

NAME OF EVA NASSIF  
VIMY

TOWN HALL REPORT  
ON ELECTORAL REFORM  
PUBLIC CONSULTATION



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

NOM DU EVA NASSIF  
VIMY

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)
1.16 Sep. 2016	6:15 – 8:15	Château Royal 3500, boulevard du Souvenir, à Laval, H7V 1X2	95 people + 6 volunteers
2.			
3.			
4.			
<b>Form:</b> <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Question and answer session <input type="checkbox"/> Guest speaker <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><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></p> <p>Most of the participants agreed that it is time for our current electoral system to be changed. What we have today does not do well in a multiparty system to address the proportionality of votes. Public confidence wanes because people believe that their votes are lost or essentially meaningless if their candidate does not get elected. Many of the participants including democratic advocate organizations have agreed the government proposition is fair and long overdue. The participants felt that the decision by the electoral reform committee should be based on democratic principles and first-past-the post can't represent the majority of the voters.</p>

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

**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)**

Most of the attendees covered and discussed many different electoral alternatives. The majority of the attendees debated on the mixed proportional representation system. Some of these individuals are in favour of mixed proportional representation as they agreed that it could help build bridges between political parties and allow them to work more closely. Few were against radical change saying that the Canadian electoral system is working and needs only small modifications. The debate went on the single transferable voting: again the majorities were in favor of this system compared to what we currently have but some argued that it could create confusion among 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)**

Yes to the former. The participants suggested many different ways to encourage citizens to participate in the democratic process that we enjoy, especially with the younger generation. The Minister gave an extraordinary example that in some central American countries they have 2 coloured ballots: one for adults and one for under age voters to allow youth and younger people to learn of the importance of democratic participation and understand they play a key role in a system which forms governments, shaping their state's future and by extension their own.

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

One of the questions during the town hall was whether the mandatory voting system should be used in Canada or not. Minister Monsef posed the question to attendees, naming some countries as examples. Following a very short discussion, the minister call to raise the hands for the proposal and then against the proposal, obviously there were many whom were not sure for the idea and did not raise their hand. The results were 65 percent opposed to mandatory voting.

**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)**

Online voting was on the agenda and it appeared to be favourable. 65 percent of attendees were in favour of this idea as they believed it would increase voter turnout and make it accessible to many people whom are not able to participate during elections such as the disabled, elderly, and people whom have difficulties finding time to go and vote. On the other hand some people were against, worrying that there will be limited control and fraudulent voting practices.

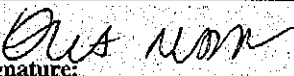
**Were any other major topics raised by the participants? (i.e. referendum, women/minority representation, accessibility, voter turnout etc.) (suggested limit: 500 words)**

There was one proposition from a constituent that we did not cover in our agenda, which is to have female parity at the parliament. In general the turnout was more than expected (101 people). There were many comment and suggestion from the attendees. We had to limit the questions and ask the people to make there suggestions through the committees email.

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<b>SUMMARY OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS FROM PARTICIPANTS</b> (suggested limit: 1000 words)	
There were many recommendations and comments from the attendees which were collected by the Minister's assistant at the town hall. Many were sent directly to the electoral committee.	
Report submitted to Special Committee on Electoral Reform (ERRE)	Date: 8 October 2016
MP's signature: 	Eva Nassif (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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