

House of Commons  
Canada

**Mr. Alain Rayes – MP**  
Electoral Riding of Richmond-Arthabaska

Victoriaville, October 13, 2016

Francis Scarpaleggia  
Chair of the Special Committee on Electoral Reform  
801 Justice Building  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON  
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Dear colleague:

At the request of the Honourable Maryam Monsef, Minister of Democratic Institutions, I actively participated in the electoral reform consultations as the Conservative Party spokesperson on the Special Committee on Electoral Reform for 14 days of cross-Canada consultations as well as directly with the constituents in my riding.

I would like to first mention that it is true that the people invited to testify before the Special Committee on Electoral Reform, mainly experts in the field of electoral systems, were very interested in the ongoing debates. When I interacted with the people in my riding, however, many of them were not even aware that the government was on the verge of changing the voting system. In my view, the Ipsos survey conducted in September showed that only 19 percent of the population was aware of the ongoing process and this was representative of my perception of things on this issue. That said, I believe that, given this lack of awareness among the people, the need to have a referendum is even more justified and essential. It is also what the majority of the constituents in my riding expressed their views through a survey that I conducted on my Facebook page, even among those who are in favour of changing the voting system.

You will find the results of this survey on the following page.

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**Results of a survey conducted on my Facebook page between October 4, 2016 and October 13, 2016**

Should the current voting system be changed? 116 responses See chart	Yes	76 votes	65.5%
	No	40 votes	34.5%
If so, among the more popular voting systems, there are the following: preferential, proportional and mixed-member proportional. Which one do you prefer? 87 responses See chart	Mixed-member proportional voting system	35 votes	40.2%
	Proportional voting system	32 votes	36.8%
	Preferential voting system	10 votes	11.5%
	Other	10 votes	11.5%
If a change in the voting system were to be proposed, should the people approve the change through a referendum? 116 responses See chart	Yes	95 votes	81.9%
	No	21 votes	18.1%

In the appendix, you will also find the results for the 4<sup>th</sup> question, which was as follows: What could we do to ensure that more Canadians get interested and participate in our democracy?

In closing, I would ask that you take these results into account when submitting the final report of the Special Committee on Electoral Reform.

Sincerely,

Alain Rayes  
MP for Richmond-Arthabaska

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**Results for the 4<sup>th</sup> survey question (as written by the respondents)**

1. We should have a citizenship card with which we could vote on laws over a secure Internet server. Our votes would be worth 50% and the MP votes would account for the other 50%. It would be a real democracy reflecting the choices of Canadians. There would be less partisanship.
2. They should be informed as quickly as possible.
3. First that votes cannot be bought by anyone. That the votes should all be truly accurate. Not do like Chrétien and Trudeau (father and son). That no one can be at the top trafficking votes. It would be a good start, because right now no one believes in the actual votes.
4. A bit of honesty on the part of the politicians would help enormously.
5. Tell the truth.
6. That the government should do more to support the people, that all the religions should be given less importance and create a secular state, that we should feel supported rather than being ignored, that the government should stop minimizing what we are going through in comparison to newcomers, we're still the ones paying the MPs.
7. Have better politicians.
8. There should be more prime time advertising.
9. Have leaders who are not such idiots.
10. Have honest politicians.
11. Mandatory voting.
12. Talk about it.
13. Have questions on the ballot or questions via a secure app.
14. Having a real democracy and not a monarchy-based oligarchy.
15. Elections Canada should send a list of all the candidates to all households so the people can familiarize themselves with the candidates.

16. MPs should do more to communicate with their constituents.
17. Allow for a diversity of ideas on university campuses.
18. I don't know.
19. Honesty.
20. Improve the quality of the candidates.
21. Listen to them!
22. Be less partisan to reduce the cynicism Canadians have towards politics.
23. Showing them that what they say is important. That they are being listened to. That the government works for the people, not just for those who get elected.
24. Explain politics in a language that is easy to understand.
25. Honesty, transparency.
26. Stop thinking that you are a group working for society when in fact you never consult us. You may represent us, but you have no idea what we want since you stay within party lines. You are elected by the people for the people. Not for a salary and benefits. And by the way */text cut off/*
27. That the MPs should be closer to their constituents and give them the incentive to vote for them as the spokesperson for our interests instead of leaving the people to vote for party leaders and the parties.
28. Being better represented should interest Canadians.
29. Have the right to speak on what the MP's are doing.
30. Teach politics more in school.
31. Take the time to educate them on politics using simple and correct language.
32. Transparency as well as checks and balances. The current system is a dictatorship elected every 4-5 years.
33. Listen to them.
34. Online survey.

35. That the MPs be less partisan, that they consult their respective constituencies and not the party line before taking a position in the House. After all, they are accountable to the people, not their partisan organization!
36. Prepare end-of-session reports to show how much work they have accomplished.
37. More control.
38. Inform us first of all regarding these kinds of voting systems.
39. In Germany, they can vote for the leader of party X for chancellor and for a local representative from party Y. They clearly have two levels of voting and it makes for an interesting system (I'm not sure if this is what you mean by mixed-member proportional system). There should be a way of dismissing and even punishing MPs who lie to get elected. Ban severance allowances and conduct RANDOM hard drug tests. Couillard presented himself in public several times when he was clearly intoxicated. There is also a serious problem with the police forces, no work ethics, they speak to people using bad language, use intimidation and the ethics committee is clearly biased. The executive branch is also a part of democracy (or not)...
40. Make it so that people can measure the direct impact of their vote, with preferential voting for example.
41. Bi-annual forums with the regional MPs.
42. That the candidates and the MPs visit schools and repeat the importance of what they do.
43. Show more transparency and integrity.
44. Mandatory voting.
45. Give more of an impression that things can actually change/move forward!
46. More integrity on the part of the MPs.
47. Nothing. People are yelling out, but do not feel that anyone is listening.
48. Give courses on political science, the economy and sociology in high schools rather than learning about damn crap theorems that won't be used by 75% of the high school graduates.
49. Make it so that the political class is easier to approach.
50. Mandatory.
51. Reduce the size of government and bureaucracy by a large margin.

52. Go out among Canadians where they live.
53. Stop governing based on the next election and focus on what would make life easier for Canadians (taxes, laws, more freedoms, etc.).
54. Have politicians who are more responsible and accountable.
55. Transparency! Accountability!
56. Encourage immigration from countries that are more on the right so that the Conservatives can form a majority government, and only then change to a proportional system.
57. Eliminate national and provincial party lines and take regional issues into account.
58. Make sure that their votes count!!!
59. Make sure that they are less disillusioned. Do not force the party line. Give more freedom to MPs who are not ministers.
60. Accountability.
61. That all elections and major decisions be made by consultation with the electorate and that we be able to do so from home using our personal computers.
62. That voters feel involved and represented.
63. Pay closer attention to how those in charge run the country.
64. Awareness. Develop pride and interest.
65. Teach it starting in secondary I, make it part of the history courses.
66. Ensuring the representation of smaller parties by changing the voting system (mixed-member proportional) would be a good start. This would allow parties that normally receive less than 10% of the votes to be able to participate in government and be heard.
67. Consult more, improve communication with voters (not just during the election campaign), have mandatory high school courses on the Canadian parliamentary system or politics in general, etc.
68. Question 3: I don't think we should hold a referendum on this question. I think the parties should agree on it before going to an election.
69. Public debate and awareness.
70. Better management of public finances.

71. Make sure that each vote counts and that the elected government represents what the majority of the people want.
72. Everyone is responsible for their own actions. Perhaps the people should be informed more, but!!!
73. Do a better job of educating and informing people than what the politicians have been doing. The media also has to stop just focussing on the negative side of things.
74. Teach it at the elementary and high school levels.
75. There should be better political education starting in early high school, even the elementary school level.
76. An exemplary government which, through its actions, explains and describes what the word democracy means. What we have had to do over the years to establish this democracy and what we need to do in order to maintain it.
77. That we be able to vote for a party first then the prime minister.
78. Listen more to popular groups rather than the lobbies representing the oil companies.
79. Weekend voting.
80. A vote for the program and then a vote for an MP.
81. Changing the voting system is a good start...
82. Very difficult, perhaps have more young candidates.
83. Make good choices.
84. Nothing.
85. Stop treating us like idiots. Work for the people, for real.
86. We could have online voting, or electronic voting.
87. Politicians who are honest, genuine and who listen to their constituents.
88. Make voting mandatory.
89. Have good MPs like the one we have...
90. Give back to Canadians a sense of trust in their institutions.

91. Talk about it in schools, inform people.
92. Less arrogance on the part of the leaders.
93. The votes absolutely need to be secure. People no longer believe in politicians, so regardless of who they vote for, it's all the same. Perhaps pass a law whereby people 18 or older are required to vote.
94. Voting system: single transferable vote.
95. Reform the voting system.
96. More public consultations.
97. Demonstrate the importance of and promote voter participation. Restore confidence in the politicians.
98. Develop the role of MPs.
99. Have them listen!! Have them tell the truth! Stop passing laws that protect the fat cats who steal legally and illegally without consequence, withdraw the costly privileges for MPs that are not essential, stop thinking of just the damn economy which forgives the excesses of the abovementioned fat cats, stop giving so much power to the multinationals and rich lobbyists. In short, give power back to the people, and not just during the elections.
100. Public debates.
101. Education.
102. An honest government.
103. Listen to the people.
104. Electronic referendums on major issues.
105. Shorten the election campaigns.
106. More education, look at the possibility of electronic voting, implement courses at the high school level.
107. Teach politics sooner in the educational system, get them more involved (e.g. place more importance on youth parliaments, etc.), promote activities that get people involved.
108. Better selection of candidates and limit of two parties.



109. Online voting.
110. Promote information over disinformation.
111. I believe the current system ensures stable governments in Canada and that the emphasis should be placed on voter participation rates, something that a change in voting system will not resolve.
112. Conduct information campaigns on various voting systems, the pros and cons of each one.
113. Everything starts with education.
114. Listen to the people more rather than the lobbies.
115. A test for Alain.

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