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The Honourable Michelle Rempel, M.P
L'honorable Michelle Rempel, députée

Member of Parliament / Députée
Calgary - Nose Hill

Conscription

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October 11, 2016

Mr. Francis Scarpaleggia
Member of Parliament, Lac-Saint-Louis
Chair, Special Committee on Electoral Reform
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON, K1A0A6

Dear Mr. Scarpaleggia,

Re: Input for the Special Committee on Electoral Reform from the Riding of Calgary – Nose Hill

The following are the results of a constituency wide consultation I undertook in response to the Liberal Government's professed intent to alter the Canadian electoral system prior to the next election.

1.) Methodology

In an effort to engage my entire riding, I conducted consultations on the topic of changes to our electoral system in the riding of Calgary-Nose Hill between May 2016 and September 30, 2016.

These consultation efforts included:

- A survey focusing solely on potential changes to our voting system was mailed to every household in the riding via my Member of Parliament Office. Constituents were invited to respond via mail or my website.
- Large signs were placed in every community in the riding to alert constituents to the survey and encouraging them to complete it (I have attached photos for reference)
- A message was posted in each community newsletter in the riding requesting feedback

- I heard from constituents as part of my routine door knocking efforts
- I held a town hall meeting that touched on a variety of topics including electoral reform
- In an effort to ensure this exercise was neutral, I did not use the resources of my EDA or use any third party electoral reform advocacy groups to promote the survey to partisan supporters.

Every effort was made to ensure that all constituents, regardless of their political stripe, were invited to participate in this process.

The riding of Calgary – Nose Hill is diverse in many ways. It is made up of communities that include both inner city and suburban homes, is culturally rich with many new Canadians of different backgrounds, and has a variety of age groups residing throughout the riding. As a result of this, Calgary – Nose Hill represents a riding where there are many different perspectives, thoughts and approaches to issues.

2.) Consultation Results

1310 of my constituents responded to the above noted survey.

I believe that this is a significantly higher response than turnout for most town hall meetings carried out across the country.

Only surveys listing valid names and addresses for people in the riding were included in this figure. This is important as I understand that in some town hall meetings held in other ridings, attendees who did not live in the riding spoke, and some attendees travelled to multiple town hall meetings and as such were counted more than one time.

The survey I used asked two questions of every constituent in the riding:

- 1) Before changing how you elect your M.P., should the government hold a referendum to get the approval of Canadians?
- 2) Do you think we need to replace our current system of voting in Federal Elections?

Respondents were also given the option of leaving free form comments.

Of the constituents who replied to the two survey questions above:

- **91.91% indicated that a referendum should be held prior to any changes being made to Canada's electoral system.**
- **79.13% did not think we need to replace our current system of voting.**

I should point out that many of the comments from individuals advocating for changes to the current electoral system were not advocating for the same changes. For these respondents, there was no clear consensus on which electoral system Canada should change to, or why.

Even in these cases, an overwhelming majority of those who desire change to the electoral system indicated that the Canadian people must be directly consulted via a referendum prior to any change.

3.) Conclusion

It is abundantly clear based on the feedback that I have received from the riding I represent that I cannot support, and must vigorously oppose, any attempt to change Canada's electoral system without direct input from Canadians via referendum.

It is also clear that there has been no case presented to the majority of the people in my riding that would lead them to believe the current electoral system should change.

For the minority in my riding who believe that the system should change, there is no clear consensus on what the system should change to, or why.

Therefore, I would urge the government to respect the input of my constituents. I will be working hard to bring a strong voice to this issue on their behalf.

Sincerely,



Hon. Michelle Rempel, P.C., M.P.
Calgary – Nose Hill

cc: Constituents of Calgary – Nose Hill
M.P. Scott Reid, Vice-chair, Special Committee on Electoral Reform
M.P. Nathan Cullen, Vice-chair, Special Committee on Electoral Reform
Hon. Maryam Monsef, P.C., M.P., Minister of Democratic Institutions

Re: Input for the Special Committee on Electoral Reform from the Riding of Calgary – Nose Hill

Appendix A

Large signs were placed in every community in the riding of Calgary – Nose Hill to alert constituents about consultations.

