NAME OF HON. ROBERT D. NAULT
KENORA

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION ON ELECTORAL REFORM PUBLIC CONSULTATION

HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

NOM DU (DE LA) HON. ROBERT D. NAULT
KENORA

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. Wednesday, Oct. 12	6:30PM – 8:30PM (2hr, with a 10min. break)	Dryden, Ontario	32

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

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

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)

- 7 people spoke out and stated that they felt as though the current system does not fairly translate votes:
  - With many parties, the minority of the votes can make a majority, often results in strategic voting
  - Current system does not represent the will of the people, there is 'citizen fatigue' – too many people are willing to accept the current system
  - Colonized countries have moved to other systems that clearly reflect the majority
  - Current FPTP majorities do not reflect a true majority

- 3spoke out in support of FPTP:
  - FPTP is adequate and needed in order to engage youth
  - Canada has been well-governed for years, are we just changing for the sake of

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

changing?

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)

Single Transferable Vote
Concerns regarding party lists: desire to be able to vote for a Member who represents the riding – want to be able to choose the Member, rather than having the party decide. Concerns that the parties will not have the riding's best interests in mind.

Mixed Member Proportional
Provides the opportunity to elect a local candidate – seems to be the simpler solution and provides an option that is not FPTP.

Alternative Vote
Unlike other systems, this option requires no change to electoral boundaries – too complicated to execute before next election.

Rural – Urban Proportional
Looks like it would suit Canada.

Two Ballot System
Viewed as simple and easy to understand.

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)

- <u>Need to engage youth:</u> take advantage of social media to tap into the youth movement.
- <u>First Nations need to pre-register before they can vote:</u> this process can be cumbersome – if it were more streamlined, First Nations people may be more enticed to vote.
- <u>Voter apathy:</u> some voters are discouraged by behaviour during Question Period/in the public sphere.
- <u>Voting based on single issue:</u> concern that citizens vote based on a sole issue (ie. legalization of marijuana)

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

- 26 people were **not** in favour of mandatory voting:
  - Concerned that if people are forced to vote, they won't be voting for the right reasons – they will be voting arbitrarily; not for the right reasons.

- 2 people in favour of mandatory voting, as long as there is a 'none of the above' option.

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 16 year olds consider voting as 'coming of age' or a rite of passage and they are interested in going to a voting station to get the full experience.

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

General consensus is that Canadians do **not** want a referendum on electoral reform. While Canadians need to be consulted, experts are the ones who fully understand the complexities of electoral reform and the various voting systems. We should use expert input in tandem with the facts and make a decision accordingly

- One suggestion was to implement the new system and have a referendum 8 years later to ask the public if they wanted to keep the old system or return to the old one.

- Concern regarding how the referendum question would be worded

- Concern regarding informed voting during a referendum: what information sources are citizens using and how reliable are they?

- Referendums are easily influenced by emotion, social media, slanted news, etc. Once the results of a referendum are announced you cannot go against them.

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

Key Recommendations:

1. Continue to consult Canadians throughout this process, but a referendum is **not** necessary.

2. Find a system that allows for local representation to be determined by the voters, does not change electoral boundaries, and that can be implemented in time for the next election.

3. Determine a way to increase voter turnout by finding ways to engage youth and simplify the voting process, particularly the pre-registration process for First Nations people.

Additional Comments:
- Support for proportional representation: % of the vote should translate directly to the number of seats. Proportional representation also means that parties will have to work together.
- Diversity: Parliament should reflect our diversity within each region.
- Concerns regarding the motivation for changing the electoral system: we have come this far under that current system - are we changing to appease those who have spoken out against FPTP or are we making changes to the voting system with the national conscious in mind?

Report submitted to Special Committee on Electoral Reform (ERRE)	Date:
MP's signature:	**(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

Deadline: Friday, October 14, 2016