

NORTHUMBERLAND--  
PETERBOROUGH SOUTH

TOWN HALL REPORT  
ON ELECTORAL REFORM  
PUBLIC CONSULTATION

NOM DU (DE LA) DÉPUTÉ (E)  
NOM DE LA CIRCONSCRIPTION

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 August 17	6:30-8:30 PM	Jack Burger Sports Complex, Port Hope, ON	60
2.			
3.			
4.			
<b>Form:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Use of the Library of Parliament's visual presentation <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Presentation from the MP's office</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Open microphone <input type="checkbox"/> Question and answer session <input type="checkbox"/> Guest speaker <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):			
SUBJECTS DISCUSSED (summary)			
<b>Voting systems:</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Replacement of the current voting system:</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	Voter turnout: <input type="checkbox"/>	Accessibility and inclusiveness: <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Mandatory voting:</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Online voting:</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Local representation:</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify and describe below) <input type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
<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>
-First-past-the-post good was deemed appropriate for local representation, but minorities and youth (especially in remote areas) were seen as not as well-represented.

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)**

The need to have the alternate systems explained succinctly, nation-wide, was seen as integral, as many didn't understand the alternate options. As will also be mentioned later in this document, the German system of voting was explained by a German attendee and was viewed favorably by the majority of those in attendance. First-past-the-post was discussed as beneficial for local representation.

**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)**

The changes were deemed difficult to understand. Votes changing based on location-this should not be limited to vote the same everywhere. Audience member asked the question, "Is proportional representation a slope to votes being wasted?" Overwhelming response was, "Never." Preferred or hybrid ballot were agreed by audience to be good. Suggestions included that schools should spread this info (including systems in other countries). Many votes were "not wasted, but ineffective." There was a concern of "information overload" with some of the aforementioned systems. Most seem to vote for policy, where the "local guy" doesn't matter as much.

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

The voting was fairly split on this topic, with many thinking it would be "worth a try." The suggestion of moving voting from weekdays to the weekend, for working-class to be able to manage their time in the democratic process more effectively. Two people agreed that, "Having parties fractures votes (but they also said that a two-party system works to the interest of the people).

**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 was overwhelmingly deemed effective, which was interesting given this riding's senior base. The question of how such changes would be effectively communicated was raised several times. Only four out of the several dozen attendees said they wouldn't want some kind of change to either the electoral process or the change in communications regarding voting in general.

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

- Adaptability of young voters
- Young voters are less likely to vote for local person, more on broad policy issues.
- Effectiveness of other international voting systems should be communicated nation-wide.
- Minorities are not well represented in the current system (which the audience deemed to include youth and people living in remote communities).
- The German option was explained by a gentlemen from Germany, where the 1st vote = party (40% = 40% of seats) 2nd vote = local person.
- Coalition was argued favorably by many participants.

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-Several people objected to a referendum on the subject, as the current system “makes people vote strategically.”

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

Most participants wanted to see some change, but many were not in favor of a referendum on the subject. As mentioned, the German system of voting seemed agreeable to most (who didn't know about it until a German gentleman explained it to the crowd). Online voting was, surprisingly given the high senior population of our riding, seen as effective, especially since this reflected some angst that elections are held on weekdays (which many noted did not allow some working-class people to manage their voting times effectively).

The general tenor seemed to reflect the fact that, though youth voters could easily adapt to any electoral changes, the actual alternatives should be communicated very clearly to “put all options on the table.” Minorities, likewise, were seen as not as well-represented in the current system, and the same with those living in remote areas.

Mandatory voting was seen as “worth a try” but a dangerous slope to go down, as many seemed to think it would merely frustrate especially those working-class people who already have hard times managing voting.

**Report submitted to Special Committee on Electoral Reform (ERRE)**

**Date: 3/10/2016**

**AMENDED – 21/10/2016**

**MP's signature:**



**(Name)**

**Kim Rudd**

**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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