ROBERT MORRISSEY
EGMONT

TOWN HALL REPORT
ON ELECTORAL REFORM
PUBLIC CONSULTATION

HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

ROBERT MORRISSEY
EGMONT

RAPPORT SUR LES CONSULTATIONS
PUBLIQUES SUR LA RÉFORME
ÉLECTORALE

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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. 2016/10/13	7PM – 9PM	Elmsdale Hall, Elmsdale PE	~20
2.			
3.			
4.			

Form: x Use of the Library of Parliament's visual presentation
□ Presentation from the MP's office
x Open microphone
x Question and answer session
x Guest speaker
□ Other (please specify):

SUBJECTS DISCUSSED (summary)			
Voting systems: x	Replacement of the current voting system: x	Voter turnout: x	Accessibility and inclusiveness: x
Mandatory voting: □	Online voting: x	Local representation: x	Other (please specify and describe below) □

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)

Participants voiced their discomfort with a system where a minority of voters frequently elects the winner. Increased representation of different parties on the ballot can result in a reduced percentage of the vote required to win (under certain circumstances). Participants indicated that this reduced the perceived value of their vote.

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)

Systems discussed included First Past the Post, Alternative Vote, List Proportional, Single Transferable Vote, and Mixed Member Proportional.

Participants felt that local representation was extremely important to them, and that systems involving party lists could potentially reduce the level of representation for rural communities. As such, no support was voiced for systems involving party lists.

Participants generally preferred ranked ballot systems, as these systems tend to ensure a winner with the majority of the vote, maintain current boundaries and local representation, and encourage candidate outreach to all voters.

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)

Participants briefly discussed this, with several potential explanations. Some forget; some choose not to participate; some use it as a form of protest.

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 not discussed.

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)

Some participants voiced concerns about potential for fraud in online voting, with preference for the existing system. Others mentioned security measures already in place for other government-related tasks done online (Tax, social programs, etc.), and felt that online voting could encourage increased participation.

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

Participants generally felt that consultation with the public was sufficient, and that a referendum on the subject of electoral reform was not necessary in this case.

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

- Ranked ballot systems would be preferable to proportional systems
- No desire for systems that allowed election of non-constituency candidates, weakening rural representation
- Online voting not ruled out, but security is seen as a major concern
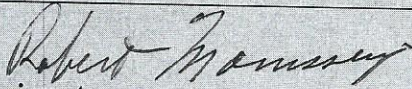- Referendum not viewed as necessary in this case

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

(ERRE)	
Robert Morrissey **MP's signature:**	ROBERT MORRISSEY **(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.