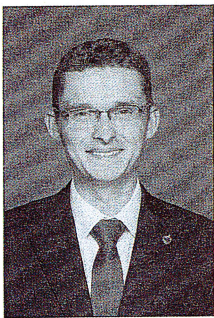




HOUSE OF COMMONS
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October 12, 2016

Mr. Francis Scarpaleggia, MP
Chair, Special Committee on Electoral Reform (ERRE)
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

RE: Input for the Special Committee on Electoral Reform from Residents in the Riding of Calgary Shepard

Dear Chair,

I am providing you with the results of my constituency wide consultation that I undertook to provide the views and input of the residents of Calgary Shepard to the Liberal government's plan to make changes to our electoral system prior to the next election.

In an effort to offer an equal opportunity for all residents to participate, I undertook the following activities that make up my methodology:

Firstly, a householder allocation was used to mail every household in the riding of Calgary Shepard with a dedicated survey and information on electoral reform in late August to early September 2016. Responses were accepted until September 30. Up to four votes could be received by survey with two possible answers (yes/no) and the question in the survey was as follows:

"Before changing how we elect our MPs, should the government hold a referendum to get the approval of Canadians?"

Secondly, I held an open house on September 30th that touched on various public policy issues including electoral reform. A board including ballots from Canada, Germany, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Ukraine, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Poland, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand was made available for constituents to view, comment upon and provide staff with feedback.

Thirdly, I received feedback when doorknocking with a petition on electoral reform. I did not use any resources from the Calgary Shepard Conservative Association nor did I use any third party advocacy group to promote my survey.

The riding of Calgary Shepard includes many new suburban communities built in the past 15 years and many older heritage communities that have been there for multiple generations. All the communities are of a suburban character and none would be considered inner city. The demographics of the area match well with other comparable ridings although I would suggest that Calgary Shepard is younger in composition including families with young children being overly represented. This reality is marked by the recent opening of many new schools across the riding for the new school year.

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I received a total of 1473 votes. The vast majority, 1425, voted in favour of a referendum on electoral reform while 48 voted against the need for a referendum. In terms of percentages, that means that **96.7% of my constituents indicated that a referendum should be held prior to any changes being made to Canada's electoral system.** The response rate and completion rate are higher, much higher in fact, than comparable public opinion poll surveys conducted nationally. The participation rate far exceeds the typical town hall style meeting held by some parliamentarians. Furthermore, I have gone through the added effort of validating the names and addresses of persons in the riding of Calgary Shepard to exclude partisans who may have attempted to vote from outside of the riding.

I will point out that comments from individuals preferring a change to our electoral system, regardless of their position on holding a referendum, were not consistent on which system to change to. There was no consensus on the optimal system to change from our current single member plurality.

Finally, I trust it is as clear to you as it is to me that residents in Calgary Shepard believe that a referendum must be held before any changes are made to the electoral system of Canada.

Therefore, **I urge you in your role as Chair of this committee to respect the input of my constituents and make holding a referendum on any proposed electoral changes part of the committee's recommendations to the Liberal government.** I will continue to advocate on behalf of my constituents for a referendum should there be any changes recommended in your committee's report.

Respectfully,

Tom Kmiec, MP
Calgary Shepard

Enclosure: Image of Electoral Reform Board
Image of Survey Vote Reply Card

cc: Scott Reid, MP
Vice-Chair, Special Committee on Electoral Reform

Nathan Cullen, MP
Vice-Chair, Special Committee on Electoral Reform

Christine Lafrance
Clerk, Special Committee on Electoral Reform

Danielle Widmer
Clerk, Special Committee on Electoral Reform