



Hon. Gerry Ritz, P.C., M.P.
Battlefords–Lloydminster

October 14, 2016

Clerks of Electoral Reform Committee
Christine Lafrance & Danielle Widmer

Report on Electoral Reform Public Consultations

As an MP who represents a geographically large riding, and where the majority of livelihoods involve long hours and revolve around agriculture or natural resource development; I elected to send out two direct communications to each household in my riding requesting a response on Electoral Reform in place of town hall meetings.

In these communications, I informed the voters on the types of electoral systems that are in use in other countries and how they functioned. Of the vast number of responses 96% were in favour of a referendum.

The majority of the feedback received by my office was to leave the voting system the way it is. Most respondents argued that the government should be focusing more on the economy and worry less about a voting system that works.

Many individuals were concerned that any government would try and change the electoral system without first taking it to the citizens. Respondents said more time and information was necessary if the Canadian Government was to eventually change the way its citizens voted. Rushing a change through to meet an undefined and obscure election promise was not looked on favourably.

One topic that was mentioned repeatedly was voter engagement. Online voting was surprisingly popular for rural voters who typically have long travel distances to voting booths.

Understanding that shift work, family, schedules, distance and health get in the way of attending a town hall meeting, I was able to reach a broader audience and hear from a variety of voters who otherwise wouldn't have participated.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gerry Ritz".

Hon. Gerry Ritz, P.C., M.P.
Battlefords-Lloydminster

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